

STATEMENT

The Hungarian Government has tabled new legislation before the Parliament, with substantial impact on the fate of science in Hungary. With a range of amendments to different bills, the legislation aims to bring an abrupt end to a struggle which has lasted more than a year between the Government and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

The proposed legislation is unconstitutional, anti-democratic, and profoundly misguided.

It is unconstitutional, as it violates scientific freedom and the independence of the Academy and, moreover, violates the very right to property by placing limitations on the exercise of property rights.

It is anti-democratic because it ignores the expressed will of stakeholders manifested with unusual clarity and paves the way for a diametrically opposite decision unsupported by any reasonable argument.

It is profoundly misguided, in as much as it intends to subordinate science to the rule of an aggressive, short-sighted, voluntaristic politics. There is only one scientific elite in Hungary, and it is not replaceable. Its best representatives, however, as well as the talents of the next generation, can be lost.

We are calling on Members of Parliament who care about their responsibility for the future of science in Hungary to vote against the proposed legislation.

This Statement is issued by the Charges d'Affaires of the Stádium 28 Civic Association,
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