

## **The chronology of establishing the candidates' lists for the European Parliament**

### November 3, 2006.

At the Cluj/Kolozsvár official meeting held between the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania (HNCT) and the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (DAHR), László Tőkés initiated to establish a joint list of candidates – which would include all Transylvanian Hungarian organizations having political aims – for the elections of the European Parliament. After the meeting it was MEP Tibor T. Toró who mentioned that László Tőkés and Béla Markó could be leading the list. Béla Markó did not turn a deaf ear to further negotiations. Referring to his candidacy he however declared that those supporting his contingent application intend to remove him from the Romanian politics.

### December 16, 2006.

At the common session of the Council for Federal Representatives and the Cross-checking Federal Committee of DAHR, at the suggestion of the chairmanship, such a regulation was passed that ignored the option of establishing a list of joint candidates. According to these rules, only members of either DAHR or political groups affiliated to DAHR can be chosen as candidates. The candidates would be evaluated by DAHR's Operative Council and they were required to execute all resolutions brought by the DAHR organizations. They had to confirm, in an official declaration, that in case they fail to carry out their share of responsibility towards DAHR, they face all sanctions established in the DAHR fundamental rules.

### January 12, 2007.

After the meeting of DAHR's Consultation Committee of Regional Presidents, Béla Markó declared that he had not seen eye to eye with the idea that they should choose successful and well-known DAHR politicians for the top of the list, i.e. those who would attract votes, who later, however, back out of the lists in favor of the successive ones. President Markó made it plain that young and well-trained politicians should run for the candidacy from the 'zenith' positions, thus they would have the possibility to establish a political future. At the media questions, he added that potential candidates of DAHR opposition might be present, however, starting only from the fourth place onwards on this list.

### January 13, 2007.

The Szekler National Council initiated the run of an independent candidate. The idea emerged at the Cluj/Kolozsvár meeting of the organizations in DAHR-opposition as well.

### January 15, 2007.

DAHR Operative Council announced MEP Hunor Kelemen to be the campaign leader of the elections for the European Parliament.

### January 16, 2007.

The parliament passed law No 2007/33 on elections for the European Parliament. Parties, coalitions, minority organizations and independent candidates have the right to run at the elections as provided by the law. In case parties reach the 5% threshold of all votes, they obtain a mandate. As an independent candidate one has to accomplish the necessary votes for one mandate (i.e. the 2,86% of the valid votes). The law asserts the criteria for the right to participation: parties and organizations are supposed to collect 200,000 supporting signatures, and meanwhile independent candidates need 100,000 supporting signatures.

#### January 16, 2007.

The DAHR Electoral Committee approved the application for the European Parliament of the following politicians: Rozália Biró, István Csutak, Emőke Fekete, Géza Hodgyai, István Jakab, Attila Korodi, Zsolt Nagy, Tóni Niculescu, Csaba Sógor, Károly Szabó and Gyula Winkler. In the same time they refused Gyula Bara's application based on formal grounds.

#### January 23, 2007.

DAHR Operative Committee examined the candidates and established the following hierarchy: Zsolt Nagy, Gyula Winkler, Attila Korodi and Csaba Sógor.

#### January 26, 2007.

László Tőkés on a Budapest press-conference declared that he was disposed to cooperate with DAHR in the electoral campaign on the condition that Csaba Sógor, who was on familiar terms with the opposition as well, would be on the first or second position on the DAHR's list of candidates that were highly susceptible to winning.

#### January 26, 2007.

Six organizations in opposition to DAHR requested László Tőkés to run as an independent candidate. The declaration was signed by the leading bodies of the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania, the Szekler National Council, the Hungarian Civic Alliance, the Hungarian Civic Association, the Hungarian Youth Council and the Transylvanian Hungarian Youth. Bishop Tőkés responded for this request in the following way: if the cause of the community demands this, he will not escape from it; nevertheless, before his final answer he has to consult with the Church.

#### February 2, 2007.

The Directory Council of the Királyhágómellék Reformed Church District confirmed in a resolution: they would actively support Bishop Tőkés' EP candidacy.

#### February 3, 2007.

Succeeding the negotiations with the forces in opposition to DAHR, László Tőkés stated that were all their forces united he would be disposed to run for the representation in the European Parliament.

#### February 7, 2007.

The government appointed 13 May 2007 to be the day of EP elections in Romania.

#### February 10, 2007.

According to the piece of information that leaked from the meeting of DAHR's parliamentary fraction, Attila Verestóy, fraction leader of the senate stated that they should 'nip signature collection for Tőkés in the bud'.

#### February 14, 2007.

According to media warnings, DAHR's signature collectors made the signing of the DAHR's candidates and the acceptance of the applications for the educational support granted by the Hungarian government interdependent. Hunor Kelemen, president of the foundation in charge of distributing the scholarship rejected the accusations.

