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Communiqué

The recent parliamentary elections and demonstrations taking place in the Republic of Moldova within the last few weeks, pinpoint – yet again – that the countries of our region cannot shed the shackles of our **Communist heritage**. It is unfortunate and disquieting how several Romanian politicians attempted to exploit the demonstrations of the Moldovan youth, and seek to legitimize Romanian territorial demands.

This phenomenon could be observed in the **European Parliament** as well. At the end of March 2009, two Romanian socialist MEPs, namely **Adrian Severin**, ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs, and **Victor Boştinaru**, sent out an invitation to a so-called “historical conference,” which included an attached map, clearly showing the annexation of Moldova to Romania. Using the aforementioned map (displaying the annexation of Moldova to Romania) within the European Parliament, does not serve, by any means, the process of normalizing Moldovan-Romanian political relations.

The majority of the Romanian political elite regards the settlement of this heated conflict by the expansion of the **Romanian citizenship** to Moldovans. As a result of this initiative, at least one million additional Moldovan citizens could attain Romanian citizenship, beside the existing 1.0-1.5 million Moldovan citizens, who already hold dual citizenship.

Romanian national politics have always held this double-standard. More than ten years ago, a parallel (Slovakian and Serbian) counter-propaganda diplomatic offence began in Romania against Hungarian politicians, who embraced the causes represented by the Hungarian Permanent Conference, the Forum of Hungarian Representatives of the Carpathian Basin, and the Status Law. All of these were fighting for dual citizenship and autonomy with democratic process. In the meantime, there has been a general consensus, by the Romanian political parties, to expand the Romanian citizenship.

Some months ago, an elected representative of Hungarians living in Transylvania and President of the Covasna County Council, Sándor Tamás, reported that Moldovan citizens visited him in his office, with the mediation of the Romanian Ministry of the Interior. They requested information about a programme, designed by the Romanian government, to deploy Moldovan citizens in **Covasna** (Kovászna) and **Harghita** (Hargita) counties. Apparently, a secret government project has been created, which attempts to deploy Moldovan citizens (with dual citizenship) into territories inhabited predominantly by Hungarians but primarily in the Szekler Land (east Transylvania). The change of ethnic proportions by the government, contradicts however the international responsibilities assumed by Romania, including rules ratified by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

There is a real risk that the concealment of territorial demands, by the Romanian government, will diminish Moldovan-Romanian relations. Further, the “treatment” of the aforementioned issue (i.e., the intended obtrusive and artificial changes in the ethnic proportions in Transylvania and the Szekler Land) would eventually create inner tensions in Romania, as well.

Therefore, we would like to call attention in the European Parliament to the fact that the Hungarian community of Transylvania – which has been struggling for autonomy with peaceful and democratic means – could also become an aggrieved party of the ensuing Romanian-Moldovan conflict.

Sustaining the inner stability and cohesion of the European Union is in our mutual interest. Now, it is evident that accepting new member states cannot itself solve the conflicts and tensions, which have existed for decades in this particular region.

We suggest that a series of **round-table discussions** be initiated by European Union institutions, which would include the central governments of our region and representatives of the regional and ethnic communities as members, as well, which are propagating autonomy through peaceful means.

Conflicts pertaining to minority and regional issues, which burn deeply within and might erupt, could be permanently and peacefully resolved in this manner, exclusively.

Nagyvárad/Oradea, 27 April 2009

MEP László Tőkés,
President of the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania