

Hungarian National Council of Transylvania

The **Hungarian National Council of Transylvania** (EMNT) was founded in 2003 by the call of László Tőkés, bishop of Királyhágómellék Reformed Church District. It was a parliamentary-type organization, its members being elected on the basis of territorial representation and of their commitment to the cause of autonomy. The founders of EMNT intended to present, represent and move the case of Hungarian autonomies of Transylvania forward by making principle-based statements and expressing viewpoints.

At the beginning, the National Body and its Permanent Committee could carry out this task, but later on it became clear that the main objectives of the Council could only be efficiently reached if it had a bigger social ground and an active network, which could familiarize the community with the principle-based decisions. This was a good way to create social atmosphere, which could turn into a considerable crowd will to be taken into account when taking political decisions.

By recognizing this need in December 2008, on its fifth anniversary board meeting, the Hungarian Council of Transylvania accepted its own organizational renewal programme. According to this, a movement-like network should support the 'parliamentary' representatives board in order to ensure the organizational framework of the autonomy-programme.

The elements of the renewing structure are:

- the **National Council** - national representative body (one representative/4000 Transylvanian Hungarian)
- the leading organ, having also the role of House Committee is the **Presidency**, which is the operational decision-taking and co-ordinating body of the movement.
- the **committees**, on the one hand the House Committees having a preparatory role in the decision-taking process, on the other hand have the role of political expertise workshops of the movement together with the advisory bodies established by the Presidency.
- the **territorial organizations** created on micro-regional levels ensure the territorial embedment of the movement, they are the link between the Presidency and the members of the movement and are also responsible for familiarizing the political decisions with the members and the community.
- the territorial division – **Szeklerland, Mid-Transylvania and Partium** – is not only a geographical division, but also represents the drafting and the integrated representation of the different types of autonomy demands based on the different situations: Hungarian bloc, interethnic surrounding and sporadic community.

Due to the renewal process, on the national meeting in November 2009, a wide socially supported civilian-political movement was born (its legal status as an organization representing minority interests being recognized by Cluj Court of Law in spring 2010), which has fought for accomplishing **strong political objectives, meaning the collective autonomy types: the specific territorial-economic autonomy of Szeklerland, and the cultural autonomy of the Hungarians of Transylvania.**

The main directions of the renewed Movement are the following:

- facing the present: observing social factors that have impact on the community's future and the relevant processes important *for* the autonomy-efforts, such as collecting data, monitoring, warning.

- shaping the future, familiarizing autonomy – disassembling to components of the Transylvanian collective autonomies, introducing local characteristics and translating all these into the language created by everyday situations, meaning adapting them to local relations.
- strengthening national solidarity – in the last two decades holding up the counter-development of the bloc and the sporadic community, of the Hungarians living in Hungary and of those living outside the borders of Hungary, handling the occurring tensions and misunderstandings, consciously maintaining the feeling of togetherness and interdependence.

The Hungarian National Council of Transylvania finds the "freedom of choice", the right to varied-valued Transylvanian Hungarian political plurality important, at the same time is also conscious about the continuous nation-state assimilation policy of the Romanian state, having different intensity in the last century, which can only be counterbalanced by a Hungarian solidarity built around the same strategic objectives. The result of this con-social development is the **Hungarian Solidarity** at the 2009 European Parliament elections, and another important result is the **Hungarian Conciliatory Forum of Transylvania** initiated by László Tőkés, with Béla Markó as co-president, which besides being the consultative workshop of the different Hungarian political parties and civilian-political factors in Romania, could also create the conditions of a common political action.

The **Cultural Autonomy Council** built up of representatives of both the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania and the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania could also be a similar co-operational framework operating on the field of a widely understood cultural autonomy.

The Hungarian National Council of Transylvania has long been urging for a national policy change and for harmonizing the autonomy efforts of the Hungarian communities living in the Carpathian basin. Moreover, it also urges for national unification across borders were announced by the first Orbán-government in its national policy programme. Putting into practice the national integration across borders could be possible by creating and maintaining "scientific centres" that would have a catalysing role on political-public law, cultural, educational, economic, social and religious fields, without modifying the borders of the neighbouring countries. By realizing this objective and also other national policy objectives, the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania is the strategic partner of the FIDESZ-KDNP alliance and the second Orbán-government.

EMNT has not yet taken a decision on undertaking party politics tasks such as entering for local government and parliamentary elections, although its legal status makes it possible. It could be possible in case it finds no guarantee in the existing party politics factors – RMDSZ, MPP – to stand for the values represented by the EMNT.

Structure of the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania

National Meeting (OGY) – around 300 representatives deputed by the regional organizations and the committees, sitting once a year.

Presidency – members: president, executive president, regional presidents, 5 vice-presidents, 5 scribes. It is an operative leading body with monthly sittings or whenever necessary.

Board – governors: members of the presidency, presidents of the regional organizations, presidents of the committees and leaders of partner organizations. It sits every half year.

The mandate of the elected office-holders is valid until December 2010. At the end of the mandate the National Meeting gathered for this reason will adopt the final regulation and elect a new presidency on all levels.

