



Member Universities

Aarhus (DK)
Barcelona (ES)
Bergen (NO)
Bologna (IT)
Bristol (UK)
Budapest (HU)
Coimbra (PT)
Dublin -Trinity (IE)
Durham (UK)
Edinburgh (UK)
Galway (IE)
Genève (CH)
Göttingen (DE)
Granada (ES)
Graz (AT)
Groningen (NL)
Heidelberg (DE)
Iași (RO)
Istanbul (TR)
Jena (DE)
Kraków (PL)
Leiden (NL)
Leuven (BE)
Louvain (BE)
Montpellier (FR)
Padova (IT)
Pavia (IT)
Poitiers (FR)
Praha (CZ)
St. Petersburg (RU)
Salamanca (ES)
Siena (IT)
Tartu (EE)
Turku (FI)
Uppsala (SE)
Vilnius (LT)
Würzburg (DE)
Abo (FI)

Executive Board

Chair: Prof. Dorothy Kelly (Granada)

dkelly@ugr.es

Prof. Jürgen Barkhoff (Dublin)

jbarkhoff@tcd.ie

Prof. Jeff Haywood

Jeff.haywood@ed.ac.uk

Prof. Johnny Laursen (Aarhus)

jl@au.dk

Prof. Henri Luchian (Iași)

hluchian@info.uaic.ro

Prof. Joaquim Ramos de

Carvalho (Coimbra)

vr.joaquim.carvalho@uc.pt

Prof. Lenka Rovna (Prague)

lenka.rovna@ruk.cuni.cz

Prof. Ludovic Thilly (Poitiers)

ludovic.thilly@univ-poitiers.fr

Office

Egmontstraat 11, rue d'Egmont
BE-1000 Brussels

Director: Ms Inge Knudsen

Knudsen@coimbra-group.eu

Ms Anna Quici

Quici@coimbra-group.eu

Ms Catarina Moleiro

Moleiro@coimbra-group.eu

Ms Cristina Tanase

Tanase@coimbra-group.eu

Tel. + 32 2 513 83 32

Fax + 32 2 513 64 11

<http://www.coimbra-group.eu>

Mr. Zoltán Balog
Minister of Human Capacities
1054 Budapest, Akadémia utca 3.
Hungary
info@emmi.gov.hu

Brussels, 3 April 2017

Dear Minister Balog,

On behalf of the Executive Board of the Coimbra Group of Universities and as concerned members of the European academic world, I am writing to express solidarity with the Central European University and to express concern at the proposed legislative changes to CEU's status in Hungary. These changes would endanger the academic freedom vital for CEU's continued operation in Budapest and would strike a blow against the academic freedom that enables all universities, including those in Hungary, to flourish.

In twenty-five years, the Central European University has established itself as an open and respected research and education institution, with a global reputation for teaching and research in the social sciences and humanities.

The Central European University is a valued member of the international academic community and its presence in Hungary has added to the reputation of Hungarian academic life on the international stage. The Hungarian Government's proposed legislation to alter its statute of operation in Hungary would compromise its academic freedom and set a negative and damaging precedent for academic life in other countries.

We respectfully urge the Hungarian Government to withdraw the proposed legislation and enter into consultation with the Central European University, bearing in mind the irreparable damage the proposed legislation might do to Hungary's well-founded international academic reputation, to its relationships with its European partners and with the United States.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dorothy Kelly
Chair of the Executive Board
The Coimbra Group

cc:

Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary - orbanviktor@orbanviktor.hu

Office of the Prime Minister - erkeztetok@me.gov.hu

Central European University - [Support for CEU@ceu.edu](http://SupportforCEU@ceu.edu)