

The protocol concerning the cooperation between the Social Democratic Party (PSD) and the Magyar Democratic Union of Romania (UDMR) in 2003 - 19 February 2003

Having in view the positive results of the cooperation between the Social Democratic Party and the Magyar Democratic Union of Romania, on the basis of the protocols signed between the two political parties;

- **Taking into account the positive effects of the cooperation between PSD-UDMR** on the accomplishment of some major desiderata of the entire Romanian society;
- Considering **that the maintaining of the political stability in our country** has a fundamental importance for accelerating the process of European and Euro- Atlantic integration;
- Being aware of the **necessity of accomplishing the accession criteria** at the Parliamentary and executive level, taking into account the decision made at the Summit in Prague, of inviting Romania to join NATO, as well as in the purpose of accelerating the negotiations with the European Union;
- Having in view **the demand of speeding up the institutional and political reform**, the continuation of the process of decentralization, the acceleration of privatization, the developing of infrastructure in all regions of the country;
- Being aware that there are **real premises in Romania for achieving and closing the ample process of solving the problems of property**, the handing over of the deeds of property for the land and wood fund, the retrocession or the compensation for the nationalized estates, including those of the religious cults and of the associations and the national minorities organizations;
- Taking into account the common will of the parts **to assure the social stability** through efficient measures of protection and social solidarity;
- Appreciating that **through the cooperation SDP-MDUR, it has been obtained an improvement of the relations between majority and national minorities** from Romania;
- Starting from the fact **that the traditions, the customs, the minorities culture represent a spiritual heritage for the whole country**; considering that the respect and strengthen of the national minorities rights don't imply restriction of the Romanian majority rights but the assurance of the equality in chances of all the citizens of the country;
- Expressing the will that through their cooperation they contribute to **a fair and harmonious co-habitation of different nationalities from our country** as well as the political isolation of the extremist forces;
- Having in view that the signatory parts' aim at keeping, expressing, and **developing the national identity of all national minorities from Romania**, including the Magyar one, in conformity with Romania Constitution, the European Convention of Human Rights, the Convention for the protection of national minorities, the European Chart of regional and minority languages, the European Chart of local autonomy;

· Aware of the positive consequences of the cooperation between the signatories at an international level- an important element in **removing visas for Romanian citizens who travel in Schengen space, and in inviting Romania to join NATO.**

THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE MAGYAR DEMOCRATIC UNION OF ROMANIA express their strong will to continue and develop their collaboration in 2003, sustaining the desiderata included in the former protocols, in view of accelerating the economic reforms, fighting poverty, corruption and crime, of respecting the human rights, intensifying the efforts for integration in the European structures.

TO THIS PURPOSE, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE MAGYAR DEMOCRATIC UNION OF ROMANIA SIGN THE PRESENT PROTOCOL OF COOPERATION FOR 2003.

I. REGARDING THE POLITICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PSD) AND THE MAGYAR DEMOCRATIC UNION OF ROMANIA (UDMR).

1. **PSD and UDMR- responsible political parties towards the country's destiny- will permanently cooperate at the central and regional level, informing each other on the priority problems.**

2. The signatory parts agree that their representatives should **participate in their capacity of guests at the national reunions of the two political parties.**

3. **PSD and UDMR decide to do an operative report** concerning the analyses and decisions adopted by the central executive body of the two political parties

4. **The signatory parts** will agree to share experience, to organize debates, symposiums on different themes of the political, economic and social activity.

5. **PSD and UDMR** commit themselves to **sustain, Romania's fundamental interests**, PSD Government foreign policy, **in their international relations**, assuring meanwhile a reciprocal report on the special problems.

6. **The signatory parties** agree to sustain **the interests of the Romanians living abroad**, especially those of the Romanian minority living in Hungary, according to the international regulations.

7. **PSD and UDMR** commit themselves to pay a special attention to Romanian minority's problems from the counties and towns where the Magyar minority's preponderance is obvious and to sustain the equality of chances for all Romanian citizens, regardless nationality.

8. **The two political parties will continue to pay a priority attention to the theme of national minority protection**, the institutional and legislative evolution of this problem.

· It will be a further strengthen of the conditions for assuring the right to keep and freely develop the expression of the ethnic identity for all Romanian citizens belonging to the national minorities, so that they could freely manifest in culture, religion, education, and public life.

