



**OSTRAVSKÁ
UNIVERZITA**

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rektor

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Open letter from the University of Ostrava in support of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS)

Since the amendment of the Law on Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Law on the State Budget of Hungary for 2019, followed by January 2019 launch of the “program of excellence”, we are witnesses of the move of substantial financial resources from the budget of Hungarian Academy of Sciences under the newly created Ministry for Innovation and Technology.

We would like to openly express our deep concern with the fact that, when the primary research is being placed under direct political control. We do believe, that quality research is deeply connected with the freedom of researchers to carry out their work. Furthermore, the freedom of academic life from political interest not only contributes to the valuable scientific results, but also constitutes one of the pillars of a functioning democracy.

The current changes have reduced the independence of Hungarian Academy of Sciences and thus pose a violation of fundamental principles of academic freedom in the European Union. We consider HAS as an organization with high quality outputs and an invaluable partner in research. Thereby we call upon the Hungarian government to ensure that the academy’s autonomy remains untouched and that freedom of research without political limitations is safeguarded.