

Anniversary Communiqué

It was 18 years ago when the weaponless resistance began in **Timișoara/Temesvár** against the armed authorities that were deployed against us. The story, at that time, was not so much around politics, but rather about faith, humanity and benevolence. The resolute resistance against the abominable and inhumane communist dictatorship meant primarily not a **political** matter, but a **moral** one for the Timișoara/Temesvár Reformed Congregation. Taking into account these circumstances, our “war for freedom” was not restricted only to our Reformed Church District, but it was saluted and joined by the whole city. Hence, the whole country was united in the “Spirit of Timișoara/Temesvár” assuming the risk of undertaking their duty of faith, and, jointly, they succeeded to put an end to Ceaușescu’s worst dictatorship.



Anti-communist protestors at Timisoara (1989)



László Tőkés shortly after the revolution with guards

The Romanian popular uprising was an integral part of the process of changes of regime in East-Central Europe. In this context, our “war” can be viewed as a **European** one. The fall of the Communist Soviet Empire, as well as the dismantlement of the Berlin Wall opened new prospects towards the realization of democratic liberation, transformation and European unison.

This year **Romania** joined the European Union. The elections of 25 November 2007 for Romania’s representation in the European Parliament can be regarded as the direct follow up to the events that were initiated eighteen years ago in Timișoara/Temesvár. Our way to **Brussels** thus started from **Timișoara/Temesvár**.

The exclusive conditions for Romania’s becoming an authentic European state are: to remain dedicated to the “Spirit of Timișoara/Temesvár” and to face and settle with the past’s retractive nationalist and communist heritage for once and for all. Furthermore, the democratic change of regime should be completed with a **renewal in faith and morals**. The need for this social revitalization is more significant than any of party politics. It is a question of honour and it presupposes, for all of our sake, to join forces. The **European Union** provides frame and favourable conditions for the realization of the aforementioned.

The distance covered up to this moment and our results could not have been accomplished without God’s grace. Now, it primarily depends upon us how we make use of this “gracious time” bestowed on us.

Sydney, 15 December 2007

László Tőkés

Press Statements by MEPs of the Romanian Democratic Party (PD)

Concerning the EPP-ED Group membership of MEP László TŐKÉS

DP MEPs Voted Against László Tőkés' Affiliation to the EPP Group

The DP members of the European Parliament blocked László Tőkés' affiliation to the European People's Party, according to *NewsIn Agency*.

MEP Marian Jean Marinescu says the Democrats voted against László Tőkés' reception into the Group of the EPP because he lobbied for Szekler Land's autonomy during the electoral campaign.

The decision is ultimate because according to EPP regulations, an independent's affiliation is possible only with unanimous acceptance from its members. László Tőkés polled only two votes from the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (DAHR).

These statements come just a few days after Bishop Tőkés announced that President Traian Băsescu expressed support for his inclusion in the European People's Party, all the more as, the Bishop added, the President is to contact the EPP President, Wilfried Martens, regarding this issue.

(Realitatea TV, 12 December 2007)

Tőkés Boycotted by the Democrats

MEP László Tőkés was not accepted into the EPP-ED because of the opposition of the DP delegation. They have veto right when new candidates from the same country want to enter the party. Democrat Sorin Frunzaverde said that the main reason of Tőkés' rejection was his standpoint on Transylvania's territorial autonomy.

(Libertatea, 14 December 2007)

László Tőkés will not be an EPP-ED group Member

Marian Jean Marinescu, Romanian Vice-Chairman of the EPP-ED Group, announced yesterday that László Tőkés will not be a member of EPP-ED. This way, he explained, a paragraph of the EPP-ED Statutes was amended, because the 13 MEPs of the Romanian Democratic Party decided with 11 votes against 2 that the independent deputy would not be accepted into the Group of the EPP. The People's Group and the European Democrat's presidency along with the leaders of the national delegations of the affiliated parties from 27 countries decided that no MEP is accepted without his/her country group's accordance. "By Monday morning we will have handed a letter for the EPP-ED, announcing that László Tőkés is not accepted, unlike the three Liberal Democratic Party members who will be in the same party with us. Even if our new party's name is the Democratic Liberal Party, we are still affiliated to the EPP-ED, because it is just a change of name. The fusion convention of the DP and the LDP will take place on Saturday. Thus, the members of the LDP of the European Parliament become rightful members of the EPP", Marian Jean Marinescu said.