Regional Presidents:

Arad Region – Sándor Burián, doctor
Beszterce/Bistrita Region – Zoltán Kerekes, engineer
Bihar Region – Sándor Török, engineer, director of LEK
Brassó/Brasov Region – Tamás Toró, sport manager
Csíkszék/Ciuc Region – Tibor Bencze, entrepreneur
Háromszék/Covasna Region – Janka Jakabos, entrepreneur
Kolozs/Cluj Region – Balázs Gergely, archaeologist
Maros/Mures Region – István Kali, jurist, tender expert
Máramaros/Maramures Region – Félix Hupka, engineer, cultural manager
Szatmár/Satu Mare region – Enikő Veres-Kupán, engineer, tender expert
Szilágy/Salaj Region – József Sándor, doctor
Temes/Timis Region – István Gazda, pastor
Udvarhelyszék/Odorheiu Secuiesc Region - Pál Nagy, cultural manager, theatre director

Presidency

President: László Tőkés, Vice-President of the European Parliament
Executive President: Tibor Toró T., physics researcher, former Member of Parliament

Regional Presidents

Mid-Transylvania: Balázs Gergely, archaeologist, researcher of the National History Museum of Transylvania, Kolozsvár/Cluj
Szeklerland: János László, entrepreneur, President of Gábor Bethlen Foundation
Partium: Mihály Orbán, economist, Vice-President of Gábor Bethlen Foundation

Vice-Presidents

Zoltán Boros, media specialist, former general editor of the Hungarian broadcast of RTV, Bucharest
Pál Nagy, cultural manager, director of the City Theatre of Székelyudvarhely/Odorheiu Secuiesc, former president of MISZSZ
Krisztina Sándor, politologist, President of MIT, Kolozsvár/Cluj
Előd Papp, politologist
Zsolt Szilágyi, politologist, former Member of Parliament, teacher at PKE

Scriveners

Attila Zsolt Borbély, politologist, writer
Réka Fekete, former member of presidency at ODFIE, collaborator of Pro Minoritate Foundation
Jenő Mátis, economist, politologist, former Member of Parliament
Csaba Püsök, pastor, President of KREK Committee
László Szabó, pastor, former president of ODFIE

The above were elected on the National Meeting of 7 November 2009, their mandate is valid for one year.

Main Objectives and Highly Important Programmes of EMNT

1. The Situation of Transylvanian Education and Higher Education

The National Meeting of EMNT finds it important to create a common higher education strategy, at the same time to eliminate the dreadful situation which Romanian education finds itself in, and aims to build up a Hungarian autonomous institutional network being also financed by the Romanian state.

2. Szekler Memorandum

The National Meeting of EMNT appreciates the importance of the Szekler Memorandum adopted by the Szekler General Meeting in gaining international support for the territorial autonomy of Szeklerland, and calls the president of EMNT to use the Memorandum on international level.

3. Truth and Redemption

After having studied the analysis of the President concerning the Romanian minority policy based on the homogenous and united nation state concept in the last nine decades, the National Meeting of EMNT entitles the Presidency to represent the following:

- to initiate the setting up of an expert commission in order to evaluate and reveal the atrocities committed against Hungarians during the communist regime also mentioned in the Tismaneanu report.
- to initiate the rehabilitation of the Romanian victims of the revolution of 1956.
- to initiate the distinction of the Romanian victims and the persecuted of the revolution of 1956 by the President of the Hungarian State.
- to support the work of the institutions and societies that identify those still alive who committed crime against the Hungarians during the communist regime, and initiate their conviction.
- to further urge the moral and financial compensation in the case of the victims of the communism and the persecuted ones.

4. Remember Trianon

The National Meeting of EMNT initiates the remembrance of Trianon with the concept of "Healing Trianon"...

5. Csángó project

The National Meeting of EMNT finds highly important to protect the identity of the Csángó-Hungarian community while continuing and enlarging the ongoing projects. It calls on the Presidency to make a strategic partnership agreement with the Association of the Csángós in Moldova.

6. The Hungarian Conciliatory Forum of Transylvania (EMEF)

The National Meeting of EMNT approves of the importance of the Hungarian Conciliatory Forum of Transylvania knowing that we can only be successful in reaching our strategic objectives if there is a consensus between the different political and public life factors, and entitles the Presidency to continue their work.

7. Establishment of the Cultural Autonomy Council (KAT)

The National Meeting of EMNT notes the decision taken during the EMEF meeting in order to establish a Cultural Autonomy Council, and entitles the Presidency to take the necessary decisions as well as to support the activity of the representatives of the EMNT in KAT and to keep count of their reports.

8. Cultural Autonomy Council of the Carpathian Basin (KMAT)

The National Meeting of EMNT appreciates the initiation of EMNT and its President in order to establish the Cultural Autonomy Council of the Carpathian Basin, and finds it important to further take part in the work of KMAT.

9. Strategic Partnership with the European Free Alliance (EFA)

The National Meeting entitles the President of EMNT to sign a strategic partnership with the European Free Alliance, and on the basis of the agreement calls on the Presidency to develop the ways of cooperation.

10. Autonomy Ambassador Network

In order to efficiently represent the case of autonomies on international level, the National Meeting delegates the Presidency to establish the network of Autonomy Ambassadors, and to develop its network regulation.

11. Foundation of Károly Kós autonomy prize

The National Meeting of EMNT establishes the Károly Kós Autonomy Prize to acknowledge the results of those people or societies who have successfully acted for the case of autonomy.

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