

Press Release

16 May 2023

Reminder

**European Alliance of Academies:
Solidarity conference in Budapest with the Society of
Hungarian Authors Szépirok Társasága
30 – 31 May 2023, Central European University, Budapest
and as livestream**

Invitation to the press conference

Wednesday, 31 May 2023, 12 pm

Central European University, Auditorium A, Nador utca 15, 1051 Budapest

With

Jeanine Meerapfel, President of the Akademie der Künste
and initiator of the European Alliance of Academies

Ferenc Czinki, author and President of the Society of
Hungarian Authors Szépirok Társasága

Valerio Rocco Lozano, Director of Círculo de Bellas Artes de Madrid

Jákob Ladányi Jancsó, representative of the Freeszfe initiative

Please register for the press talk with Vágvölgyi András

szepiroktarsasaga@gmail.com

The European Alliance of Academies invites you to a conference on 30 and 31 May 2023 in Budapest, organised in solidarity with the Society of Hungarian Authors Szépirok Társasága. The Society's continued existence is currently under threat by impending drastic cuts in the annual budget. The members of the Alliance have organised a series of events to bring attention to the cultural-political policy mechanisms that lay the groundwork for numerous restrictions of artistic freedoms, whether in Hungary or in other European countries.

“As a European Alliance of Academies, we act in solidarity when one of our founding members comes under pressure through political and financial repression. Currently the Society of Hungarian Authors Szépirok Társasága is under threat. By holding the event in Budapest, we are sending a clear message. We will also be debating what framework conditions need to be instituted across Europe in order to protect the freedom of artistic production in all European countries. We are 70 European art academies and cultural institutions, and together we form a strong alliance.” **Jeanine Meerapfel**

Press and
Public Relations

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“I still don’t believe that literature should be political – I would like to reserve that luxury for myself. But suddenly politics started to interfere in literature. Politics targeted us, and it wasn’t pleasant. Literature and art are inherently resilient. At least that’s what I think.” **Ferenc Czinki**

During his time as member of the Akademie der Künste (since 1991) and as its president (1997–2003), the writer **György Konrád** was already a tireless proponent of the idea of a Europe unified in peace. Konrád was instrumental in helping to overcome the existing social and intellectual division of Europe by promoting East-West encounters and organising talks and discussions.

Szépírók Társasága was founded in 1997 with the aim of supporting contemporary literature and contributing to the democratisation culture in Hungary. Among the nearly 400 members are some of the most internationally recognised Hungarian writers as well as renowned cultural journalists, critics, translators and literary scholars. www.szepiroktarsasaga.hu

An event held by the European Alliance of Academies, organised by the Akademie der Künste and Szépírók Társasága. With the kind support of the Central European University and the Freeszfe initiative.

Event details

European Alliance of Academies

Artistic Freedom. A Core Element of the European Project

Tuesday, 30 May 2023, 6 pm + Wednesday, 31 May 2023, 6 pm

In English and Hungarian

Central European University, Nador utca 15, 1051 Budapest and as livestream

Free admission

Livestream and further information: www.allianceofacademies.eu

With: **María José Crespo, György Dalos, Péter Inkei, Simon Márton, Jeanine Meerapfel, Katharina Schultens, Bartosz Szydłowski, Balázs Szücs, Béla Tarr** and digital contributions by **Terézia Mora, Robert Wilson, George Szirtes** as well as **Members of the European Alliance of Academies** from Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Spain and Ukraine.

See: [Press release 20 April 2023](#)

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