

## REFORMED CHURCH IN ROMANIA, KIRÁLYHÁGÓMELLÉK DISTRICT DIRECTORY COUNCIL

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Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe General Secretary Rev Dr Mario Fischer

Dear General Secretary, Dear Brother in Christ,

Many greetings from Oradea, on behalf of the Western (Királyhágómellék) District of the Reformed Church in Romania.

I was pleased to meet you on 24 June at Cluj/Kolozsvár, in the fellowship of Transylvanian church leaders. Thank you very much for your commitment to visit us in order to discuss our objection against the ideological penetration of lobby groups into the process of the 9th CPCE General Assembly, which is to be held soon in our country.

As I explained, there is nothing "emotional" about our stance, we simply stand firm on the foundations of our Reformed identity. In this sense, our Church has been resisting dominating political and/or ideological pressures – including the most horrific methods by the atheist Soviet Empire. In addition, it might not be diagnosed as an "East European" reflex, otherwise sister churches in Western Europe would not share our reservation.

With respect to the identity of CPCE, copy-pasting agenda items from our secularized, "post-Christian" societies – even if "theologized" – will drift our community far from the initial spirit of an *agreement* (1973). However, we do not intend to jeopardize or question the unity of CPCE and we appreciate that CPCE does neither want to jeopardize the position and unity of the Reformed Church in Romania, nor that of the ecumenical fellowship of denominations in Romania. Consequently, the only solution left for our Church is to remain committed to CPCE by keeping membership, but to withdraw from the role of hosting church for the 9th GA.

This is to formally inform you about the biblical position of our Church, please find the related decision of our General Assembly attached (enclosure 1). As you will see, no representative of our Church will participate in the works of the General Assembly in Sibiu, neither in connected forums and meetings. Our decision is in harmony with the recent resolution of the General Convent of the Hungarian Reformed Church (enclosure 2).

Blessings,

Szabolcs János BOGDÁN, bishop