

Open Letter to

José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission

Traian Băsescu, President of Romania

Călin Popescu-Tăriceanu, Prime Minister of Romania

Academic rights in Romania

Your Excellences, fifteen years ago, when the revolution in 1989 demolished Nicolae Ceaușescu's dictatorship, a group of intellectuals expressed their concern about academic freedom and minority rights in Romania: they demanded the restoration of the Hungarian-language Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca / Kolozsvár. Now, the appeal is repeated because no progress has been made in achieving this aim.

This Hungarian-language university existed in Romania from 1945 till 1959 and its planned liquidation, by forcedly assimilating it into the mainly Romanian Babeș-Bolyai University, was one of Ceaușescu's personal political triumphs. Over the last fifteen years coequality in higher education could not be achieved and it is clear that the present structure does not serve the adequate training of Hungarian professionals in Romania. Although two private universities in Transylvania are sustained by the Hungarian government, Hungarians in Romania are heavily underrepresented in higher education.

There are successful examples of higher education in minority languages in Europe and elsewhere – e.g. Albanians in Macedonia, Catalans in Spain, Gagauz in Moldavia, Hungarians in Slovakia, Sámi in Norway, and Swedes in Finland who enjoy the benefits of a public (state-financed) university or universities in their own languages.

We understand Romania's pressing current problems but feel that in order to create a truly democratic society, the Romanian authorities should grant the minority rights mentioned above to the one and a half million strong Hungarian ethnic minority in Romania. We, therefore, urge that immediate steps be taken to re-establish the public Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca / Kolozsvár.

8th of February, 2006

Yours sincerely,

Atiyah, Michael F., Sir, Prof, Abel Prize Laureate and Fields Medalist, Fellow of the Royal Society of London, President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, University of Edinburgh, UK

Gennes, Pierre-Gilles de, Prof, Nobel Laureate and Wolf Prize Laureate in Physics, Fellow of the Royal Society, Member of the National Academy of Sciences, USA, Institut de France, Académie des Sciences, Collège de France and Institute Curie, Paris, France

Hubel, David H., Prof, Nobel Laureate, Member of the US National Academy of Sciences, Harvard University, Boston MA, USA

Kandel, Eric R., Prof, Nobel Laureate, Member of the US National Academy of Sciences, Columbia University, New York, USA

Klug, Aaron, Sir, Prof, Nobel Laureate, Fellow of the Royal Society of London, University of Cambridge, UK

Levitzki, Alexander, Prof, Wolf Prize Laureate, Member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Lovász, László, Prof, Wolf Prize Laureate, Member of The Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Microsoft Research, Redmond, USA

Oláh, George A., Prof, Nobel Laureate, Member of the US National Academy of Sciences, University of Southern California, USA

Wiesel, Elie, Prof, Nobel Laureate, Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Boston University, Massachusetts, USA

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Baltay, Charles, Prof, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA

Barabási, Albert-László, Corresponding Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA

Barrio, Rafael A., Prof, Member of the Mexican Academy of Sciences, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico

Belmonte, Carlos, Prof, Member of the Royal Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences, Director, Instituto de Neurociencias de Alicante, Universidad Miguel Hernandez, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Sant Joan d'Alacant, Spain

Björklund, Anders, Prof, Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Lund University, Sweden

Bliss, Timothy V. P., Dr, Fellow of the Royal Society of London, MRC National Institute for Medical Research, London, UK

Bodmer, Walter, Sir, Prof, Fellow of the Royal Society of London, Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, Oxford, UK

Castillejos, Raquel Pérez, Dr, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA

Castrén, Eero, Academy Professor, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

Changeux, Jean-Pierre, Prof, Member, Institut de France, Académie des Sciences, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France

Collingridge, Graham, Prof, Fellow of the Royal Society of London, University of Bristol, UK

Costa, Erminio, Prof, Member of “Accademia dei Lincei”, Rome, US National Academy of Sciences, University of Illinois, Chicago, USA