· It will be assured the presence of the Magyar specialists in the decentralized institutions, especially in those which deal with the maintaining of the cultural identity, subordinated to the ministries (museums, archives, libraries).

· It will be paid a special attention to the minority communities' problems from the places where they form a small community in comparison with the majority people.

· It will be continued the enforcement of the law concerning the Magyar status, through the commission to who belong the designed representatives of UDMR.

9. **The signatory parts request the press offices** of the two political parties to organize, when it is necessary common press conferences or the broadcasting of releases in order to inform in a correct and operative way mass media and the public opinion.

II. Regarding the cooperation between the Parliamentary groups of PSD and UDMR.

1. **PSD and UDMR** ask the Parliamentary Groups from the Deputy Chamber and Senate **to cooperate permanently for the adoption of the normative acts from the Legislative Program in order to align to the European Union's regulations.**

2. The signatory parts **establish that the leaders of the Parliamentary groups and the members of the Permanent Offices of the two Chambers- members of PSD and UDMR-should have monthly consultations** or whenever it is necessary, in order to establish the coherent priorities and points of view related to the one-House bills.

3. The two political parties ask **their parliamentarians from the permanent special committees** - especially presidents, vice-presidents, and committees secretaries- from the two Chambers of Parliament to assure the efficient, close cooperation in discussing, making reports and operative approval of the of normative acts projects. The two political parties will support the creation of permanent parliamentary committees for equal opportunities, and for environment. **Deadline: 31.03.2003**

4. **Leaders of PSD and UDMR** parliamentary groups will make beforehand an exchange of information and documents related to different projects of normative acts. The Members of the two parliamentary groups will analyze monthly the situation of legislative projects.

5. **PSD and UDMR** ask the deputies and senators from the Romanian delegations to the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council, to other international organizations, as well as to the friendship groups to firmly cooperate in view of promoting the interests of our country at an international level.

III. Regarding the Government's sustain in applying its program of Governance.

1. **PSD and UDMR commit themselves to sustain the Executive in applying its program-** adopted by Romanian Parliament, as well as the economic, social strategies of development at a national, regional, local level.

2. The two political parties will cooperate to apply all legislative, governmental, administrative measures for reducing corruption.

3. During the preparation of the normative acts (drafts, orders, resolutions) PSD will consult UDMR before these projects to arrive on the agenda of the Government's meeting, UDMR will be consulted in all actions regarding the Government strategy.

4. **In the field of accelerating the economic reform,** PSD and UDMR will adopt parliamentary and governmental measures necessary for assuring the sustainable economic growth. In this way, UDMR will support the governmental measures meant to

· To lower the degree of fiscality;

- To support the small and medium seized enterprises through assuring the financial resources for acceding to different programs;
- To support the investments paying a great attention to attracting the autochthonous and foreign capital, offering equal chances to the foreign investors;
- To finalize, by common agreement, the bill concerning the organizing and functioning cooperation; Deadline: 31.03.2003
- To accelerate the rhythm of privatizing commercial societies from industry and agriculture;
- To support the zootechnical sector, including the maintaining of the financial support for zootechnical productions, and of the processes of improving the zootechnical value;
- To act for reducing the financial blocking existent in the economy;
- To support the investments for building the dwelling places

5. The signatory parts will act for finalizing the process of restitution of property.

- , The process of handing over the deeds of property for the land and wood fund will be fulfilled on the base of a national program until 31 December 2003.
- In the case of the properties seized illegally by the state from the associations and organizations including those of the national minorities, the Government will submit to the Parliament the bill of the law of restitution till 31 March 2003.
- It will be analyzed the possibility of restitution of the properties belonging to the Association of Composesorats of the Private Goods from Ciuc;
- It will be adopted the law concerning the granting of compensations for the properties that cannot be restituted in kind according to the stipulations of the Law no.10/2001, 501/2002 and the law no.1/2000.
- It will be accelerated the restitution of the buildings that belonged to the religious cults and which have been included in the urgency orders.
- It will be accelerated the appliance of the Law no. 501/2002 for restitution of the properties confiscated from the religious cults.

