

Article 30

In the context of application of this Act, Hungarian culture shall be understood as to include the Hungarian language, literature, history, cultural history and Hungarian science.

- 1 Act VI of 1998 on the promulgation of the Convention on the Protection of Individuals with Regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, signed on 28 January 1981 in Strasbourg.
- 2 The Act LVII of 2003 entered into force on 11 July 2003.

Hungarian Standing Conference

4. Closing Document of the Second Meeting of the Hungarian Standing Conference (Budapest, 12 November 1999)

The participants of the Hungarian Standing Conference commemorate the one thousandth anniversary of the founding of the state by St. Stephen and of the adoption of Christianity. The coronation of our first king, Stephen, united the Hungarian nation, through the Christian faith, with the peoples of Europe. As the millennium draws to a close, Hungarians, living both inside Hungary and outside its borders, ponder the historic moment – at once uplifting and challenging – to look into the past, taking stock of one thousand years of nationhood, and into the future, to hand on its traditions, its spiritual and material heritage, in anticipation of the new millennium. Hungarians living beyond the borders welcome the intention to commemorate through act of Parliament St. Stephen's role as founder of the state and the Holy Crown.

The historical cataclysms of the Twentieth Century tore the Hungarian nation into several pieces, even as the nation remained united throughout in the spiritual realm. Even today, in the midst of preparing for the new millennium, Hungarians have much to learn from the life's work of St. Stephen. The Hungarian Government has a profound sense of, and accepts, the responsibility it feels for the segments of the nation living outside the borders. The Government is convinced that, in a unifying Europe, Hungary and its neighboring states, the Hungarians of Hungary and those living outside the borders, along with the nations living with them, will together find the path to prosperity.

The participants of the Hungarian Standing Conference (HSC), consisting of the Hungarian Government, the parties represented in the Hungarian Parliament, representatives of the political organizations of Hungarians living beyond Hungary's borders having parliamentary or provincial representation, and representatives of Hungarians living in the West;

Fulfilling the mandate under section 6.3 of the Constitution of Hungary; confirming the statements issued by a number of conferences on the subject 'Hungary and Hungarians Living Beyond the Borders,' held in the period following Hungary's political transition; and further based on the Statement issued by the first HSC meeting, and Resolution No. 26/1999. (III. 26.) adopted by the Hungarian Parliament to greet the creation of the Hungarian Standing Conference;

Taking into account the efforts of the expert committees on education, culture, economics, health care, social welfare, citizenship and local administration, and European integration, established under Resolution No. 1079/1999. (VII. 7.) of the Hungarian Government to support the successful functioning of the Hungarian Standing Conference;

Recognizing that in the process leading to a united Europe, it is the inalienable right of every nation, and is in the fundamental interest of a renewing Europe, to preserve and develop each nation's linguistic and cultural heritage, and national identity;

Bearing in mind that the development of good neighborly relations between countries in the region is a mutual interest, and that the reduction of prevailing tensions facilitates the consolidation of democratic systems, which is in the fundamental interest of both the Republic of Hungary and the Hungarian minority communities living beyond Hungary's borders;

Aiming to insure the widest possible guarantee of individual and collective rights for Hungarians living beyond Hungary's borders, while mindful of relevant examples elsewhere in Europe as well as the realistic needs stemming from distinctive national features;

have agreed upon the following:

1. It is a fact of historic significance that on March 12, 1999, the Republic of Hungary along with the Czech Republic and the Republic of Poland gained full membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The participants are convinced that this greatly contributes to strengthening the security and stability of Central and Eastern Europe, and the successful completion by democratic means of the processes of political and economic transformation in the region.
2. [The participants] welcome the creation of expert committees to help execute the duties of the Hungarian Government relating to ethnic Hungarians living beyond the borders, and agree with the plans of action drafted by the expert committees at their formation meetings. [The participants] call upon the Hungarian Government, in its decision-making process, to take into account to the maximum extent possible, the expert committees' recommendations.
3. The diversity of contacts between the various parts of the nation living in different countries raises the need for legal regulation in Hungary. The participants, recognizing the wishes of Hungarian minority communities in this regard, call upon the Government of the Republic of Hungary, in order to [more fully] realize the benefits of cooperation between Hungary and Hungarian communities beyond the borders, and to reinforce the sense of national cohesion in harmony with Hungary's and the neighboring countries' mutual aspiration for integration, to examine the creation of legal provisions to regulate the status in Hungary of ethnic Hungarians living beyond the borders. The primary objective of this [undertaking] is to reinforce the prospects and opportunities for remaining in the ancestral homeland.
4. [The participants] determine that in the period since the political transition [in Central Europe], conditions have developed which enable improvements in the situation of Hungarians living beyond the borders. They welcome the efforts of the democratically elected governments of the states adjacent to Hungary to successively abolish those practices which violate the rights of minorities. They attach great significance to measures such as the reconstruction of the Párkány Bridge, the liberation of the Freedom Statue in Arad, the establishment of the Hungarian Educational and Cultural Center in Croatia, as well as the positive government actions taken to provide assistance to flood victims in Sub-Carpathia, and to help establish a direct railway link between Slovenia and Hungary. They welcome that the mechanisms for monitoring compliance with the provisions of the bilateral friendship treaties have begun to operate.
5. At the same time, they express concern that, despite the foregoing, the threat to Hungarian communities living beyond Hungary's borders still continues to exist – albeit, to a degree that varies from country to country – and they believe that the first steps taken to alleviate their disadvantaged situation must be followed by additional measures. A cause for concern was the adoption of Slovakia's Minorities Language Law over the objections of those most directly affected – the representatives of the ethnic Hungarian citizens of Slovakia – in violation of the democratic principle of 'good governance'. Nor can the intensifying level of activity by Romanian nationalist groups in Transylvania be ignored, along with the feeble and not always adequate response by the authorities. Also troubling is the series of incidents targeting the Consulate General of the Republic

of Hungary in Kolozsvár [Cluj, Romania], and the Agache affair, with the subsidiary campaign to provoke public sentiment. [The participants] consider it imperative that the neighboring countries live up to the commitments they assumed when they applied for admission to the Council of Europe.

6. The establishment of the Southeast European Stability Pact is a major step in the process of stabilizing the region. The participants believe that the efforts of the working groups affiliated with the Stability Pact will contribute to the formation of appropriate problem-solving mechanisms, in the interest of a satisfactory resolution to the problems of the region. They express the hope that the Szeged Conference, and the atmosphere it inspired, will help stimulate Yugoslavia to embark on the road to democratic change as early as possible. This was the underlying purpose in creating the 'Prospect for Stability' public foundation in Szeged, whose aim is to support local democracy and the independent media. As the winter season draws near, [the participants] appeal to the citizens of Hungary, and to business and civic associations, to increase their humanitarian aid efforts to support the creation of acceptable living conditions. At the same time, they suggest that humanitarian organizations in Hungary focus greater attention on assisting ethnic Hungarians, living either in compact communities or dispersed and isolated.
7. Since the policies of Yugoslavia's Milosevic regime, which remains in power, place the ethnic Hungarian community of Voivodina under constant threat, prompting further exodus, [the participants] support the unified plan for autonomy, along with the institutions envisaged in the concept, of the Hungarian community of Voivodina, drafted in the spirit of the European principles of self-government and devolution of power. They welcome the dialogue undertaken on the Voivodina-Hungarian draft plan for autonomy between the ethnic Hungarian parties and the Serbian democratic opposition, and welcome the results of that dialogue. They appeal to the ethnic Hungarian parties and organizations in Voivodina to put aside their personal and political differences, and to try and give voice to the common interests of the Hungarian community of Voivodina and the unitary Hungarian nation. They express their satisfaction with the unanimous decision by the United States Senate on November 4, 1999 to adopt a bill [S. 720] which contains a provision calling upon the US administration to support the autonomy concept developed by the Hungarians of Voivodina.
8. The representatives of Hungarians living beyond the borders deem it of historic significance that the draft budget of Hungary for the year 2000 plans the allocation of funds to support the establishment of an independent Hungarian university in Transylvania. They agree that, under present circumstances, support from the mother country must be focused on a single area. At the same time, they call attention to the fact that in the case of Hungarian communities living in other countries as well, the establishment of a system of institutions providing higher education in the native tongue, and the improvement of the standards of education at such institutions, can only be achieved with substantial assistance from the mother country. They also reiterate the need and right, as taxpaying citizens of their respective countries, to be entitled to independent, state-sponsored education in the native tongue at all levels of instruction.
9. The development of cross-border cooperation and the creation of Euroregions, as well as the encouragement of regional economic cooperation, can serve to greatly improve the economic development of areas in the Carpathian Basin which, though traditionally linked to one another, have, as a result of historical events, been pushed to the periphery. The Hungarian Standing Conference considers it vital that the conditions be created for making the Euroregions viable economic units. The representatives of Hungarian communities living outside Hungary will, in the future, do everything possible to make full use of the opportunities offered by this form of cooperation between local and regional governments in Hungary, on the one hand, and their own local and regional organizations, on the other.

10. The participants of the Hungarian Standing Conference welcome the fact that the Country Report of the European Union Commission confirmed Hungary's preparedness for EU accession, and they welcome, also, the proposal of the European Union Commission that the accession negotiations be expanded to include Slovakia and Romania. It is in the fundamental interest of the sizeable ethnic Hungarian communities living in these two countries that their countries fulfill the criteria for accession, especially in the field of minority rights protection and related commitments. Accession at the earliest possible date of Romania, Slovakia and, of course Slovenia, along with movement by the other neighboring states toward the Euro-Atlantic organizations, can contribute positively to the higher level integration of both the Hungarian minorities and Hungary itself. [The participants] affirm that, with regard to international commitments concerning human rights and minority rights, it is the actual implementation of substance, not just form, which is the critical standard. They agree that the maintenance of unfettered contacts between Hungary and Hungarians living beyond Hungary's borders is in the mutual self-interest of all concerned, both in the period leading up to Hungary's accession to the European Union, and thereafter as well.

Budapest, November 12, 1999

Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania
Hungarian Coalition Party
Hungarians Cultural Association of Sub-Carpathia
Hungarian Association of Vojvodina
Hungarian Democratic Party of Vojvodina
Democratic Community of Hungarians in Croatia
Hungarian National Autonomous Community of Muravidék
Government of the Republic of Hungary
Fidesz – Hungarian Civic Party
Hungarian Socialist Party
Independent Smallholders Party
Alliance of Free Democrats
Hungarian Justice and Life Party
Hungarian Democratic Forum
World Federation of Hungarians

5. Final Statement of the 13-14 December 2000 Session of the Hungarian Standing Conference

(Budapest, 14 December 2000)

The participants of the December 13-14, 2000 session of the Hungarian Standing Conference
- confirming the final statements of the February 1999 statutory session and the November 1999 second session of the Hungarian Standing Conference and that of the conference on 'Hungary and Hungarians Abroad' organized in 1996,
- with special respect to Hungary's accession to the European Union,
- with the necessity of institutionalising and laying the legal basis of relations between Hungary and Hungarians abroad in view,
have agreed as follows:

1. They express their satisfaction with the proximity of Hungary's accession to the European Union. It is their conviction that the positive effects of accession will spread towards neighbouring countries as well. The representatives of Hungarians abroad solicit Hungary for representing their interest in the permeability of borders, with special respect to the Schengen Agreement.

2. They welcome the decisions made by the EU Nice Summit. The decision to evaluate the candidate countries on the basis of their individual performance and the promises relating to the participation of new member-states in the 2004 parliamentary elections are in line with the interests of all Hungarians. The legitimate organizations of Hungarians abroad will cooperate in the future with the political forces most capable of preparing their countries for accession to the EU. They reconfirm that the accession of neighbouring countries to the EU is in the uniform interest of the Hungarian nation.

3. The Hungarian Standing Conference has to establish that the sine qua non of Hungarian minorities in the region has not shown signs of fundamental improvement in the past period.

- In Romania, the positive developments that have taken shape as a result of the participation of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Rumania in the government coalition and its decision to assume all-social responsibility cannot be viewed as a satisfactory and final normalization of the situation of the Hungarian minority of the country. As a consequence of recent general elections, the extreme nationalist forces on both sides of the political spectrum have gained disquieting strength. The participants of the Hungarian Standing Conference express their hope that despite the outcome of the elections, the positive developments, including the normalization of the situation of the Hungarian minority, will not be interrupted, Romania will not change its policy on Euro-Atlantic integration and will honour the international treaties to which it is a signatory.

- They express their concern about the deceleration of reforms affecting the Hungarian minority, and originally part of the government programme, in Slovakia. They express their hope that the cohesion between the coalition parties will become stronger, enabling them to focus on the realization of social and economic transformation contained in the government programme. They do hope that Slovakia's preparation for accession to the EU will give a new impetus to reforms, including provisions for satisfying the legitimate demands of the Hungarian community of Slovakia.

- They welcome the changes in Yugoslavia and express their hope that the December 23 elections will further strengthen the process of democratisation, enabling the settlement of the situation of the Hungarian minority in Vojvodina and the full realization of human and minority rights. They welcome the provisions of the US budget on foreign aid that make the payment of USD 100 million in aid to Serbia contingent upon measures aimed at improving the situation of minorities in Serbia.

- The recent statement by the Ukrainian minister of education raises concerns about the future of the Hungarian education system in Sub-Carpathia.

4. They are pleased to note that the spirit of the Millennium and the anniversary have both contributed to reinforcing solidarity between Hungarians living in Hungary and in neighbouring countries.

5. They express their concern about the developments in the World Federation of Hungarians.

6. They welcome the establishment of the Western Hungarian Council, aimed at institutionalising the relations between the government and the Hungarians living in the West. They ask the Council to integrate the main communities of Hungarians living in the West into its activities. They agree with the intention of the Hungarian Government to take the initiative in forging relations and preserving the mother tongue, the culture and identity of Hungarian minorities. They solicit the Western Hungarian Council to promote the interests of Hungary and the unitary Hungarian nation in the international arena effectively.

7. They call upon the Hungarians abroad to declare themselves as Hungarians during future population censuses. Declaring themselves Hungarians is one of the pre-requisites of securing rights indispensable for preserving their identity.

8. They express their satisfaction with the work of chairmen, secretaries and members of special committees assisting the work of the Hungarian Standing Conference. In conformity with the final statement of the November 1999 session, their work has resulted in the concept of the act on Hungarians living in neighbouring countries. They state, with a view to the reservations declared by the Alliance of Free Democrats (SZDSZ), that the bill drafted on the basis of the con-

cept in question is in conformity with its main principles and objectives and it reinforces the conditions indispensable for remaining on native soil. They solicit the Hungarian Government to finalize the bill according to the statements of the Hungarian Standing Conference and submit it for consideration to the Parliament.

9. When finalizing the bill, the following factors should be taken into consideration:

- Should there be a change in circumstances, the law to be passed by Parliament should be capable of incorporating positive amendments

- In order to realize the objectives of the law in question, the permeability of borders should be secured even following Hungary's accession to the EU. We consider it necessary to insert provisions into the law according to which Hungarian abroad will always be able to cross the borders of, and reside in Hungary under the most favourable conditions possible, in conformity with Hungary's membership in the EU, and their special needs will be taken into account when deciding on those favourable conditions. Furthermore, it is necessary that the special committees address these issues during 2001 and make recommendations on possible solutions.

- In determining the subjects of the law, the principles laid down in the annex of the final statement of the Hungarian Standing Conference should prevail.

- The representatives of Hungarians abroad express their gratitude to the political parties represented in the National Assembly of Hungary for their constructive cooperation in drafting the bill and, in order to pass the law as soon as possible, and solicit them to continue their cooperation and search for a common approach in realization of fundamental national goals.

Budapest, December 14, 2000

Annexes:

1. The dissenting opinion of the Hungarian Socialist Party
2. Statement on determining the subjects of the law on Hungarians living in countries neighbouring the Republic of Hungary

Annex 1 to the Final Statement of the 13-14 December 2000 Session of the Hungarian Standing Conference

The Dissenting Opinion of the Hungarian Socialist Party about the Final Statement of the December 13-14, 2000 Session of the Hungarian Standing Conference

1. The Hungarian Socialist Party supports the legal regulation of the constitutional responsibility towards Hungarians abroad declared in section (3) of paragraph 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Hungary. The law should bring into harmony the interests of the Hungarian society and those of Hungarians abroad simultaneously with meeting the requirements of international treaties in force, the accession to, and future membership in the European Union and our relations with neighbouring countries.

2. The Hungarian Socialist Party agrees with the definition of the subjects of the law on Hungarians living in neighbouring countries as accepted by the 13-14 December 2000 session of the Hungarian Standing Conference. The law in question must, under all circumstances, respect the principle that the individual has the unalienable right to identify itself with any nation or ethnic minority.

3. The position of the Hungarian Socialist Party: the law on Hungarians abroad, in line with the Hungarian legal order, must contain the circle of persons entitled to favourable treatment.

4. The Hungarian Socialist Party disagrees with the creation of new so-called recommending organizations. The duty of recommendation can be fulfilled by legitimate organizations and parties of Hungarians with real political weight and by competent civil bodies and churches. Instead of establishing new organizations, the Hungarian Socialist Party proposes that the list of organizations authorized to make recommendations in each country be inserted into the law.

Budapest, 14 December 2000

Annex 2 to the Final Statement of the 13-14 December 2000 Session of the Hungarian Standing Conference

Position on the Definition of the Subjects of the Law on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries

During its 13-14 December 2000 session, the Hungarian Standing Conference has discussed the definition of the subjects of the law on Hungarians living in neighbouring countries and makes the following recommendations to the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the bodies to be established in neighbouring countries and entitled to issue recommendations for 'Hungarian Certificates':

1. Besides the organizations of Hungarians abroad participating in the Hungarian Standing Conference, the representatives of competent civil bodies and churches should also be assigned a role in the recommending organizations.
2. When accepting the recommending organizations as partners, the Hungarian Government should take into consideration the above factors as well as the valid regulations on data processing in both Hungary and neighbouring countries.
3. Organizations authorized to issue recommendations should examine whether the statement made by the person requiring the recommendation is authentic and in conformity with reality.
4. In the decision-making process, the recommending organizations should respect the principle of choosing one's identity freely and the historical tradition of Hungary being an integrative nation.
5. In order for the recommendation to be issued, written identification with the Hungarian nation, application for the recommendation and knowledge of the Hungarian language are required. Under special appraisal, the recommending organization may grant an exemption from the Hungarian language requirement if the applicant meets one of the criteria below:
 - a. he or she is considered Hungarian by the country of citizenship
 - b. one of his or her parents is of Hungarian ethnic origin
 - c. his or her spouse possesses a Hungarian Certificate
 - d. he or she is a member of a registered Hungarian organization
 - e. he or she is treated as Hungarian by a church registry
 - f. he or she has attended, at least, for four years a public educational institution where the language of tuition was Hungarian, or his or her child or children attend/s/ such an institution.Should the applicants be capable of providing evidence of meeting the above-listed criteria, the recommendation has to be issued irrespective of his or her origin, religion or political affiliation.
6. The Hungarian Standing Conference requests the Hungarian authorities accepting the recommendations and issuing the Hungarian Certificate to follow the above standpoints in their agreements and cooperation with the organizations of Hungarians abroad entitled to issue the recommendations.

Budapest, December 14, 2000

6. Declaration

(Budapest, 27 June 2001)

The delegates of the member-organisations of the Hungarian Standing Conference with parliamentary or provincial representation in Romania, the Slovak Republic, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Ukraine, Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Slovenia declare the followings:

1. Welcome the Act on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries passed on 19th June 2001 by the Parliamentary Assembly of Hungary with a 92% majority. The Act contributes to the stability of the region of the Carpathian Basin, as it intends to reduce the discrimination of Hungarian communities living in minority. Through this aim the Act encourages the Hungarian communities to stay and prosper within their home countries. Without establishing any legal status under public law with the persons falling under its scope, the Act provides the possibility to apply for assistance in their home countries and be entitled to grants in Hungary, promoting the development of their cultural life and improvement of their education. It further promotes the enhancement of their education and culture to the general standards of their home countries and to the European norms. Thus, the Act promotes the prospects of integration of the whole region.
2. The Act on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries contributes to the preservation of the national identity of Hungarian minorities and helps to prevent their migration from their home countries. At the same time it promotes the effective implementation of the principles and aims of the international norms on minorities, such as the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, through enhancing the effective equality of minorities.
3. The preparation and adoption of the Act has been followed by interpretations based on misunderstandings in the home countries of the Hungarian minorities and consequently elsewhere. The misinterpretations have to be handled and diminished through the existing forms of the bilateral institutionalised dialogue. The delegates consider as a basic common interest to continue the dialogue and to maintain and develop the existing bilateral contractual relations, which were and have to be in the future the main elements of good neighbourly relations.
4. The signatories to this declaration firmly support the Euro-Atlantic integration of their states with the hope that their governments represent its principles. Therefore it is in the interest of these minorities that their home countries benefit from Hungary's accession to the European Union and NATO membership. They are convinced that the institutionalized dialogue between Hungary and the Hungarian minorities contributes to the regional stability and economic development. The infringement of minority rights results in violation of the free choice of identity, as well as assimilation and emigration, causing political and social tensions which may hinder the Euro-Atlantic integration of the countries in the region and may create new dividing lines. Such a situation would contradict the interests of the citizens in the region.
5. The signatories to this statement declare that this Act contributes to the improvement of the conditions of the Hungarians in the neighbouring countries, nevertheless they consider that the satisfying solution of the situation of these minorities is still the main responsibility of their home countries.

Budapest 27-06-2001

Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania
Hungarian Coalition Party
Alliance of Hungarians in Voivodina
Hungarian Democratic Party of Voivodina
Hungarian Cultural Association of Subcarpathia
Democratic Community of Hungarians in Croatia
Hungarian National Self-Governing Community of Muravidék

7. Final Statement of the Fourth Session of the Hungarian Standing Conference **(Budapest, 26 October 2001)**

I

The participants of the Hungarian Standing Conference (HSC): the Government of the Republic of Hungary, the political parties represented in the National Assembly of the Republic of Hungary, the political organizations of Hungarians living abroad represented in the parliament of their

home states and at the provincial level, and the representatives of Hungarians living in Western countries

- express their shock over the terrorist attacks carried out in the United States of America on 11 September 2001, condemn this horrendous act of crime directed against all the values of mankind and consider the eradication of all forms of terrorism necessary;
- regard further active involvement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union, as well as that of other international organizations in the Southeast European region as necessary in order to prevent to developments that, due to the fact that the situation of national minorities remains unresolved, may have a negative impact on the security and stability of our entire region;
- emphasize that given the aforementioned facts, the establishment of a viable international and regional minority protection system providing adequate protection for national minorities – including the communities of Hungarians living abroad – struggling for their rights through peaceful means at all times has become even more important and lend their support for the endeavours of Hungarians in Voivodina to accomplish autonomy;
- consider the establishment of independent Hungarian higher education in Transylvania as a development of outstanding importance. Initiated by the Hungarian churches in Transylvania, the Sapientia Hungarian University of Arts and Sciences of Transylvania has been established as a result of endeavours by the world of science and the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (DAHR), the accreditation of the university by the Government of Romania and significant financial support from the Hungarian State. Participants of the Hungarian Standing Conference regard this case of successful cooperation as exemplary;
- furthermore, they attach outstanding importance to the launching of external courses by the Budapest University of Economic Sciences and Public Administration in Révkomárom (Kormarno), the accreditation of the Hungarian Teacher Training College in Beregszász (Beregovo) and encourage the establishment and development of similar institutions elsewhere;
- welcome the reconstruction and inauguration, on 11 October 2001, of the Maria Valeria Bridge linking Esztergom and Párkány (Sturovo). Besides its role in regional development, the bridge carries a symbolic meaning: it expresses the intention of reconstructing and developing cross-border relations;
- welcome the outstanding practical achievements in the life of Hungarian communities living abroad, including, among others, the adoption by Romania of the Act on the Restitution of Agricultural and Forests Lands and the Public Administration Act providing for the use of minority languages; in Yugoslavia, the municipal and governmental involvement in issues vital from a minority point of view, the re-introduction of entrance examinations in Hungarian at the University of Újvidék (Novi Sad) and the favourable reception of the amendment proposal to the Official Languages Act by the Governments of Voivodina and Serbia and encourage the continuation of these processes that play a stabilizing role in the region through contributing to the reinforcement and development of the identity of the communities in question.
- recommend that the competent authorities of the Government of Hungary examine possibilities for relaxing the rules on the naturalization and re-naturalization of Hungarians not covered by the Act on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries.

II

The participants of the Hungarian Standing Conference (HST) have agreed as follows:

- the adoption by the National Assembly of the Republic of Hungary, with 93 per cent of the votes, of the Act initiated by Hungarians living abroad and referred to by the 12 November 1999 Final Statement of the Second Session of the Hungarian Standing Conference (Act LXII of 2001 on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries – hereinafter referred to as ‘the Act’) has laid the foundations for the substantial expansion of contacts between Hungarians in the kin-state and Hungarians living abroad. Entering into force on 1 January 2002, the Act meets the expectations of making a significant contribution to the preservation of the national self-identity of Hungarians

living in countries neighbouring Hungary and to their continued residence and prosperity in their native land;

- they establish that the Act promotes the security and stability of the region, as well as relations between Hungary and its neighbours, through contributing to the preservation and strengthening of the linguistic and cultural identity of those belonging to the Hungarian minority. At the same time, however, the implementation of the Act leads to the establishment of such a practice that may become an essential means of resolving the minority question in Central and Eastern Europe;
- they note with satisfaction the Council of Europe's European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) Report No. 168/2001 on the Preferential Treatment of National Minorities by their Kin-State adopted on 19 October 2001. The Report confirms that responsibility for minority protection lies primarily with the home-States and preferential treatment and support provided by kin-States to kin-minorities living abroad is interpreted in a positive fashion. It proves the basic notion of the Act according to which Hungary provides assistance to Hungarians living in neighbouring countries. At the same time, the Commission's Report confirms that the Act, building on European values, is in conformity with European thought and practice, as well as the general principles of international law;
- the Act is in conformity with bilateral treaties between Hungary and its neighbours and the relevant international agreements on minority protection. Participants share the view that bilateral treaties and international agreements on minority protection have to be respected and fully implemented by all Contracting Parties;
- they establish that given the findings of the Report of the Venice Commission, there is no need to amend the Act on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries. Executive orders should be in accordance with the conclusions of the Report and, at the same time, some of the Commission's observations may contribute to the implementation in practice of technical questions;
- the institution of a parliamentary commissioner for Hungarians living abroad could prove effective in the implementation of the Act and safeguarding the rights in Hungary of the communities concerned;
- they welcome the establishment of recommending organizations by the organizations of Hungarians living abroad, which will assist, in accordance with the provisions of the Annex to the 14 December 2000 Final Statement of the Hungarian Standing Conference, entitled persons in enjoying the benefits and assistance provided by the Act and, therefore, consider the establishment of recommending organizations indispensable where these still do not exist;
- they consider as necessary the active involvement and initiative of the organizations of Hungarians living abroad in making the concept and practical elements acceptable to the Government and the majority population of home-States concerned. Furthermore, they lend their support for continued consultations with the organizations of Hungarians living abroad and the Governments of neighbouring countries on the detailed rules governing the implementation of the Act, provided that the representatives of organizations of Hungarians living abroad concerned are involved. Hungarians living in Western countries actively contribute to the acceptance of the Act in the international arena;

Budapest, 26 October 2001

Annex

During its 25-26 October 2001 session, the Hungarian Standing Conference discussed the questions related to the implementation of the Act on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring countries. Based on this discussion, the Hungarian Standing Conference considers it important that the following criteria for determining the subjects of the Act be taken into consideration in the process of formulating the executive orders:

Hungarian ID may be issued to persons declaring themselves Hungarian and mastering the Hungarian language respectively:

1. he/she is a member of any of the registered Hungarian organizations,
2. he/she is treated as Hungarian by any of the church registries,

3. he/she is treated as Hungarian by the country of citizenship.

The participants of the Hungarian Standing Conference attach importance to placing the Office for Hungarian Minorities Abroad in charge of coordinating the implementation of the Act and ensuring that the institutional background – operating on the basis of uniform principles and responsible for central coordination – necessary for guaranteeing access to benefits provided by the Act is created.

8. Final Statement of the Fifth Session of the Hungarian Standing Conference (Budapest, 17 July 2002)

The participants of the July 17, 2002 session of the Hungarian Standing Conference (MÁÉRT) being aware of the togetherness of the Hungarian nation, with the preservation of traditions and values, the fulfilment of the mutually professed notion of democracy and solidarity, in view of the development of the relations and co-operation of the Hungarians living in the various parts of the World:

* Welcome, the fact that since the change of regimes the ongoing process of the Hungarian-Hungarian co-operation continues undiminished, with special regard to the highly important July 1996 conference, the February 1999 founding session of the Hungarian Standing Conference and its four previous sessions in November 1999, December 2000 and October 2001.

* Express their satisfaction concerning the initiative of the government inaugurated on May 27, 2002 to convene the Fifth Session of the Hungarian Standing Conference.

* Recognise the importance of the mutually shared interests and responsibility towards the relationship between Hungary and the Hungarians beyond the borders, thus strengthening the equality and mutual respect among organisations, resulting in the reinforced commitment and free practice of the national identity.

* Based on their responsibility felt towards the entire Hungarian nation affirm their commitment to enhance co-operation with regard to strategic issues of key importance such as the demographic trends shaping the future of the Hungarian population, the improvement of the living standards, and urge MÁÉRT to contribute to finding solutions to the above mentioned issues and support the governments measures aiming to these ends.

The participants of the session agreed, that

1. Expressed their satisfaction over the reinforced relations between Hungary and the Hungarian communities outside Hungary. They support the Hungarian government to fulfil the goals contained in the Law on the Hungarians in the Neighbouring Countries through dialogue with the respective governments of the neighbouring countries.

Based on the half year experience of the functioning of the Law on the Hungarians in the Neighbouring Countries, Hungary's international commitments and the recommendations of the Venice Commission, in order to facilitate the smooth implementation of the Law the participants take notice of the necessity of the amendment. They attach great significance to the institutional structure of MÁÉRT in reviewing the proposals connected to the amendment, and in order to formulate a common position they urge the forthcoming MÁÉRT session to put this issue on its agenda to provide the concerned parties with the opportunity to contribute to the elaboration of mutually acceptable solutions that are also in line with the European norms and the adequate international practice.

2. They welcome the commitment of the Hungarian government expressed in its platform to continue all existing, working forms of assistance and support favourable for the Hungarians abroad.

They support the intention of the government to provide the opportunity for the organisations of the Hungarians abroad to be involved in the decision making on issues they are directly affected by, including the strengthening of cultural and linguistic identity, the cultivation of traditions and the support of opportunities for remaining in the homeland.

They agree with further extensions of certain elements of the benefit systems based on the practical experience of the Benefit Law. They attach great importance to increasing the level of support and greater transparency. They welcome and support the intention to take the opinion of the legitimate Hungarian organisations from abroad into consideration when formulating the directions and priorities of the future benefits and assistance.

They welcome the steps taken to facilitate and restore the Hungarian language higher education system abroad and agree on common future efforts required to achieve these goals. They support the Hungarian government to conduct talks with the representatives of the respective countries to ensure the conditions necessary for this.

