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*EU Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Tibor Navracsics / Stephanie Lecocq/EPA*

## Hungarian commissioner criticizes anti-Soros education bill

Tibor Navracsics takes a very different line from his party.

by [Jacopo Barigazzi](#)

The Hungarian government on Tuesday [passed a bill that targets the Central European University](#), founded by the billionaire American-Hungarian financier George Soros — but not everyone has been singing from the same hymn sheet.

Tibor Navracsics, Hungary's member of the European Commission — in charge of education as well as sport, youth and culture — and a member of the same Fidesz party as Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, this week criticized the controversial education bill, which will prevent the Budapest-based CEU from granting both U.S. and Hungarian degrees.

“Central European University is one of the most important higher education institutions not only in Hungary, but also in the European higher education system,” Navracsics, a former foreign minister, wrote on Sunday, according to Hungarian website [Index.hu](http://Index.hu) and translated into English by [CEU](#).

“Therefore, I think it's important that after the correction of possible irregularities, it can continue to operate in Budapest undisturbed,” he wrote.

That's not the official line coming out of Budapest.

“The sole aim of the amendment to the Act on Higher Education is for foreign universities in Hungary to operate lawfully and transparently by complying with Hungarian regulations,” the Hungarian government said in a statement. “Any other interpretations are symptoms of political hysteria.”

“We will challenge the constitutionality of this act,” CEU President Michael Ignatieff told reporters on Tuesday.

The Hungarian bill was discussed last week at a meeting of commissioners, officials said. Asked about the bill last week, the Hungarian commissioner said he was not in a position to comment on it.

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