

DECLARATION OF SOLIDARITY BY THE SENATES OF AUSTRIA'S ARTS UNIVERSITIES WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF THEATRE AND FILM ARTS BUDAPEST (SZFE)

We, the Senates of Austria's arts universities, in which all groups of people working together in a university are represented and whose members have a democratic mandate, express our solidarity with the students, the Senate that has resigned, the Rectors who have resigned and the teachers who have resigned at the Budapest University of Theatre and Film Arts SZFE. We protest most strongly against the autocratic measures taken by the Hungarian government that have led to this suspension of the autonomy of Hungarian universities.

We are extremely concerned about the way in which SZFE's democratically elected bodies have been bypassed and emphasise that the importance of freedom in the arts, science and education is non-negotiable and must be guaranteed internationally across all borders.

We appeal urgently to the Ministry responsible to revoke unreservedly all the measures that undermine the autonomy of Hungarian universities. We expect the governments of all states in the EU to exert their influence on the Hungarian government to ensure that all powers are returned to the legitimate leadership bodies.

Senate of the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna
Senate of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna
Senate of the University of Applied Arts Vienna
Senate of the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz
Senate of the University of Art and Design Linz
Senate of the Mozarteum University Salzburg