

Gdańsk, 21 February 2019

To whom it may concern,

With deep sadness we are observing the development of the changes within the financing of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and we want to express our solidarity with Hungarian academics. The European Solidarity Centre has cooperated with academics from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences on numerous occasions, therefore we are moved by the development of the situation regarding the proposed new scheme for funding the Academy. We consider academic freedom and independence as values of utmost priority and importance, which includes also economic and financial independence.

Every situation where obtaining funding for research would depend on whether the authorities agree with the research or not is undermining such independence as well as undermining the trust in academic research. Every change to the financing scheme should be in our opinion not only consulted with the interested parties (in this case the academic community and in particular the researchers and staff of Hungarian Academy of Sciences) but also absolutely transparent, in order to avoid any suspicion of attempts of exercising political influence over academic research and tampering with the integrity of academic research.

Therefore we want to express our solidarity and support for the researchers and staff of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and we are looking to further cooperation with you.

Yours sincerely,



Basil Kerski

Director of the European Solidarity Centre