(Atac online, 14 December 2007)

Tőkés rejected by the EPP-ED Group

Independent MEP László Tőkés is not accepted into the EPP-ED Group, after the EPP-ED presidency along with the leaders of the national delegations of the affiliated parties from 27 countries decided that neither MEP, nor independent deputy is accepted without his/her country group's accordance. Marian Jean Marinescu, Romanian Vice-Chairman of the EPP-ED Group, said that a paragraph from the EPP-ED regulations was altered and László Tőkés would not be an EPP-ED member as their group of the 13 deputies decided that the independent deputy should not be admitted.

"On Monday morning we are submitting a letter to the EPP-ED, announcing that László Tőkés is not accepted, unlike the three Liberal Democrat members who will belong to the same party with us. The Democrats say the reasons against Tőkés' not entering the EPP-ED are given by "his entire political career and by all his comments on Transylvania's territorial autonomy."

(Cronica Romana, 14 December 2007)

DP Against Tokes' Affiliation to EPP

Democratic Party members of the European Parliament forbid Romanian independent MEP of Hungarian nationality László Tőkés' access into the EPP Group of the European Parliament. The group of Romanian deputies opposed Reformed Bishop László Tőkés' demand of affiliation to this Group. "Today at 17.00 PM we have a meeting with the leaders of the Group and the leaders of the country leaders of member parties. Mr. Tőkés' demand will be discussed and I will oppose it as president of the Romanian delegation", Sorin Frunzaverde said. The Romanian delegation in the EPP consists of 13 DP and 2 DAHR deputies. The two DAHR deputies voted for Tőkés' admission into the Group. But the Democrats voted against. Being in majority this is the ultimate position of the Romanian delegation. According to the procedures, when a Romanian independent MEP demands to join the Group, the President's opinion is asked. If he opposes, the demand will be rejected without being voted during the session.

László Tőkés is the MEP of the opposition of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (DAHR). Several times, DAHR-opposition benefited from the political support of the Romanian President, Traian Basescu. László Tőkés visited president Basescu on Monday, and at the end of the meeting, Bishop Tőkés said, President Basescu himself had a telephone conversation with EPP President, Wilfred Martens, to support his inclusion in the EPP Group. Being asked how come DP MEPs then voted against someone supported by President Traian Basescu, Frunzaverde said: "I talked to President Basescu and he said it was up to us how we vote. As a result we decided to vote against Mr. Tokes."

(Cotidianul, 13 December 2007)



MEP Frunzaverde and MEP Marinescu are rejecting MEP László Tőkés

DP obstructing Tőkés at the EP

Independent MEP László Tőkés has to wait until January to be accepted into the EPP-ED Group. The EPP postponed the decision for the next month, after having had a first talk about it on Tuesday. The reason of throwing-back this issue is represented by the DP eurodeputies themselves who asked the independent deputy to modify his too radical declamation. They oppose to Tőkés' affiliation to the EPP political family in spite of the fact that President Basescu himself supports him. The latter told Tokes he contacted EPP President, Wilfred Martens, to ask his reception into the EPP-ED Group.