3. They find it needful that the main emphasis and support should be devoted to those forms of co-operation, which open long-term perspectives for prosperity of certain regions to ensure the desire of the Hungarians living abroad to stay in their homeland. Cross border co-operation, the co-operation of euroregions, Hungarian and international investments and the enhancement of bilateral and multilateral business ties belong among these efforts. Also in this respect they look forward with optimism to the European Union membership of Hungary and other countries, which will have a benevolent impact even beyond the new member countries.

4. They welcome the intention of the government to found the 'Endre Ady-scholarship', aiming to help the high quality education of the elementary and high school students in their homeland, with special focus on the disadvantages of those living in sporadic communities.

They also welcome the initiative of the government to establish the House of the Hungarian Nation, that intends to provide worthy conditions to maintain and showcase the cultural and historic reminiscences of the Hungarians and to contribute to strengthen the national identity and the feeling of belonging to a common cultural heritage.

Along the main ideas of MÁÉRT, they support professional, thematic programs such as the meeting 'Talented Hungarians', the meeting of successful CEOs called 'Prosperous Hungarians' and the meeting of Hungarian churches to examine their role in the development of the Hungarian nation urged by the co-operation of Hungary-based organisations and the organisations of the ethnic Hungarians abroad.

The participants agree that the details of the initiatives of the government should be discussed by the expert-level committees of MÁÉRT.

5. They find it highly important, that the representatives of the Hungarians outside the Carpathian-Basin, 'Western Hungarians' – who also supported the Law on the Hungarians in the Neighbouring Countries –, take part in the Hungarian-Hungarian dialogue, thus demonstrating their affection for the Hungarian nation. They agree to take continued steps in order to create institutional ties and to strengthen the practical aspects of co-operation.

6. They express their satisfaction with fact that Hungary's EU accession reached its final stage and welcome the achievements in this area. They think it is a priority to inform the organisations of the Hungarians abroad about those issues arising during the accession talks which they are affected by, and have a say in these matters, which contributes to find mutually acceptable solutions.

7. They welcome and support Hungary's intention to enhance co-operation with the neighbouring countries, to give new impetus to the co-operation of Visegrad countries, which creates new opportunities for co-ordinated efforts along the lines of common interests, strengthening the development and the stability of the region, creating better opportunities for the inhabitants of the region, including members of the Hungarian communities.

8. They support the efforts of the countries of the region intending to join the Euro-Atlantic organisations. Anew, they express their interest in Hungary's neighbours shortly becoming members of NATO, which would strengthen the stability of the region and thus contribute to the acceleration of the socio-economic progress, and the proper practical treatment of minorities in harmony with the European standards.

Similarly, they support the aspirations of the countries of the region to become members of the European Union. The participating representatives of the organisations of the Hungarians abroad express their conviction anew, that their co-operation with the political forces committed

to idea of the Euro-Atlantic integration corresponds with the interests of the Hungarian communities represented by them and also the citizens belonging to the majority populations.

July 17, 2002, Budapest

Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania – Béla Markó
Hungarian Coalition Party (in Slovakia) – Béla Bugár
Hungarian Alliance in Voivodina – József Kasza
Hungarian Democratic Party in Voivodina – András Ágoston
Democratic Community of Hungarians in Croatia – Sándor Jakab
Hungarian Cultural Association in Subcarpathia – Miklós Kovács
Hungarian Democratic Alliance in Ukraine – Mihály Tóth
Alliance of Hungarians in Croatia – József Csörgits
Hungarian National Self-Governmental Community of Muravidék – György Tomka
World Federation of Hungarians – Tibor Léh
Hungarian Human Rights Foundation – László Hámos
Federation of Hungarian National Organizations in Northern and Western Europe – Ernő Deák
FUEN – József Komlóssy
Hungarian Democratic Forum – Iván Bába
Fidesz – Hungarian Civic Party – Zsolt Németh
Government of the Republic of Hungary – Elemér Kiss
Hungarian Socialist Party – László Kovács
Alliance of Free Democrats – Mátyás Eörsi

9. Final Statement of the Sixth Session of the Hungarian Standing Conference (Budapest, 17 November 2002)

The Hungarian Standing Conference (HSC) held its regular session in Budapest on 17 November 2002. In the spirit of earlier meetings, the participants had a sincere and open dialogue on developments affecting the fate of Hungarian communities living in the various countries. Members of the Standing Conference reaffirmed that the contacts and cooperation between Hungarians in various parts of the world serve not only to enhance the sense of their common Hungarian identity, but also to consummate the European practice of democracy and solidarity, and to respect and develop good neighbourly relations which strengthen regional security and cooperation.

Members of the Standing Conference expressed satisfaction that in accordance with the consensus decision of the Conference, the Government [of Hungary] conducted substantive negotiations with the various organizations of Hungarians living beyond the country's borders, as well as with the parliamentary parties in Hungary, on amending the Act on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries. They agreed that the Government should submit to Parliament the proposed amendment which preserves the original objectives of the Act, and expands upon them to the extent possible for the kin-state, while ensuring that it meets international requirements in line with the European practice of minority protection, thus serving the interest of the Hungarian communities concerned, and is also in harmony with the purpose of enhancing good neighbourly relations to serve the interests of the region and Europe as a whole. An ad hoc committee consisting of the participants of the Standing Conference formulated the principles to be observed in drafting the amendment, which are annexed to the Final Statement. In the event that a substantive deviation from the mutually agreed proposal of the amendment should become necessary, the members of the Standing Conference are convinced that a new meeting of the Standing Conference Experts Committee should be convened to consider the changes.

[The members] expressed support for the [Hungarian] Government's efforts to secure the conditions for implementing the Act through bilateral negotiations – and where necessary and possible – through agreements with neighbouring countries.

The participants of the Standing Conference heard presentations on a number of ideas concerning cooperation in the various fields of Hungarian-Hungarian relations. They agreed that discussion should continue on the coordination of programs within the working committees of the Standing Conference, with special emphasis on involving the communities concerned in the preparation and development of particularly important projects. The Standing Conference's members emphasized the importance of ensuring the availability of financial resources to fund the projects thus prepared and developed.

