



DET NORSKE VIDENSKAPS-AKADEMI
THE NORWEGIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND LETTERS

Oslo, 20 February 2019

Professor László Lovász
President
Hungarian Academy of Sciences
[Redacted]
Hungary
Email: [Redacted]

Dear Professor Lovász

As Preses (President) of The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and as the leader of the Academy's Committee on Human Rights, we are writing on behalf of our members to express solidarity with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

We are deeply concerned to learn about the new procedures for funding basic research in Hungary, and we are equally alarmed to learn about the restrictions on freedom of research that may be imposed by your current government as a result of this. The Hungarian Academy of Sciences is an internationally respected centre of research, and many of our members have valued, and continue to value, their collaborations with researches based in its institutes. It is therefore alarming to hear of the new procedures for funding the institutes that threaten both the independence of the research of the Academy and the working conditions of their researchers.

We understand that the research centres' applications for their budgets will now be judged according to non-transparent evaluation criteria that may, and probably will, be possessed of political elements and motives. Contravening the principle of academic freedom, this new practice jeopardizes the development of independent knowledge in Hungary, as well as the job security of the Academy's workforce. This may put the status of knowledge in jeopardy, and weaken the role of truth and science as a basis for rational policy-making by the Hungarian government.

We support the decision of the Academy's staff at this difficult time. We urge the Hungarian government not to implement the new procedures for funding, and to respect the integrity of the Academy and its research.

Sincerely yours


Hans Petter Graver
Preses


Jakob Lothe
Leader of the Academy's Committee on Human Rights

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