



Conference of European Churches

Church & Society Commission

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Brussels, 30 August 2012

Dear Bishop Pap,

Equally like you, we are dismayed and shocked about the decision of the Buzau Court with regard to the Székely Mikó Reformed High School in Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorge. For us it clearly is another incident in a Romanian climate where existing laws and rights are not implemented and the rule of law is breached.

With this letter, we want to assure you of our solidarity and support in your struggle for all property that legally belongs to the church to be returned or to be appropriately compensated for.

From our perspective it is most important that, in line with a resolution of the European Parliament from 2005 (A6-0344/2005), the implementation of the Romanian law on the restitution of property is speeded up and that the rule of law is established and maintained in this regard.

Once informed about the above-mentioned case, and after consultation with your church, we took the liberty to address the Romanian government as well as relevant persons in the European Institutions, the Council of Europe and the OSCE on the matter. You will find in attachment the letter which we addressed to the Romanian Prime Minister Ponta on behalf of the Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches.

Being involved in education, introducing young people to Christian values and offering education as part of the public schooling system is an important contribution of the churches to society in many European countries. We, therefore, hope that the school buildings which legally belong to the church will be returned and that your contribution to the public education in Romania will not be hampered anymore in the future.

Please keep us in your prayers as we will remember you in our prayers, especially on 1 September, when you gather at the Székely Mikó Reformed High School in Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorge.

In Christian love,

Rev. Rüdiger Noll  
Director

Enclosure: Letter of the Church & Society Commission to Romanian Prime Minister Ponta

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