



K O N I N K L I J K E N E D E R L A N D S E
A K A D E M I E V A N W E T E N S C H A P P E N

ROYAL NETHERLANDS ACADEMY
OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Ministry of Innovation and Technology
Minister László Palkovics
Fő utca 44-50
1011 Budapest
Hungary

Amsterdam, 20 July 2018
Reference: FAO/HD/2361

Contact: H. van Doorn
knaw@knaw.nl

Subject: Proposed amendment of the Law on the
Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Law on
the 2019 state budget of Hungary

Dear Minister Palkovics,

We have recently learned of the proposed amendment of the Law on the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Law on the 2019 state budget of Hungary and its implications on the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Following the resolution of the [Presidium of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences](#) of 15 June 2018, [the open letter of ALLEA](#), and the statements of several other academic partners, we are concerned that the proposed changes will negatively affect the quality and scope of scientific output of Hungary and will diminish the Hungarian Academy of Sciences' independence and capacity.

In particular, we believe that these proposed changes will reduce the ability of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences to set research agendas based on research excellence criteria and to support fundamental research. We call upon the Hungarian government to reconsider the proposed changes and instead to strengthen the role of the Hungarian Academy of Science as an invaluable international partner.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Wim van Saarloos
President

Copy:
Professor László Lovász, President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences