

Attack on the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

The Council of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Zurich, Switzerland, on 28 June 2019:

Notes:

- the Hungary Academy of Sciences maintains a network of research institutions, which decide on their own research priorities autonomously, based on scientific criteria;
- legislation introduced by the Hungarian government would take away this network from the Academy and place it under the authority of a new body in which half the members are appointed directly by the government;
- the Academy repeatedly rejected the government's proposals and called for dialogue. The international scientific community is overwhelmingly supportive of the Academy's position;
- previous cases – most recently the withdrawal of legislation introducing administrative courts – have shown that the Hungarian government can be influenced by international pressure.

Believes that:

- if the legislation is adopted, and considering the past attitude of the Hungarian government in relation to independent academic institutions like the Central European University, there is a clear danger of political and ideological interference to scientific issues, undermining the autonomy and effectiveness of scientific research in Hungary.

Calls on the Hungarian government:

- to withdraw the legislation and engage in meaningful dialogue with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences;
- respect the autonomy of scientific institutions and scientific research in Hungary.

Resolution:

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Year and Council:

Zurich, Switzerland, 2019

Category:

Urgency Resolution

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