

DECLARATION

on Hungarian-Romanian Strategic Partnership Relations and Cooperation for Europe in the 21st Century

The Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of Romania, considering

- the complex and broad cooperation framework and the existing treaties among the two states, in particular the Treaty on Understanding, Cooperation and Good Neighbourhood between the Republic of Hungary and Romania, signed on December 16th, 1996 in Timisoara,
- the tasks arising from the European and Euro-Atlantic commitments of the two states, the new opportunities resulting from the enlargement of the NATO and the European Union, respectively the new challenges faced by the two organizations, their new member states and the bilateral relations among them,
- the new partnership for a free and unified Europe and cooperation based on Euro-Atlantic values,
- the positive and significant impact of a fast and efficient European and Euro-Atlantic integration of the Republic of Hungary and Romania for the Central and South-East European region from the point of view the social and economic prosperity and regional stability,
- their commitments and obligations within the frame of the international campaign against new types of regional risks concerning security and their joint responsibility in the process of establishing a more secure environment for their citizens,
- the qualitative changes that have occurred in the bilateral relation after the signing of the Treaty in 1996,
- the intention to develop new relations as allies,

have decided to commit themselves to continuously develop the Hungarian-Romanian partnership on the grounds of their common strategic interests, driven by the following principles and aims:

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III.

(1) For the preservation and improvement of the identities of persons belonging to the Romanian national minority in Hungary and the Hungarian national minority in Romania, they shall fully respect the commitments and obligations adopted by the Joint Intergovernmental Commission on cooperation and active partnership between the Republic of Hungary and Romania, in the spirit of the Treaty of 1996, in order to ensure the legal and material conditions required for their implementation, and shall be willing to assume further commitments and obligation in order to promote the well-being of these minorities.

(2) They shall respect the obligations assumed under the international legal and political documents regarding the protection of national minorities, and shall ensure adequate political and administrative representation of these minorities as well as their full and effective equality of opportunities.

(3) Each Party on its territory, shall provide support for the preservation of the ethnic, linguistic, religious and cultural identity of the national minorities, for the well-being and prosperity of these minority communities in their native states, including isolated settlements, and shall support the efficient implementation of European regional programmes established to this aim.

(4) As far as possible, they shall take measures for the protection of the architectural and art monuments considered to be historical monuments by the Romanian national minority in Hungary and the Hungarian national minority in Romania, and shall promote the knowledge about cultural values of minority communities within the majority. They shall encourage joint participation in European regional programmes dedicated to this aim.

(5) They shall continuously develop and extend the cultural institutional network; they shall support cultural and educational exchange programmes and encourage the initiatives launched by NGOs.

(6) They shall promote freedom of religion, including the free development of ethnic minority Churches. They shall take the necessary measures for the restitution or compensation of properties which previously belonged to communities, Churches and other legal entities.

Signed in Budapest on November 29th, 2002 in two original copies, both in Hungarian and Romanian languages.

For the Government
of the Republic of Hungary
Medgyessy Peter
Prime Minister

For the Government of
Romania
Adrian Nastase
Prime Minister