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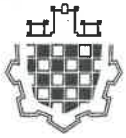
Dear Professor Lovász,

The University of Mannheim is writing to you to voice our support for our colleagues in the Hungarian Academy Staff Forum, and express our deep concern for the future of academic freedom in Hungary.

In the face of the recent developments in Hungary, we believe that it is essential that the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary's oldest and most prominent scientific institution, be able to continue to pursue its work as an independent institution partly financed by state funds on a regular, non-partisan basis.

The Hungarian government's new "program of excellence" model, which compels research centers to apply for their entire budget from the new Ministry for Innovation and Technology, constitutes a violation of fundamental principles of academic freedom. Under the new system of short-term tenders, unclear evaluation procedures would allow for arbitrary, politically motivated decisions. Basic research in Hungary would be placed under governmental funding and direct political control.

We firmly believe that the freedom of academic life from political interest is one of the pillars of a functioning democracy and vigorous intellectual inquiry. We now see this principle endangered by the regulations the Hungarian government is imposing on academic institutions and are deeply concerned that the Academy's independence could be compromised under the new tender-based system.



I therefore express our strong support for you, Prof. Lovász, and for our colleagues at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in your effort to protect academic freedom and independent research in Hungary.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Thomas Puhl  
President