



Conference of European Churches

Church & Society Commission

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H.E. Prime Minister Victor Ponta
Piata Victoriei Nr 1, Sector 1
Bucuresti
Romania

c/o Permanent Representation of Romania to the EU
Rue Montoyer, 12
BE-1000 Bruxelles

Our Ref: C061-12

Brussels, 30 August 2012

Your Excellency, dear Prime Minister Ponta,

The Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches, through which our 120 member churches from all over Europe relate to the European Institutions on matters of common concern, has been informed by some of our member churches about the recent decision of the Buzau Court (28 June 2012) with regard to the Székely Mikó Reformed High School in Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorge. We are deeply concerned that according to this judgment, the High School would no longer be the property of the Reformed Church in Romania (Transylvanian District) and that the church has been required to pay a fine of 1,137,000 Lei. We are also shocked to hear that three members of the Romanian Property Restitution Committee have each been sentenced to three years in jail.

It is our understanding that the Székely Mikó Reformed High School in Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorge is the property of the Transylvanian Reformed Church District as stated in the annex of the Romanian nationalization law 176/1948 and confirmed by the order of the Brasov Court of Appeal from 15 March 2006.

We, therefore, appeal to you, without wanting to undermine the independence of the Romanian judiciary, to do anything in your power for the property in question to be returned to the Church as quickly as possible and for immediately dropping all charges against the three members of the Special Committee on Church Property Restitution. In line with the resolution of the European Parliament (A6-0344/2005) we emphasize "the need to speed up implementation of the law on the restitution of property" and to establish legal security.

We have taken the liberty to inform our relevant contact persons in the European Institutions about the above-mentioned case.

Yours Sincerely,

Rev. Rüdiger Noll
Director

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