Cowey, Alan, Prof, Fellow of the Royal Society of London, University of Oxford, UK

Csernai, László P., Prof., Doctor Honoris Causa of Babeş-Bolyai University, Member of Accademia Europaea, University of Bergen, Norway

Cull-Candy, Stuart, Prof, Fellow of the Royal Society of London, University College, London, UK

DeFelipe, Javier, Prof, Instituto Cajal, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid, Spain

Dockray, Graham, Prof, Fellow of the Royal Society of London, University of Liverpool, UK

Eberle, Alex N., Prof, University Hospital, Basel, Switzerland

Graybiel, Ann, Prof, Member of the US National Academy of Sciences, MIT, Cambridge, USA

Griffiths, Gareth, Dr, Group Leader, European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Heidelberg, Germany

Grillner, Sten, Prof, Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden

Hamingway, Richard J., Honorary Research Professor of Physics, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada

Hokfelt, Thomas, Prof, Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden

Jessell, Thomas M., Prof, Fellow of the Royal Society of London, Member of the US National Academy of Sciences, Columbia University, New York, USA

Jones, Arwyn Tomos, Dr, Cardiff University, Wales, UK

Kaila, Kai, Academy Professor, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

Korn, Henri, Prof, Member, Institut de France, Académie des Sciences, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France

Kossut, Malgorzata M., Prof, Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, Warsaw, Poland

Lerma, Juan, Prof, Deputy Director, Instituto de Neurociencias de Alicante, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, UMH, Alicante, Spain

Llinás, Rodolfo, Prof, Member of the US National Academy of Sciences, New York University, New York, USA

Lopes da Silva, Fernando, Prof, Member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Lucas, Amand A., Prof, Member of the Royal Belgium Academy of Science, Facultés Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix, Namur, Belgium

Maffei, Lamberto, Prof, Vice-President of the Italian Academy of Sciences (Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei), Member of the European Academy of Sciences, Chairman of the Institute of Neurophysiology of the Italian National Research Council, Pisa, Italy

Mangano, Michelangelo L., Dr, Senior Scientist, PH-TH Department, CERN, Geneva, Switzerland

Metspalu, Andres, Prof, IMCB/Estonian Biocentre, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia

Moser, Edvard, Prof, Member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and of the Royal Norwegian Society of Science and Letters, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway

Nakanishi, Shigetada, Prof, Director, Osaka Bioscience Institute, Osaka, Japan

Nicoll, Roger, Prof, Member of the US National Academy of Sciences, University of California, San Francisco, USA

North, Alan R., Prof, Fellow of the Royal Society of London, Vice-President and Dean, University of Manchester, UK

Okada, Yoshio, Prof, Kobe Gakuin University, Japan

O'Mara, Shane, Prof, School of Psychology & Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

Ottersen, Ole Petter, Prof, Member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, University of Oslo, Norway

Pan, Christoph, Prof, Head of the South Tyrolean Institute for Ethnic Groups, Italy

Plane, David E., Dr, CERN, OPAL Experiment Spokesman, Geneva, Switzerland

Prochiantz, Alain, Prof, Member, Institut de France, Académie des Sciences, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France

Pujol, Ángel Gabilondo, Prof, Rector Magnífico de la Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain

Pungor, Ernő, Prof, Doctor Honoris Causa of Babeş-Bolyai University, Member of the European Academy of Sciences, Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society, Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary

Radda, George, Sir, Prof, Fellow of the Royal Society of London, University of Oxford, UK

Raska, Ivan, Prof, Institute of Cell Biology and Pathology, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

Ribeiro, Joaquim A, Prof, Inst. Farmacologia Neurociencias, Faculdade de Medicina, Univ. Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal

Romo, Ranulfo, Prof, Member of the Mexican Academy of Sciences, Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico

Saarma, Mart, Prof, Member of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Biotechnology, Univ. of Helsinki, Finland

Sarna, Tadeusz, Prof, Head, Department of Biophysics, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland

Schulz, Thomas F., Prof, Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists, Hannover Med. School, Germany