The participants of the Standing Conference expressed their support for the process of European Union accession and preparation for membership. The opportunity for Hungary to join the European Union as a full-fledged member is a major and far-reaching event which serves the interest of all Hungarians. The participants of the Standing Conference support the need to amend the Constitution [of Hungary] in connection with the legal harmonization requirement of the European Union in the knowledge that the constitutional responsibility of the Republic of Hungary for Hungarians living beyond its borders will not diminish but increase to the extent possible after Hungary's accession to the European Union. European Union accession will be a historic opportunity for the advancement of Hungary, for the strengthening of the common cultural and linguistic identity of Hungarians, and for the renewal of the sense of national solidarity and cohesion in a European context. In this regard, the conference participants find important and express their support for the efforts of other countries in the region to seek full integration in the structures of Euro-Atlantic and European co-operation. They agree that the Hungarian communities living in the countries concerned – Slovakia, Slovenia and Romania – should play an active role in supporting the process of integration, and express their interest in the further development of minority rights within the European Union.

The Standing Conference participants consider it a common goal to ensure that the Hungarian government and the organizations representing Hungarians in the countries concerned find the solutions necessary to guarantee that the assumption and faithful execution of the responsibilities deriving from Hungary's European Union membership will not create new dividing lines, and that states with various dynamics of development will receive assistance and the opportunity to overcome their shortcomings, and thus have a real opportunity to join the European cooperation process. In developing relations with the countries bordering the European Union, the participants consider it especially important to strengthen the major pillars of European progress, namely, to ensure the freest possible flow of people, ideas and goods. It is in this manner that the participants find the possibilities to implement the Schengen border regime in a way that will ensure the security of the member states, and also establish the pre-conditions to natural human contacts and economic co-operation. The participants of the Standing Conference will continue to do their utmost to ensure that their countries will work for the elimination of visa requirements.

The participants welcome the intention of the Government [of Hungary] to convene a special session of the Standing Conference in Spring 2003, the primary purpose of which will be to draft joint recommendations in connection with Hungary's accession to the European Union, designed to successfully enhance Hungarian-Hungarian contacts under the new circumstances.

The participants of the Standing Conference welcome the steps taken by Romania – resulting from the consistent efforts of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania to represent the interests of the Hungarian community – in the interest of returning nationalized lands, forest and real properties, including the creation of the necessary legal framework to settle the issue of Church properties.

The participants of the Standing Conference find it important that members of the larger Hungarian communities, by establishing a common platform, are able to utilize the means of democracy to achieve the effective representation of community interests. They welcome the fact that the Hungarian Coalition Party has again assumed a significant role in the new governing coalition of Slovakia, and that, from this government position, it will be able to make an effective contribution so that the Slovak Republic achieves her goals regarding Euro-Atlantic and European co-operation.

The Standing Conference expresses the hope that Slovakia will intensify its efforts in the future as well to fully comply with its commitments to international organizations, with special reference to the Council of Europe.

The participants of the Standing Conference welcome the establishment of the Hungarian National Council, which will play a major role in the realization of minority self-government for the Hungarians of Voivodina, vital to the future of the community.

The participants of the Standing Conference welcome the efforts by members of the United States Congress to ensure that in the process of NATO enlargement the member states urge, and closely monitor, fulfilment of the legitimate requirements of Hungarian minority communities in the candidate countries, as an important measure of a democratic society.

The participants support the preparation of a professional sociological survey on Hungarians in the Western countries, conducted with the involvement and participation of those concerned, which can enhance the creation of institutional contacts between Hungary and Hungarians living in Western countries.

The members of the Standing Conference consider it the joint responsibility and task of both the mother country and the Hungarian national communities outside Hungary to achieve a substantial reversal in the negative demographic trend of the past decades by creating the conditions necessary for Hungarians to remain in their own homeland. They welcome the intention of the Government [of Hungary] to utilize the economic benefits resulting from Hungary's accession to the European Union to develop long-term strategies – with the involvement of the organizations representing Hungarians abroad – to increase Hungarian participation in business ventures and the process of privatisation in neighbouring countries. The participants re-affirm that in the coming years this will be the most important objective, the achievement of which can no longer be delayed, and which requires disagreements to be set aside, a common resolve, joint efforts and the search for new solutions.

Budapest, 17 November 2002

Organizations Signing the Concluding Document:

Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania – Béla Markó

Hungarian Coalition Party (in Slovakia) – Béla Bugár

Hungarian Alliance in Voivodina – József Kasza

Hungarian Democratic Party in Voivodina – András Ágoston

Hungarian Democratic Alliance in Ukraine – Mihály Tóth

Hungarian Cultural Association in Subcarpathia – Miklós Kovács

Democratic Community of Hungarians in Croatia – Sándor Jakab

Alliance of Hungarians in Croatia – József Csörgits

Hungarian National Self-Governmental Community of Muravidék – György Tomka

Hungarian Human Rights Foundation – László Hámos, Tamás Papp

Federation of Hungarian National Organizations in Northern and Western Europe – Ernő Deák

FUEN – József Komlóssy
Hungarian Socialist Party – Gábor Hárs
Fidesz – Hungarian Civic Party – Zsolt Németh
Hungarian Democratic Forum – Miklós Csapody
Alliance of Free Democrats – Mátyás Eörsi
Government of the Republic of Hungary – Vilmos Szabó

Principles Drafted and for Support Suggested by the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts Responsible for Developing a Common Position of the Participants of the Standing Conference on Recommendations and Comments Relating to the Proposed Amendment of the Act on Hungarians Living in Neighboring Countries

1. Concerning the issue of educational assistance, the Committee:

- supports the expansion of the educational assistance to families with only one child;
- establishes as a basic rule that the beneficiary of the assistance is the child by way of application submitted by parent or legal representative;
- adopts the proposal of the Hungarian Coalition Party that recipient of the assistance may also be the parents' or teachers' association which functions alongside the respective educational institution;
- proposes that the provisions regarding the forwarding procedure be removed from the Act, and that this question be regulated at the level of procedural legislative acts.

2. Concerning the issue of employment, the Committee:

- supports language combining the current versions of text into one, as follows: 'General rules concerning the authorisation of employment of foreign nationals in Hungary shall be applied to the employment on the territory of the Republic of Hungary of persons falling within the scope of this Act. Derogation from the general rules may be provided for by international treaty'.

3. Concerning the subjects of the Act, the Committee:

- agrees that the subjects of the Act are defined under Section 1 of the Act;
- agrees that entitlement to receive benefits and assistance shall consist of possession of the 'Hungarian Certificate' or the 'Hungarian Relative's Certificate'.

4. Concerning the procedure for issuance of the 'Hungarian Certificate' and the 'Hungarian Relative's Certificate', the Committee:

- agrees that the Hungarian Government will regulate this matter at the level of executive orders by determining, in each case, the identity of organizations having a role in the practical implementation procedure after consultation with representatives of the relevant member organizations of the Standing Conference.

