

Petition against the strengthening of anti-Semitic manifestations in Hungary

The executive Committee of Central European Political Science Association (CEPSA) was informed by the *Comité International Dachau* and other respected institutions and personalities about alarming development and news regarding the anti-Semitic activities in Hungary. Recently we have been confronted in Hungary with a series of anti-Semitic provocations, given the incoming events of Jewish World Congress in Budapest. Nevertheless, such development is related with long-term and strengthening rhetoric of intolerance that might be observed not only in media or governing circles, but in more general public discourse.

As an extremely discriminatory and outrageous example of such anti-Semitic activity we consider the attack against one of our colleagues at the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest

(http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%81gnes_Heller). The offenders of such non-acceptable labeling are using methods that remind us on the period(s) of extremist and totalitarian political regimes in Central Europe during the Second World War (the Nazi Regime in Germany and related NS regimes in many occupied and quasi-independent states) and later in the years of Communist totalitarianism. It is particularly upsetting that such attitude is generated in the academic environment, which should be an example of tolerance.

Equally as the *Comité International Dachau* we would like to ask the European Parliament and European Commission to initiate actively measures against such development in the discussions with the Hungarian Members of Parliament and government officials. We as the political scientists from countries that suffered historically from the non-democratic political regimes and intolerant political behavior are particularly sensitive to such manifestations of condemning anti-Semitism and discriminatory activities directed at the Jewish community – and also other political and/or ethnical minorities such as Roma – not only in Hungary. Observing the situation in Hungary, we assume that the recent event at the Eötvös Loránd-University Budapest is only – internationally published – peak out of a series of anti-Semitic acts and publications, that has become notorious since quite a while.

As the political scientists we strongly support also the demand for strengthening European research and education activities against anti-Semitism and other forms of political intolerance and violence and tailor-made political support for such activities fortifying the democratic and tolerant nature of European societies. CEPSA will surely discuss the above mentioned issues also at the 18th Annual Conference at the End of October in Pilsen/Czech Republic. To the

prepared discussion about *Anti-Semitism and Xenophobia in Central Europe today* we would like to invite not only scholars, but also members of your institution and open the floor for mutual debate about this issue of high importance between the academic and political sphere at the European level.

The petition was explicitly supported by:

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