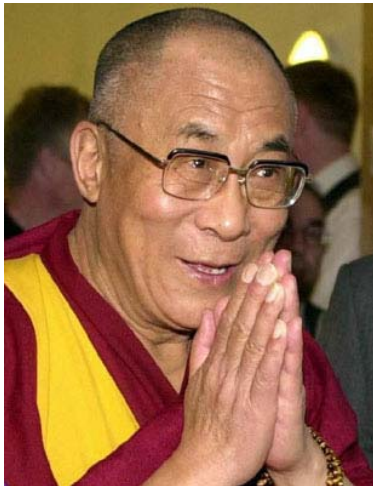


## Nobel Peace Prize Winner Dalai Lama to Visit Transylvania

His Holiness the Dalai Lama will pay a visit to Romania this fall. László Tókécs, Member of the European Parliament and President of the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania invited His Holiness the Dalai Lama to visit Romania when he met the Buddhist teacher and Samdong Rinpoche, the head of the Tibetan government in exile, in Brussels in December of 2008.

The proposed itinerary of Tenzin Gyatso, The Fourteenth Dalai Lama, includes a trip to the small village of Csomakőrös (Chiurus) in the Szekler Land area, Transylvania, where founder of Tibetology, Sándor Kőrösi Csoma - or as he signed his English letters, Alexander Csoma de Kőrös - was born. Through the first ever Tibetan-English dictionary and grammar (1831) de Kőrös revealed Tibet's wonderful culture to Westerners.



“Romanian authorities have not extended any invitation to visit the country to the Dalai Lama or his representatives, and Bucharest recognizes a single China, which includes Tibet”, Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on 21 April 2010, in response to a request by MEDIAFAX. The ministry said Romania endorses the One China principle, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China (PRC), of which Tibet is part. According to the ministry, all contact between Romanian officials and representatives of the Tibet Autonomous Region is carried out through diplomatic channels, in the framework of PRC-Romania relations.

### The Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Discredits Romania

The Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) has discredited Romania, with its “quick reaction” of distancing itself from the Dalai Lama's visit, which is slated for September 2010. Without waiting for Beijing's reaction, Romania's servile declaration gives the impression that the continuous violation of human rights in China does not concern the MFA at all - argues the 25 April 2010 edition of *Krónika*, a Transylvanian newspaper.

It is public knowledge that the Dalai Lama's international appearances draw attention to China's occupation of Tibet. As the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, has been president of the Tibetan government-in-exile, since 1959. By speaking up for his rights, for five decades, the Tibetan religious leader has angered the Chinese government.

In diplomatic terms, the Dalai Lama's presence is an extremely sensitive matter. Further, the Dalai Lama's lectures draw large crowds of sympathetic souls. The world champions his minority status, by advocating the return of Tibet to its native Himalayan people.

China claims the Himalayan territory, as its own. To defend its occupied turf, the Beijing government regularly assaults the host-nation on any of the Dalai Lama's foreign visits, with diplomatic pressure and rhetoric. The intent is to hinder and halt any international forum that promotes Tibetan minority rights. By discrediting the exiled leader, he is often stripped of his official recognition, as the exiled President of Tibet.

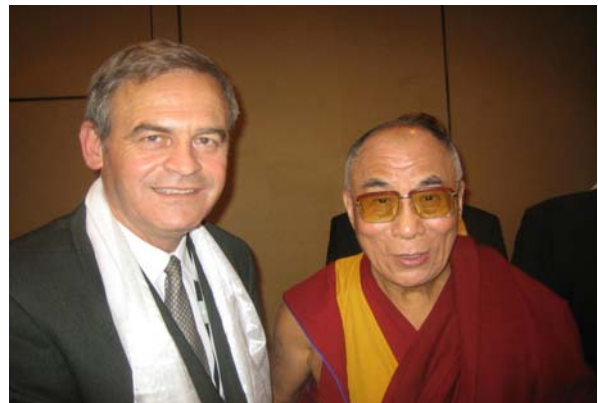
## Google vs. Romania

Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs declaration is not a surprise, since they affirm that the Dalai Lama has not been officially invited by the Romanian state. Nonetheless, the timing of the declaration is problematic, opines Transylvanian press, since the Beijing government has not had any reaction yet to this issue. The recent exit of Google, from China, illustrates that human rights and freedom of speech are more important than seeking the long-term profit from a 1.3 billion-person marketplace. Any nation that cannot uphold such moral ideals disgraces itself before the world. For a constitutional state, especially a European Union nation, to lag behind a multi-national corporation, in its observation of human rights and freedom of speech is an international humiliation.

### Communiqué

Regarding the intense scrutiny of the media, after the recent Romania MFA communiqué, the Press Office of MEP László Tőkés issued the following statements on 21 April 2010, pursuant to the visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Romania:

- Since his first election, MEP László Tőkés has advocated the invitation of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to the European Parliament. He considers it abnormal that such an invitation has not been proffered but instead postponed to this day.
- Religions are vital worldwide. In Europe, the spirit of inter-confessional ecumenism should join world religions to serve humanity, according to MEP László Tőkés.



*His Holiness with MEP László Tőkés.  
Photo taken during the European Parliament's  
Tibet Intergroup meeting, on 3 December 2008*

- In this spirit, MEP László Tőkés thanks His Holiness the Dalai Lama for accepting the invitation to visit Romania, in September, with great expectation and ecumenical ardor.
- Through his consistent and conscientious commitment to promote the freedom wish of the Tibetan people, the Dalai Lama offers a non-violent model to the world for pursuing democracy. He contests for the rights of his own Tibetan people and people facing oppression around the world.
- As an exiled religious leader from Tibet, the Dalai Lama seeks freedom and human rights for all nations. In appreciation and acknowledgment, His Holiness was received by the European Parliament, and by U.S. President Barack Obama in 2010.
- As a member of the Euro-Atlantic community, Romania represents the values and interests of the Euro-Atlantic fellowship. Further, Romania endorses the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the People's Republic of China.
- Regarding Romania's MFA, it is well-known that most countries acknowledge visits of the Dalai Lama, with a non-official meeting - even U.S. President Barack Obama.
- The Dalai Lama visit does not question the "One China" principle endorsed by Romania. His Holiness' first visit to Romania is not political but of an ecumenical and religious nature. This particular visit honors the home country of Alexander Csoma de Körös, who was declared a Saint of Buddhism (Bodhisattva).