#### February 15, 2007.

The Presidency of the Transylvanian Reformed Church District requested from DAHR, in an open and public letter, to grant Bishop Tőkés a winning position on the EP list of candidates. "The Council for Federal Representatives of DAHR will be unable to recognize the historic moment and neglects our wish to unison, we shall encourage our believers to vote for the independent candidate" – they stated. Well-known writer Sándor Csoóri asked Béla Markó in an open letter to provide László Tőkés a qualifying position on the DAHR list of candidates. This letter was also signed by numerous public figures, such as Ferenc Mádl, former state president of Hungary, János Mártonyi, former Foreign Secretary of Hungary and Szilveszter E. Vizi, president of the Hungarian Scientific Academy.

#### February 16, 2007.

Hunor Kelemen, president of DAHR's Council for Federal Representatives declared that whether László Tőkés had participated at the DAHR ranking, the "Operative Council could not have disregarded him and not granted him a winner's position".

#### February 16, 2007.

László Tőkés stated that he would leave the DAHR's Cluj/Kolozsvár territorial organization and apply for the membership to its Timisoara/Temesvár organization. This was a gesture of protest against the Cluj organization holding out the prospect of excluding two representatives from the local government since they had collected signatures for Tőkés.

#### February 17, 2007.

On the joint meeting of the Council for Federal Representatives and the Crosschecking Federal Committee of DAHR, Béla Markó interpreted the events as if the churches had blackmailed the DAHR and he rejected the open letter of the Transylvanian Reformed Church District. These two councils accepted, with two votes against the motion and seven abstentions, the list of candidates established by the operative bodies. György Frunda did not bring Eckstein-Kovács Péter's suggestion to a vote, which would allow the existence of an option for a subsequent modification of the list.

#### February 21, 2007.

Viktor Orbán declared that FIDESZ-MPSZ completely supports Bishop Tőkés for the EP elections. He stated that it was important that the Transylvanian Hungarian community would be represented by such people who embody political significance as well as political and moral respect in Brussels. Béla Markó's reaction was that Orbán had not been informed properly about the Transylvanian situation.

#### February 22, 2007.

The National Union of Unitarian Pastors launched a petition for Unitarian believers to support Bishop Tőkés' candidacy with their votes for the European Parliament elections.

#### March 2-3, 2007.

At the DAHR congress held in Arad, MEP Tibor T. Toró, vice-president of the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania requested the matter of the EP candidate list to be re-discussed. The motion, however, received only 24 votes for, out of 554. The congress re-elected Béla Markó as president, who was the sole candidate for this position. DAHR candidates for EP elections appeared on the stage, while Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* was played.

#### March 10, 2007.

Béla Markó declared that he was aware of the collecting supporting signatures for Tőkés amongst Romanian citizens in Hungary. In the same time he stated that DAHR had no intention of lodging a protest against the register of votes supporting Tőkés's candidacy for the EP.

#### March 11, 2007.

Tibor T. Toró, DAHR representative in Timisoara/Temesvár and Csaba Sógor, DAHR senator in Miercurea Ciuc/Csikszereda addressed an open letter to federal president Béla Markó, requesting that he should use his new presidential power, as having been re-elected, in order that Transylvanian Hungarian representations of interests can come out with a unified list.

#### March 12, 2007.

The government postponed the EP elections, originally planned for May 13.

#### March 13, 2007.

DAHR entered 322,000 signatures into the register of the State Electoral Committee, while the organizations supporting László Tőkés filed 137,199 signatures.

#### March 20, 2007.

The official body functioning within the frame of the state president's office approved the prosecutorial investigation against Zsolt Nagy, Minister of Telecommunications.

#### April 19, 2007.

The parliament suspended President Traian Băsescu.

#### April 24, 2007.

The referendum for the president's suspension was called for 19 May 2007. DAHR was against, while the Hungarian Civic Alliance was for President Băsescu in the campaign.

#### May 19, 2007.

At a participation of 44% of all electorates in general at the referendum, the voters supported President Traian Băsescu with 75% of all votes, which ultimately led to his reinforcement. In counties of Hungarian majority the participation was less than the nationwide standard, still, Băsescu obtained a victory at a greater rate than anywhere else. The leaders of DAHR pinpointed the cause of their failure in the lack of communication.

#### May 21, 2007.

Senator Péter Eckstein-Kovács requested DAHR leadership to make a few steps backwards due to their erroneous decisions. Béla Markó called Eckstein's statements unsavory.

#### June 1, 2007.

Senator Attila Verestóy at the press conference held in Odorheiu Secuiesc/Székelyudvarhely expressed his personal opinion: "The DAHR is supposed to initiate a dialogue with all those organizations that struggle for the Transylvanian Hungarian representation of interest and did not set the annihilation of DAHR as their objective."

