

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

For the attention of
Mr Alain Berset
Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Strasbourg

Avenue de l'Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
France

Subject: Community initiative of the 149 local authorities of historical and cultural Szeklerland

Dear Secretary General,

As the mayor of one of the 149 local authorities located in the historical and cultural region of Szeklerland, I hereby officially inform you of an initiative concerning the community of our municipality as well as the other local communities of historical and cultural Szeklerland.

The initiative of the communities of the 149 local authorities has taken the form of a Petition expressing the collective will concerning the future administrative and territorial affiliation of the 149 local authorities. The essence of the Petition is that, in the event of a future administrative reform, the 149 local authorities should remain together within a single administrative region, and that any region that might be established should consist exclusively of these 149 local authorities.

The initiative does not assert a claim against any other community, nor is it aimed at restricting the rights of any citizen or community. It is based on the historical, cultural, geographical, social and economic bonds uniting the 149 local communities, as well as on the collective will directly and voluntarily expressed by the citizens and locally elected representatives participating in the initiative.

I consider it important to emphasise that the initiative is not based on the assumption that historical and cultural Szeklerland currently constitutes an administrative and territorial unit. The Petition seeks to give effect to the will of the communities concerned within the framework of a possible future administrative reform, taking into account the historical and cultural particularities, as well as the traditional links and internal cohesion of the territory concerned.

The legal and European context of the initiative, as well as the detailed grounds for the position expressed in the Petition, are set out in the Statement of Reasons accompanying the Petition. The documentation presents, among other things, the relevant provisions of Romanian law, European legal and political norms, and applicable European documents. Reference to these provisions does not imply that any of them, in itself, requires the establishment of such a region; rather, the initiative is based on taking these principles and considerations into account together.

The Petition, its Statement of Reasons, and the list of the 149 local authorities are available in Hungarian, Romanian and English on the official website of the Szekler National Council.

I considered it important to officially inform your institution of this initiative because its further course may become connected with a possible future administrative and territorial reform process in Romania, and therefore the will expressed by the communities concerned may also be relevant in an international and European institutional context.

I wish to bring this initiative to the attention of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe because the Council of Europe is a central institution of the common European framework for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and local democracy, local and regional self-government, and the rights and democratic participation of communities also occupy an important place in its activities. The present initiative presents the will democratically expressed by the local communities concerned in the context of a possible future administrative and territorial reform. I

therefore consider it important that the leadership of the Council of Europe should also have official information concerning its development.

Given that the initiative may become connected with a possible future administrative reform process, I also consider it important that your institution, within the scope of its competence and institutional role, follow the further course of the initiative and the development of the process as a whole.

I enclose with this letter the list of the 149 local authorities and also provide access to the complete documentation:

In Romanian:

[Petition of the communities of the 149 local authorities of historical and cultural Szeklerland](#)

In English:

[Szeklerland – 149 Local Authorities Petition](#)

Yours faithfully,

[Name of the Mayor]

Mayor

[Name of the Local Authority]