



World  
Communion  
of Reformed  
Churches

The Council of WCRC Europe

30<sup>th</sup> August, 2012

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

Your Excellency Prime Minister Ponta,

The Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches in Europe, which represents forty Reformed Churches from all over Europe, has learned with great concern of the recent decision of the Buzau Court, taken on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012 with regard to the Székely Mikó Reformed High School in Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorge. We are writing to you in solidarity with the Reformed Church in Romania (Transylvanian District), one of our member churches.

It is our understanding that, according to the judgment of the court, the High School would no longer be the property of the Reformed Church in Romania (Transylvanian District) and that, furthermore, 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.

The Council has been informed that the Székely Mikó Reformed High School in Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorge is the legally and incontrovertibly 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<sup>th</sup> March 2006. We fail to see how a court of law could have unilaterally overturned this determination.

We appeal to you, without wanting to undermine the independence of the Romanian judiciary, to do everything in your power for the school to be returned to the Church as quickly as possible, for the decision to fine the church to be reversed and for the three members of the Special Committee on Church Property Restitution to be released and all reference to this unjust conviction to be expunged from their records. 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, so that your citizens, in common with citizens across the European Union, may hold property without the fear that it will be taken from them unjustly.

Yours sincerely,

Jan-Gerd Heetderks  
President: WCRC Europe

Alexander Horsburgh  
Secretary: WCRC Europe



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