6. In the field of decentralization of the public administration, the Social Democratic Party and the Magyar Democratic Union of Romania will act for continuing the measures of decentralization and demilitarization as follows:

- It will be granted the financial resources necessary to the local authorities for assuring the quality of services and functioning of the institutions which have passed in the subordination of the county and local councils.
- It will be continued the just sustain from the state budget of the territorial administrative units inhabited also by the national minorities. In this sense, the ministers will support the projects of infrastructure and other projects for these regions, according to the one or two Annexes.
- It will be increased the sums destined to the financing of the local public authorities from the income taxes and from other sources.

- It will be overseen the way of applying the Law of local public administration no. 215/2001 and of the methodological norms.
- It will be taken measures for applying and respecting the stipulations of the art.38 from the Law nr. 215/2001 concerning the action of assignment or of changing the denomination of streets , markets, and other objectives of public local interest in conformity with the stipulations of the Law no. 48/2003 concerning the assignment and change of denominations.
- It will be created industrial parks in the regions inhabited by national minorities, in conformity with the present legislation.
- It will be assured the creation of **associations of development in the system of public private partnership**, with the respect of the stipulations of the Law 215/2001 concerning the association of the public local authorities and their right to allot funds in view of initiating and accomplishing some programs of regional development in the interest of the collectivities which they represent.
- It will be drafted a national strategy concerning the regional repository of offal and the protection of the resources of drinking water.
- It will be accelerated the institutional reform, according to the requests of Romania and of the European Union, through the creation of the institutions similar to those in the European Union in all existing fields.
- PSD and UDMR support the program of computerization of the Romanian society. There will be analyzed new facilities concerning the acquisition by the people of the computing equipment and the extension of the access to internet in the rural environment.
- It will be improved the institutional system compatible with that from the European Union in the field of rural development.
- In the case of amending the Law 151/ 1998, the two signatory parts will consult each other.

7. In the field of drafting the Law of the State Budget, of following the budgetary execution and of continuing reform in the fiscal domain:

- It will be followed the budgetary execution of 2003 for assuring the financing of projects and programs included in the Law of the State Budget on 2003, with special emphasis on the programs of infrastructural development.
- UDMR representatives will be consulted in the process of drafting the Project of the State Budget Law on 2004, still in phase of drafting the bill. It will proceed to an analyze of the proposals formulated by UDMR together with the main ministries and to the including of those proposals into the project of the Law of the State Budget on 2004, which is to be drafted under the coordination of the Ministry of Public Finances;
- The reform in the field of fiscality will continue through modifying the Law concerning the global income tax in the sense of creating to the contributors the possibility to dispose on the destination of a part from the tax in order to sustain some cultural, social, sportive and charitable purposes. Deadline: 30.06.2003

8. PSD and UDMR will pay a special attention to the social protection.

- They will act consistently for applying **the stipulations of the law concerning the minimum guaranteed income**.

- It will be implemented the Law 189/2000 concerning granting rights to the persecuted persons from political reasons, as well as the Law nr. 309/2002 concerning granting rights to the persons who satisfied the military service in the work detachments.
- It will be assured the differential indexation of pensions, granting priority to the small pensions.
- It will continue the process of bringing to the same level of pensions for diminishing the disequilibria accumulated in the previous years.
- It will be established the payment of the pension in as much shorter term as possible from the date of laying down the demands of retirement.
- It will be assured the social protection of the one single parent family (including the reconsidering of the system of crèche and kindergarden), of those with more children (the increasing of allocation for children according to the number of children) and of the families of pensioners (financial facilities for survival).
- It will be analyzed the possibility of increasing the pensions CAP.
- It will be settled by law the organizing and financing the system of services of social communitarian assistance. Date limit: 30.06.2003
- It will be drafted a national program for the thermal rehabilitation of the flats through an adequate system of financing, according to the already existing legislation in this field. Date limit: 31.05.2003.

9. In the field of health, PSD and UDMR will consistently act for applying the strategy and national programs for improving the health situation of people, so that:

- It will continue the decentralization of the health services and it will be assured a better financial frame for their administration:
- It will be created a legislative unitary frame concerning health according to the Acquis Communautaire;
- It will be supported the legislative proposals that deal with sanitary reform - the possibility of family doctors to buy the consulting rooms, the setting up of the houses of insurance and of the funds of private assurances.
- It will be supported the legislative proposals which aim the prevention and helps at the healthy development of child.

