

RESOLUTION

Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) & Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP):

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) adopted the following resolution in Hotel Chris & Eve in Komotini/Gümülcine, Greece, on 16 May 2015:

Considering that in Romania and Slovakia

- ethnic Hungarians have been struggling for the survival of their community with peaceful and democratic means for decades, respecting the constitutional order of the state;
- the state does not provide sufficient legal and institutional guarantees for the protection of the national minority communities, and the use of minority languages in public administration and education remains partial;
- the states' tendentiously negative attitude in regard to economic and financial aspects towards the regions predominantly inhabited by ethnic Hungarians plagues the inhabitants of these regions, irrespective of their ethnicity;
- the alliance and good neighbourly cooperation of Romania and Hungary, and also of Slovakia and Hungary are ensured by numerous interstate and intergovernmental agreements, the two countries cooperate in international organizations, including those of military and defence cooperation;
- "in our own affairs we must decide on our own" - the vast majority of members of the Hungarian communities in both countries wish to manage certain political representation, economic, social, educational, and cultural aspects of their life within the framework of the state, but independently;
- the results of the last census, in terms of the ethnic Hungarian community are extremely negative in both countries.

Noting that in Romania

the Democratic Alliance of Hungarian in Romania has been a factor of political stability ever since the 1989 Romanian Revolution. Firmly committed to continue the work begun two and a half decades ago, the RMDSZ has made legislative proposals aiming to ensure the Hungarian community's autonomy. The proposals are based on the provisions of the Alba Iulia Declaration from 1918, and the provisions of the international agreements Romania has signed in the last 25 years and to the Minority Statute from 1945, which is still in force in Romania:

- the Minority Law proposal adopted in 2005 by the Romanian Government, but blocked in the Romanian Parliament enables the creation of a cultural autonomy model for all national minorities in Romania. It provides autonomy in education, culture and media ruled by institutional bodies elected by the national community itself. The proposal would ensure a national legislative framework for the Hungarians living in local

majority or interethnic social environment,

- the public debate on the special statute of the autonomous region of the Szeklerland was launched by the RMDSZ in 2014. It describes both the process and the final institutional structure of the autonomous region, with the description of the competencies of each institution. The regional autonomous statute for the Hungarian community living in Romania is based on the model of South Tyrol in Italy.

Noting that in Slovakia

the Party of the Hungarian Community (Slovakia) set the objective to draft and implement a legal, financial and institutional system of minority rights protection, that is fundamentally different from the existing one and ensures the survival of the Hungarian community in Slovakia and the prosperity of South-Slovakia. On 1 December 2014 the Party of the Hungarian Community published its strategic plan that envisages:

- to set up and operate a self-government system for groups of national minorities living in scattered and peripheral areas of Slovakia, based on personal principle with powers in the field of culture, education, media and language use, and
- to set up and operate a self-governing region with special status in the areas predominantly inhabited by ethnic Hungarians, endowed with extensive powers in the fields of economy, regional development, social services, culture, education, media and language.

Reiterating and recognizing that

- the existence of ethnic minorities contributes, with important values, enriching colour and significant cultural heritage, to the life of the country as a whole. Besides, the guaranteed minority rights do not curtail the rights of the majority;
- in a number of European states the problems of such minorities (similar to the Hungarian communities in Romania and Slovakia in number, proportion of the population, regional structure) were resolved by establishing the relations between the state and the minority community on new foundations;
- the positive experience of autonomous regions shall be a source of inspiration in seeking ways to avoid internal political conflicts, contributing also to regional stability;
- autonomy (both cultural and territorial), as applied in states respectful of the rule of law, should be seen as a “sub-state arrangement”, which allows a minority group to exercise its rights and preserve its identity, while respecting the state’s unity, and territorial integrity;
- providing extensive community rights shall not be regarded as opposed to the concept of the unitary state, the indivisibility of the state is thus compatible with autonomy and regionalism.

In conformity with the recommendations of a number of respected international fora

We call on the governments of Slovakia and Romania to

- ensure the application of the principles of subsidiarity, regionalism, self-government with a view to the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of language, ethnic belonging,
- react with understanding when national minority groups demand greater freedom to manage their own affairs independently,
- initiate and continue dialogue with representatives of the national minorities on their genuine demands to manage their own affairs under their own responsibility,
- take into account the added value of historic regions in terms of culture, language, traditions and religions when defining/reforming the administrative and/or territorial structure of the country or of certain State institutions,
- consider and follow the best practices of the cultural and territorial autonomies in Europe (such as the experience of the Swedish speaking community in Finland, Alto Adige/South Tyrol in Italy, or the German-Danish border region and others),
- refrain from any attempts to picture the cultural and territorial autonomies of the national minorities for the majority population as a threat to the territorial integrity of the state.