

**Question for written answer E-002163/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Hungarian Academy of Sciences

The Hungarian National Assembly recently adopted a bill to restructure the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Fifteen academic institutes will be removed from the academy and placed under a newly established supervisory board, the Eotvos Lorand Research Network. Seven of the 13 members of this new board will be appointed by the Ministry of Innovation. The Academy of Sciences and civil society have spoken out against the bill, arguing that it threatens academic freedom in the country. It is not the first time the Hungarian Government has tried to exert influence over the academic sector. Six months ago, the Central European University was forced to move its activities to Vienna.

The restructuring of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences once again emphasises the lack of respect for EU values shown by the present Hungarian government.

- Does the Commission agree that this bill poses serious threats to academic freedom in Hungary?
- If so, what steps will the Commission take to ensure that scientific freedom is guaranteed in Hungary, and will its action include an infringement procedure?
- What does the Commission consider to be the consequences of this move for the participation of Hungary in EU research funding under programmes such as Horizon 2020?