10. In the field of education, PSD and UDMR establish the following:

- The sustain and development of the institutional frame of education, on specializations and levels of instruction, primary, secondary, high school and University.
- The continuation of the process of decentralization, the development of the institutional autonomy.
- The correlation of the general objectives of education with the real demands of the labor force.
- The Ministry of Education and Research will settle a program of rehabilitation and extension of the places in the student hostels.

In the high education:

- Keeping the multicultural character of the University " Babes - Bolyai, it will be acted for creating of another two faculties (one of humanistic sciences and other of natural sciences and exact ones), with teaching in Magyar language, according to law stipulations, through uniting the existent specializations.

- It will be established figures of schooling for the Magyar section from the Medicine and Pharmaceutics Institute from Târgu- Mureş, including for the Medical College. Deadline: 30.04.2003.

- At the Academy of Music" Gheorghe Dima", and the Agronomic Institute from Cluj - Napoca, and the Technical University " Petru Maior"from Târgu- Mureş, it will be analyzed the possibility of creating groups of teaching in Magyar, in conformity with the stipulations of the law.

In the Preuniversity education:

- Within the state education, according to the article.121from the Education Law and in the spirit of the specific recommendations of the Council of Europe, it will be assured the study of Magyar language, according to the concrete requirements.

- In the confessional high schools, the existent plans of schooling in the school year 2002-2003 will be respected in the next school year too. According to the requirements, following the consultations with the representatives of the religious cults, the Ministry of Education and Research will examine the possibility of enlarging this form of education.

- It will ensured the presence of experts belonging to the national minorities at the process of drafting the regulations concerning the reform of education and the reorganizing the scholar network.

- It will be granted the necessary financial support, through the drafting and editing the school- books from the schooling in the language of national minorities.

- It will be supported the endorsement of the Protocol of cooperation between the Ministries of Education and Research from Romania and Hungary.

- It will be granted financial support for works of rehabilitation - finalizing some schools in view of supporting the education in the Magyar language.

- It will be done the renovating works from the high school " April Lajos" from Brasov till 1st of May 2003 and the raising of a new building for the Secondary School no. 6 till 01.09..2003.

- It will be solved the problem of translating in time the subjects for the school leaving examination and for the exam of admission sustained in maternal language.

- It will be settled the situation of the classes with teaching in Magyar, in the case of a small number of children, being assured the conditions of studying in the maternal language, including the Romanian communities from the towns where the Magyars form the majority.

- It will be solved the exchange of buildings between the Theological High School " Ham Janos" and the Theoretical High School nr. 7 from Satu- Mare till the beginning of the scholar year 2003-2004.

11. The signatory parties will commit themselves to pay a special attention to the youth problems, granting support to the solving of the specific problems of the Magyar youth. **In this respect:**

- PSD and UDMR will appoint both of them a representative for coordinating the relations between the two youth structures of their own political parties. Deadline: 28.02.2003
- Magyar Youth Organizations from Romania will have the possibility to propose experts in the central and local structures (The Ministry of Youth and Sports, The National Agency for supporting the youth initiatives, the County directions for Youth and Sport).
- The signatory parts will be consulted as concerns the patrimony of the former UTC.

12. In the field of the audio- visual, PSD and UDMR establish the following:

- It will be created the territorial studio of television in Romanian and Magyar at Târgu-Mureş. Deadline: 30.06.2003
- The Ministry of Communication and of the Technology of Information will analyze and solve the development of the antenna networks in the perspective of connecting the programs of radio and television in Magyar, in order to achieve their increased coherence at a local and regional level. Meanwhile, it will be expanded the time of broadcasting for the territorial studios from Targu- Mures and Cluj.
- It will be assured the development and extension of the TVR2 network of broadcasting so that the programs can be watched in all the regions of the country.
- It will be assured the specialized staff, necessary for a better functioning of the broadcasts in Magyar at the Territorial and Central studios of the Radio and Public Television.

13. PSD and UDMR will cooperate in other important fields also, so that :

- **It will be taken measures for a more constant support of the religious cults**, concerning the building of the churches, and granting financial assistance and the speeding up the process of retrocession of buildings belonging to the religious cults.
- The two political parties support with priority the building of an highway Bucharest-Budapest on the route Brasov, Targu- Mures, Cluj, Oradea.
- The publishing houses and the publications in the languages of the national minorities, as well as the cultural events will be fairly financed.
- **A proportional representation of the national minorities'** representatives, including in the decision making functions in the institutional structures, at national, territorial, and local level will be assured.
- Consultations between the specialists of the two political parties will take place before finalizing the position concerning the modification of the electoral system regarding the elections in 2004.
- The law concerning the retrocession of the evidence documents abusively taken from the religious cults will be adapted.

