



**PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

Department for National and Ethnic  
Minorities  
Minority Policy Department

**TRIP REPORT**  
**7th Session of the Hungarian - Romanian Minority Affairs and Cooperation Expert**  
**Committee**  
**Bucharest, July 3, 2007**

The regular session of the intergovernmental Hungarian-Romanian Minority Joint Committee was organized in the Romanian capital. I took part in the consultation as representative of the NEKF. (The list of members of the Hungarian delegation is attached.)

At the session in Bucharest, the evaluation of the fulfillment of the Recommendations formulated at the preceding meeting in Battonya on December 4, 2005, came under consideration. Time did not remain for the finalization of the new Recommendations during the one-day consultation. The session will continue at the end of August 2007, probably in Budapest. (The document of the first round of consultation is attached.)

In the period of preparation for the Bucharest meeting, the Hungarian Party endeavored that the Body concentrate in the first place on future tasks. It formulated as a further aspiration that the Committee evaluate the daily problems of minority affairs from a broader perspective than before.

Hereafter in the present Trip Report we will solely touch upon issues that directly concern domestic minorities and the work of the NEKF [Department of National and Ethnic Minorities].

The Romanian Party insisted upon the detailed review of the situation of the Romanian minority in Hungary as critically evaluated by Bucharest, as well as upon having the sharp critical remarks appear in the documents of the session. This could be recorded as a new phenomenon in the more than ten-year history of the Hungarian-Romanian Joint Committee's work.

It is a further new development that for the first time the State Secretary of the Office for Romanians Abroad (HRTA) led the delegation. In the Committee's session several staff members from the HRTA were present among the Romanian section. The Romanian Ambassador to Budapest, the diplomatic representation responsible for domestic Romanians, and the Romanian Consul General from Gyula were there.

The Romanian Party primarily criticized the National Romanian Self-Government's operation concerning the use of the mother tongue as well as the situation of Romanian minority education.

The Romanian Party recommended that the Committee express "regret" that in the March 22, 2007, statutory session of the National Romanian Self-Government the constitutional right to the use of the Romanian language was obstructed by a majority vote. It further asked that the operation and management of the National Self-Government be more transparent.

In the session *Trajan Kreszta*, President of the National Self-Government, provided the information that in the meantime the problem of language use was solved; a general meeting was held on June 30, 2007, and those Self-Government members who asked could take the representative's oath in Romanian.

In connection with Romanian minority education the Romanian Party made such declarations as that the educational form is "extraordinarily deficient", that the "school consolidations seriously harm the interests of the Romanian community in Hungary", and that "not a single textbook has been published".

In the session the representative of the education ministry indicated that the listed allegations do not represent the reality and are based upon material errors.

The leader of the Hungarian delegation, Committee Co-President *Ferenc Gemesi*, took the position that Hungary does not withdraw from examining how, according to the formulations of the Romanian party, it would be possible to ensure higher quality Romanian language instruction for the Romanian minority in Hungary. In this matter, he requested active cooperation from the Romanian partner. He raised the issue that the mother country of the Romanian minority should provide effective help for the training of Romanian language instructors in Hungary and for the writing of textbooks.

In the Bucharest session, in the interest of approaching the standpoints related to education, at the recommendation of the Hungarian Party the Committee's experts set forth the development of new recommendations. The finalization of the text can take place in the second round of the session.

The finalization of the Recommendations likewise can take place at the next session. It can be expected that the Committee will support two projects that can bring considerable results on issues concerning the domestic Romanian minority.

Both Parties supported that the two governments together should provide budgetary resources for rebuilding the Romanian school in Battonya. The Committee also agreed that the renovation of the building complex of the Romanian Orthodox chapel in Budapest shall be achieved by jointly drawing upon European Union sources. It will recommend that an expert working committee be formed to prepare for the project and that the issue be included in the next joint Hungarian-Romanian government session, which is expected to be organized in the fall of 2007.

To the Memorandum we attach the documents about the session recommended for posting on the State Secretariat's website.

Budapest, July 4, 2007

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