However, DP eurodeputies Sorin Frunzaverde and Marian Jean Marinescu are completely negative about László Tőkés. "Both of them but mainly Marinescu instigated EPP members. There were calumnies according to which Tőkés had led a radical campaign for the EP election. That is not true" Zsolt Szilágyi, Tőkés' spokesman said. He added that Tőkés was surprised by the DP's action. "President Basescu advised him not to reopen the Romanian-Hungarian disputes at Brussels. Mr. Tokes agreed – but now the DP is doing this", showed Szilágyi. He also told us that Tőkés talked to Frunzaverde who reassured him that the party he represents does not have a clear opposing direction against his person. On the other hand, the bishop is supported in his affiliation demarche by the DAHR. "We have always agreed to László Tőkés' affiliation into the EPP and even lobbied for him", Csaba Sógor, DAHR MEP said. The EPP Group postponed the discussion for Tuesday. Other three MEPs from the LDP have not entered the EPP-ED Group waiting for the fusion between LPD and DP.

(Gandul, 13 December 2007)

Who are behind these statements?

A new, Democratic Liberal Party in Romania

The Democratic Party of Romanian President Traian Băsescu emerged strongest in the recent elections to the European Parliament held in Romania. This victory was the first time since the 1989 anti-communist revolution that the leftist Social Democracy Party, the successor to the Communist Party, failed to win most votes in an election. Turnout was just less than 29%.

Shortly after the EP elections of 25 November 2007, the leaders of the Democratic Party (PD) and the Liberal Democratic Party (PLD) took many by surprise as they announced the merger of their parties and the establishment of a new centre-right party, the **Democratic Liberal Party** (PDL). The announcement of the establishment of a new party, the Democratic Liberal Party (PDL), came after separate meetings of State President Traian Băsescu with Theodor Stolojan, President of PLD and Emil Boc, President of PD.

Both parties are known for their support of President Traian Băsescu, who until becoming state president was leader of the PD. PD was part of a governing coalition with the Liberals (PNL) until a political scandal followed by a reshuffle last spring, in which PD was removed from the government, now dominated by the Liberals. For its part, PLD was formed in 2006 by former elite members of the PNL who were ousted from the party because of their support for President Băsescu, who's been in conflict with Premier Călin Popescu Tăriceanu for a long while. PLD was led by former prime minister, Theodor Stolojan – who was actually premier Tăriceanu's former closest ally in the PNL.

Currently, PNL and their only allies, the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (UDMR), hold around 20% of the seats and form a minority government.

On 3 December, the Democratic party leader spoke about the establishment of a new party with Theodor Stolojan's group. Traian Băsescu has long desired a strong centre-right party in the Romanian political arena. Initially this party was supposed to be set up through the merger of PD with the National Liberal Party (PNL), but the two failed to reach an agreement. Apparently Băsescu's argument in the separate talks with the two leaders was that the elections for the European Parliament indicated that PLD took voters from PD rather than from PNL – as initially hoped.

Talks of a merger first appeared more than a year ago, but were repeatedly shelved to allow PLD to run in the European Election on its own.

The new party – the Democrat Liberal Party – will be affiliated with the European People's Party despite the fact that the declared ideology of the Stolojan's Liberal Democrats is Liberalism. The PD branches appeared to be more at ease with the prospect of forming a new party together with the Liberal-Democrats. And yet, PD Vice-President Sorin Frunzăverde who has been elected to be member of the European Parliament and, who was also the artisan of the negotiations at the end of which PD affiliated itself with the EPP, is not happy at all with the Liberal component of the resulting new party. He was one of the two Democrats who on 5 December opposed the foundation of the new party and who was making it clear, in the beginning of the Steering College session, that 'the new party will be called the Democratic Party'. 'PLD is an embarrassing ideological mix, it stands for absolutely no particular doctrine. PD on the other hand has an identity of its own that cannot be altered,' stated PD Vice-President Sorin Frunzăverde before going into the meeting of the PD Steering College. Afterwards he stated that he would subject himself to the decision of the majority stemming from the voting that took place.

(Sources: *Nine o'Clock*; *HotNews*; *NewsIn*; *Realitatea TV*)