#### June 29, 2007.

At the joint session of DAHR's Council for Federal Representatives and Cross-checking Federal Committee, Hunor Kelemen was elected managing president to DAHR. Béla Markó declared that it would not be beneficial to start putting people on the redundancy list because of the failures around the /recent/ referendum.

#### June 11, 2007.

President Traian Băsescu suspended Zsolt Nagy, Minister of Telecommunication from his office, who was investigated by the prosecution.

#### June 30, 2007.

At the public forum called *From Transylvania into Europe* the organizations supporting László Tőkés made the following statement: not László Tőkés should be afterwards included onto the DAHR list, but it is DAHR that is supposed to support the bishop's independent candidacy. As an independent candidate, László Tőkés needs 2.8% of the total votes, while DAHR would need to reach the 5% threshold. Exit polls tell that DAHR is under 3%; therefore the representation of Transylvanian Hungarians at the EP could only be saved by Tőkés.

#### July 3, 2007.

Béla Markó handed in his resignation as Deputy Prime Minister. He declared that in the future he intended to put special emphasis on DAHR's activity and repairing the confidential relationship with the membership.

#### July 3, 2007.

The organizers of the Bálványos Summer University invited for a Markó-Tőkés meeting. László Tőkés accepted the invitation, while Markó rejected it.

#### July 5, 2007.

Béla Markó suggested three possible dates for summit talks to Tőkés.

#### July 17, 2007.

The DAHR's Permanent Committee decided to guarantee a winning position for Tőkés on the DAHR's EP list.

#### July 30, 2007.

László Tőkés and Béla Markó agreed at their Cluj/Kolozsvár meeting that specific councils designed for negotiation would carry on with finding the middle ground and attempt to come up with a decision for the long run till 24 August 2007.

On this consultation DAHR distributed a list of mutual national objectives, while the opposition submitted the program dedicated to the Transylvanian Hungarian political change of regime. After the meeting Tőkés emphasized that should DAHR not accept the program concerning the change of regime, he would not run for the EP candidacy on the Alliance's list. Referring to up-to-date statistical surveys, Béla Markó declared that Tőkés was not likely to obtain success as an independent candidate, and, were they to compete against one other, even DAHR would be in need of a bold campaign to move above the threshold of 5%.

July 31, 2007.

Jenő Szász declared that sufficient signatures had been assembled for the registration of the Hungarian Civic Alliance. Once the court recess is over they would initiate the procedures for the registration.

August 9, 2007.

Hunor Kelemen classified the news about statistical surveys prepared by the Alliance as 'urban legends'.

August 10, 2007.

According to the press, Traian Băsescu promised Jenő Szász in Odorheiu Secuiesc/Székelyudvarhely that no rights would be harmed by state institutions at the registration of the Hungarian Civic Alliance.

August 10, 2007.

At the joint session of DAHR and its opposition's working councils they agreed that they were going to formulate the mutual document based upon the suggestions submitted by the opposition.

August 16, 2007.

Transylvanian daily *Krónika* showed evidence proving that the Alliance, with a DAHR sociologist in charge, had indeed prepared a survey, analyzing the political options of the Transylvanian Hungarian community.

August 18, 2007.

Subsequent to the session of the working councils, László Borbély, DAHR vice-president, made a positive statement, while Zsolt Szilágyi, HNCT vice-president was rather skeptic concerning the eventual negotiations due to the lack of guarantees offered by DAHR.

August 22, 2007.

The government appointed 25 November 2007 to be the EP Election Day.

August 24, 2007.

Before the set deadline there were no agreements achieved between the two sides. Nevertheless, they decided to continue the negotiations.

August 25, 2007.

László Tőkés called DAHR 'Romania's last post-communist institution' in an interview. Markó Béla, however, proved to be optimistic about the proceedings. The president acknowledged that there had certainly been a survey which was later denied by Hunor Kelemen.

August 31, 2007.

The negotiating group of the opposition, besides the previous program concerning the change of regime, laid before the DAHR's negotiators a plan containing concrete actions and deadlines as well. After the meeting Hunor Kelemen declared that there had been suggestions for the establishing of such a DAHR-list that had Béla Markó and László Tőkés for the winning positions occupying the initial two places. The other entries of the list would be shared among Transylvanian Hungarian organizations.

**From the *Krónika* daily's open question it was revealed that the organizations supporting László Tőkés maintained their conviction of the bishop being present at the elections as an independent candidate. The Markó-Tőkés summit ended without a joint candidate list. Nonetheless, the parties did not consider the August series of negotiations entirely useless. Furthermore, they agreed that they would not organize hostile and negative campaigns against one another.**

---

*Previous Transylvanian Monitor issues are available at:*

[www.emnt.org](http://www.emnt.org)

---

Edited by the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania; drafted by János Antal and Zsolt Szilágyi  
RO-410095-Oradea, str. J. Calvin 1; fax: +40 259 432837; email: [antaljanos@partium.ro](mailto:antaljanos@partium.ro)

ISSN 1841-0634