Budapest, 17 November 2002

10. Final Statement of the Seventh Session of the Hungarian Standing Conference
(Budapest, 24 May 2003)

In the name of Hungary and of the Hungarian national communities, the participants of the seventh session of the Hungarian Standing Conference welcome the signature of the Treaty of Accession of the Republic of Hungary to the European Union on 16 April, 2003 in Athens as an event of historic significance which paves the way for reuniting the Hungarians within the European framework.

The representatives of Hungary and of the Hungarians living abroad consider the accession to the European Union as the realisation of the long expressed efforts of the Hungarians which – beside

the cultural, economic and political rise of the nation – provides an opportunity for Hungarians to come together again. They welcome the fact that the Republic of Slovakia and the Republic of Slovenia will become members of the European Union together with Hungary, and that Romania and Croatia also have a good chance to gain Union membership.

On the occasion of this very important event, the members of the Hungarian Standing Conference – remembering the final statement of the first Hungarian-Hungarian Conference in 1996 – reaffirm their determination to support the efforts of all countries neighbouring Hungary to join the Euro-Atlantic and European co-operation process. They also welcome the admission of Serbia-Montenegro as a member to the Council of Europe, which paves the way for that country's full participation in European cooperation. They welcome and support the long-term commitment of Ukraine to achieve democracy and firmly join European structures. In this respect, they declare once again that their common goal is the full-fledged participation of Hungary and other countries in the European cooperation process, a participation which will at the same time help other countries with differing dynamics of development to overcome their inherited disadvantages. Moreover, their mutual goal is that the fulfilment of all obligations in connection with EU membership shall be accompanied by the strengthening of the stability and all-round development of the region, and especially the improvement of freedom-rights – which can be summed up as the free flow of people, ideas and goods – and which are the basic pillars of European development.

The members of the Hungarian Standing Conference consider a historical opportunity the fact that Hungarians can determine their future within the framework of the European Union, as an active participant of one of the most important regions of the world. In this future, we shall all be citizens of the European Union, and it is therefore our natural aspiration and wish that all Hungarians be winners of the accession to the European Union. This requires dialogue, consensus, and politics based on mutual respect. In this effort we continuously wish to count upon the Hungarian communities living in the West, and on the devoted work of their representatives. Their support proved to be useful in representing the 'Hungarian issue' and keeping attention focused on it. The Hungarian Standing Conference greatly appreciates the efforts made by the Hungarians living in the West in resolving matters crucial to the survival of the Hungarian communities living abroad, thus helping draw the attention of the international community to the 'Hungarian issue'.

Europe knows the history of the Hungarians and recognizes their values. Our history, language, culture, and the achievements of our science, the values created by us, our ambitions and talent also enrich Europe as a whole. Hungary – as an equal member of the European Union – must make her voice heard on all important issues. Outstanding among these is the matter of the European minorities and primarily the matter of the Hungarians living abroad. The progress of the Hungarians is hence a European interest. Our responsibility for each other is a European obligation.

The participants of the Hungarian Standing Conference – recognising the importance of the co-ordination and strategic planning of the activities connected with the younger generations as a particularly crucial element of the desire of the Hungarians living abroad to stay in their homeland – propose the creation of a Youth Division operating within the framework of the Hungarian Standing Conference.

Next to the assertion of minority rights, they consider the economic strengthening of these communities equally important with regard to the survival of the Hungarian communities living abroad. In this regard, the Hungarian Government – making use of the possibilities provided by EU membership and in accordance with them – places special emphasis on deepening regional co-operation with the neighbouring countries, developing cross-border infrastructure, and spreading the achievements of informatics. In this connection, they regard as positive steps in the right

direction all those governmental measures – including aid in participating in the privatisation process – which, in line with the efforts of the Hungarian communities abroad, promote their remaining in their native land by creating new jobs through investments and other means.

The participants of the Hungarian Standing Conference consider the Act on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries as a document aimed to promote the prosperity of the Hungarian communities, to strengthen the national identity and the belonging to a common cultural heritage, the assumption of responsibility for each other, and the creation of national solidarity in a European spirit, as well as an instrument to achieve these efforts in practice.

The representatives of the Hungarians living abroad and of Hungary present at the Conference bear in mind Hungary's efforts, in connection with the Act on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries, to ensure that the implementation of the Act shall serve the realisation of its basic goals in accordance with the principles of international law and standard European solutions, and respect for the sovereignty of the neighbouring countries concerned. In this effort, Hungary has enjoyed the full confidence and support of the responsible representatives of the Hungarian communities abroad.

The representatives of the Hungarian Standing Conference discussed the draft amendment of the Act on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries. Expressing their views, they agreed, that

- the original aims of the Act – to preserve the identity of Hungarians living abroad and to promote their remaining in their homeland – shall be preserved;
- the Act must ensure more opportunities for the well-being and prosperity of Hungarians in their native land;
- the Act shall also remain in force after Hungary and other states become members of the European Union;
- the importance of the Hungarian Certificate shall by no means be impaired.

The representatives of the political parties of the Hungarian Parliament and the Government of the Republic of Hungary – complying with the request of the Hungarian organisations abroad – declare that they will amend the Act along the lines of the principles which enjoy the support of the Hungarian Standing Conference.

Organizations Signing the Concluding Document:

Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania – Béla Markó

Hungarian Coalition Party (in Slovakia) – Béla Bugár

Hungarian Alliance in Voivodina – József Kasza

Hungarian Democratic Alliance in Ukraine – István Gajdos

Democratic Community of Hungarians in Croatia – Sándor Jakab

Alliance of Hungarians in Croatia – József Csörgits

Federation of Hungarian Associations in Croatia – Sándor Juhász

Hungarian National Self-Governmental Community of Muravidék – György Tomka

Hungarian Human Rights Foundation – Balázs Gulyás

Federation of Hungarian National Organizations in Northern and Western Europe – Ernő Deák

Western Region of the World Federation of Hungarians – Tibor Léh

Hungarian American Republican National Federation – István Gereben

Hungarian League in France (Paris) for Human and Citizen's Rights – Tibor Méray

Hungarian Socialist Party – Csaba Tabajdi

Hungarian Democratic Forum – Ibolya Dávid

Alliance of Free Democrats – Mátyás Eörsi

Government of the Republic of Hungary – László Kovács