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Professor László Lovász
President
Hungarian Academy of Sciences
1051 Budapest, Széchenyi István sq. 9
Hungary

By email

Dear Professor Lovász

As President and Principal of King's College London I am writing on behalf of my colleagues to express solidarity with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. As you know the Academy is an internationally respected centre of research excellence and, over many years, colleagues at King's College London have valued their collaborations with academics based in its institutes. I am therefore deeply concerned to hear of the new procedures for funding the institutes that threaten both the independence of their research and the stability of their staffing – and hence the quality of the research produced.

I understand that the Academy's research centres are now required to apply for their entire budgets by submitting bids that will be judged according to non-transparent evaluation criteria that will allow for funding decisions to be made on a politically partisan basis. This both contravenes the principle of academic freedom and puts at risk the job security of the Academy's hugely talented workforce, both of which are essential prerequisites for the continuation of the research excellence for which the Academy is known.

I therefore, personally and on behalf of colleagues, support the decision of the Academy's staff at this difficult time and urge the Hungarian government to reconsider so that the quality and integrity of the Academy's research can be maintained.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Byrne'.

Professor Edward Byrne AC
President & Principal