

Loránt Vincze: The EU should become the guardian of minority rights

„The EU should become the guardian of the existing minority rights at the level of the member states. A provision equally important for minorities with a strong status and many achievements, and those who achieved some rights, but the political majorities can easily undo the so called concessions. The Council of Europe has done a great job in the last decade, a tremendous effort to create a minority legislation. This should become the basis of an EU framework for minority protection.” – declared **Loránt Vincze**, the Foreign Secretary of RMDSZ and Vice-President of FUEN, at an international seminar on Best language Practices in Europe, organized in Helsinki, held by The Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD).

In his speech, Vincze elaborated the differences between various minority groups in Europe, emphasizing the fact that due to communism, Europe used to be divided into two parts. According to Vincze, in Western Europe after the Second World War minorities and majority started a peaceful cooperation process, resulting in minorities having important achievements regarding their status and protection. In a sharp contrast, in Central and Eastern Europe as well as the Balkans, fifty years of communism created tremendous inequality between majority and minority, and in many cases caused forced assimilation of the minority communities. In his view, a restoration process started after the fall of the communism, but it is not easy to rebuild a society, to build-up democracy, the rule of law, and minority protection system.

For that reason, Vincze called for the support in the name of “minorities from the less lucky part of Europe” launching a strong appeal to strengthen “our minority solidarity, we have to point out together that having double standards in human rights and minority rights is not acceptable in the European Union. We consider that minority rights, language rights, language diversity is part of the basic human rights.”- said Vincze.



Loránt Vincze, the Foreign Secretary of RMDSZ and Vice-President of FUEN thinks the EU should become the guardian of minority rights

The new education law will impair minority rights in Romania

According to the draft bill of the new law on education, children belonging to minority groups in Romania would have to study Romanian as a foreign language only in the first four years of school and teaching geography and history would be possible solely in Romanian.

Senator **Béla Markó** declared that in its current form the law contains elements that would represent a serious step back in regard to minority rights in education that were achieved in the last two decades. The new draft bill that is being submitted to the education committee of the Senate, contains elements that represent a setback even to the existing law of education that allows minority pupils to study

history and geography in their mother tongue. As a result, RMDSZ strongly opposes the relevant passages of the draft bill.



Senator Béla Markó declared that the new draft bill on education will impair the rights of children belonging to minority groups in Romania