- A set of measures concerning the opening of some frontiers points between Romania and Hungary (Urziceni- Vallaj; Diosig- Letavertes, Sacuieni- Almosd) will be taken.
- **The Institute for the study of the national minorities' problems will be created**; within this Institute, it will be created a department for the Magyar problems too.
- The possibility of establishing the national minorities status in Romania will be analyzed by joint commissions of experts will be analyzed.
- The Chart of the Regional and Minority Languages will be ratified in an adequate form.
- The additional protocol nr. 12 at the European Convention of the Human Rights and Fundamental Liberties will be ratified.
- A Governmental resolution concerning establishing the rent for the retrocede buildings, which are of public interest in conformity with the legal stipulations.
- In conformity with the Law concerning the Policeman role, the Ministry of Interior will draft a program for **the promotion of the policemen who speak that particular minority language.**

IV.Regarding the cooperation PSD- UDMR at a local level

1. On the base and in the spirit of the positive cooperation between PSD and UDMR at a national level, **the county organizations** of the two political parties **will sign** in 60 days their own protocols **regarding the cooperation in 2003 at a regional and local level.**
 - These protocols at the counties level will be signed only with the preliminary agreement of the Commission for the protocol evaluation at a national level.
2. **PSD and UDMR** demand all the county organizations to fully cooperate at a territorial level, and the local and county counselors to adopt resolutions only in conformity with the country laws and the contributors' interests in those particular places.
3. The county protocols are integrant parts from the protocol signed at a national level. Quarterly or whenever it is necessary, the National Commission of evaluation, together with the territorial organizations of the political parties will analyze the stage of appliance of the local protocols, and they will take the necessary measures.
4. **PSD and UDMR** demand the local authorities to adopt measures for:
5. The renovation of the statuary group " Matei Corvin" from the centre of Cluj with the financial support of the Ministry of Culture.
6. The leadership of the county organizations of PSD and UDMR has to meet weekly with the administrative leadership and with the Parliamentarians from those particular counties, in order to analyze and establish the counties priorities
7. **The signatory parts** will demand their county organizations to get involved in the process of determining the local counsels and the mayors to do their duty according to their seat, to assure a close relationship between the administration and the citizen, to increase the quality and operativeness of the public services toward the contributors.

V. Regarding the evaluation of the protocol stipulations accomplishment in the year 2003

1. PSD and UDMR consider that during 2002, the Monitorizing Commission at the national level functioned in good conditions and the seat of the Commission formed by five representatives of the two political parties will be prolonged.

· The Protocol Evaluation Commission, lead by two vice-presidents, will meet weekly, and it will debate problems related to the attaining of the objectives included in the present Protocol.

· With the occasion of the cooperation analyze at a local level, the representatives of the particular territorial organizations will be invited too.

2. The Evaluation Commission will inform monthly the executive leaderships of PSD and UDMR regarding the stage and the way of resolving the objectives included in the Protocol.

3. Evaluation Commissions which will meet weekly will be constituted at the level of the counties- which sign protocols between PSD and UDMR.

4. The Magyar Democratic Union of Romania will support further on all the Governmental and Parliamentary approaches which accelerate Romania's integration into European Union and NATO.

5. The Social Democratic Party is committed to consult each time, beforehand the Magyar Democratic Union of Romania in major issues of Romanian internal and external policy.

6. In the case of respecting those stipulated in the Protocol, the Magyar Democratic Union of Romania will abstain from initiating and sustaining some motions or closures.

7. The Signatory parts will analyze, monthly, the objectives included in the Protocol at the level of the leaderships of the two political parties on the base of the proceedings presented by the Evaluation Commission, establishing the necessary measures.

The Protocol is signed at Bucharest, on 19th of February 2003.

THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

**PRESIDENT
ADRIAN NĂSTASE**

**THE MAGYAR DEMOCRATIC UNION OF
ROMANIA**

**PRESIDENT
BELA MARKO**