Singer, Wolf, Prof, Member of Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Director, Max-Planck-Institute for Brain Research, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Somogyi, Péter, Prof, Fellow of the Royal Society of London, University of Oxford, UK

Stanley, Eugene H., Prof, Member of US National Academy of Sciences, Director, Center for Polymer Studies, Boston University, Massachusetts, USA

Storm-Mathisen, Jon, Prof, Member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, University of Oslo, Norway

Strata, Piergiorgio, Prof, Member of Academia Europaea, Director of Rita Levi Montalcini Center for Brain Repair, University of Torino, Italy

Strausfeld, Nicholas J., Prof, Fellow of the Royal Society of London, University of Arizona, Tucson, USA

Tenchini, Roberto, Prof, Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Pisa, Italy

Tubella, Imma, Prof, Rector, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain

Ullrich, Axel, Prof, Max-Planck-Institute of Biochemistry, Director of the Department of Molecular Biology, Martinsried, Germany

Vigneron, Jean Pol, Prof, Facultés Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix, Namur, Belgium

Vizi, Szilveszter E., Prof, President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary

Waessle, Heinz, Prof, Member, Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Director, Max-Planck-Institute for Brain Research, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Wagner, Albrecht, Prof, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, Hamburg, Germany

Weiskrantz, Larry, Prof, Fellow of the Royal Society of London, University of Oxford, UK

Winkler, Hans, Prof, Member, Academia Europaea, University of Innsbruck, Austria

Zerwas, Peter M., Prof, Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron – DESY, Hamburg, Germany

Nyílt levél

José Manuel Barroso úrnak, az Európai Bizottság elnökének

Traian Băsescu úrnak, Románia elnökének

Călin Popescu-Tăriceanu úrnak, Románia miniszterelnökének

A tanuláshoz való jog Romániában

Excellenciás Urak!

Tizenöt évvel ezelőtt, amikor az 1989-es forradalom megdöntötte Nicolae Ceaușescu diktatúráját, egy értelmiségiekből álló csoport aggodalmát fejezte ki a romániai kisebbségi jogokat s a tanuláshoz való jogot illetően, és követelte a magyar nyelvű Bolyai Egyetem visszaállítását Kolozsváron. A felhívást most kénytelenek vagyunk megismételni, mert e cél elérésében nem történt előrehaladás.

Ez a magyar tannyelvű egyetem 1945-től 1959-ig működött Romániában, és kitervelt felszámolása, erőszakos beolvasztása a dominánsan román tannyelvű Babeș-Bolyai Tudományegyetembe, egyike volt Ceaușescu személyes politikai győzelmeinek. Az utóbbi tizenöt év során a felsőoktatásban nem sikerült elérni a nyelvi egyenlőséget. Bebizonyosodott, hogy a jelenlegi egyetemi struktúra nem szolgálja megfelelő módon a romániai, magyar nyelvű szakemberképzést. Noha Magyarország kormánya két magánegyetemet is fenntart Erdélyben, a romániai magyar fiatalok számaránya a felsőoktatásban jóval a demográfiai arányok alatt van.

Európában és máshol is sikeresen működik számos olyan felsőoktatási intézmény, melyeken egy nemzeti kisebbség nyelvén folyik az oktatás. Az anyanyelvű, és államilag támogatott felsőoktatás előnyeit élvezhetik a macedóniai albánok, a spanyolországi katalánok, Moldvai Köztársaságban élő gagauzok, a szlovákiai magyarok, a norvégiai számik, valamint a finnországi svédek.

Ismerjük a Romániát nyomasztó jelenlegi nehézségeket, de úgy gondoljuk, hogy egy valóban demokratikus társadalom létrehozása érdekében a román államvezetésnek biztosítania kell a másfél milliós magyar nemzeti kisebbség számára az említett jogokat. Ennek érdekében sürgetjük a szükséges lépések haladéktalan megtételét az állami támogatású kolozsvári Bolyai Egyetem újraindításáért.

Őszinte tisztelettel,