

RESOLUTION

on European stability and on traditional national communities

As a result of the wars of the past century the victorious great powers redrew the map of Europe. Hence in a large part of Europe the frontiers of nations and states do not coincide, as a specific consequence of the geopolitical reshaping of the XXth century. This was the reason why for the past hundred years in many countries the efforts of traditional national communities living in a minority to protect their collective identity and the homogenous nation-state's policy of the majority often clashed.

At mid-century a more just settling of Central-Eastern Europe and the Balkans was hindered by the emergence of the doctrines denying the existence of minorities promoted by the Soviet Union's sphere of interest and by the communist Internationale. In our region traditional national communities fell victims of aggressive assimilation as second-hand citizens, they lived under constant and humiliating discrimination, were denied of their linguistic rights as well as of their rights to education in their mother-tongue, and had their properties nationalized. They openly became the target of the intimidating actions of the state institutions promoters of violence and of the communist secret police.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union and of the related dictatorial regimes in its vicinity, the nationality problems suddenly emerged, having been thus far concealed and stifled, as a result of which part of Europe was redrawn yet again. While Germany was united, Czechoslovakia was divided, Slovenia was detached of Yugoslavia and the series of war-like conflicts of the Balkans started, in nothing but reprehensible forms: the ethnic proportions were altered with force, through the resettlement and the expelling of the population, through the committing of genocide.

New states emerged: Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro. The last example is the settling of the status of Kosovo, when the Wilsonian principle of self-determination clashed with the principle of territorial integrity, another international fundamental law. Concerning this, we again draw attention to the provisions referring to minorities of the Ahtisaari-plan supported by the majority of EU member states, which sees normalization of the relation between minority and majority possible only through the guarantee of collective rights of national communities and through the three-level autonomy of the Serb community of Kosovo.

Europe can not afford not accepting as practice to be followed within its own community what it considers to be valid outside.

It is our conviction that the self-determination of peoples is as much a fundamental principle of world order as the respect of territorial integrity of states. Living responsibly with self-determination in our region means finding sustainable solutions built on political realities – in the spirit of common values and common interests – to the growth of our national communities. The autonomy of national communities – and this is illustrated by a series of positive European examples – is the interest of majority nations as well, since a prosperous region serves the interest of an entire country, as well as that of Europe.

We, the traditional Hungarian communities left outside of Hungary's borders following the peace treaties ending the world wars of the last century, but determined to continue existing on our motherland, see the solution in the system of community autonomy – cultural, territorial, with special legal status – based on the principle of self-determination with full respect of state borders. At the same time we believe that community autonomies achieved with peaceful and democratic means can be important pillars of the stability of the region, their lack or their hindering can lead to serious risks to European security.

The union and the development of Europe can exclusively be founded on a peaceful and conflict-free setting, the opposite of which will obstruct the reform of Europe.

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Member Organisations of the Hungarian Autonomous Council
of the Carpathian Basin