



27.07.2009

In the attention of: **Network of Associations of Local Authorities in South-East Europe – NALAS**

To: **Tarzan MILOSEVIC, President of NALAS**

Dear Sir,

On the behalf of the Association of Romanian Communes it is a great pleasure for me to announce the decision of our association to apply for becoming a full member of the Network of Associations of Local Authorities in South-East Europe (NALAS). We are fully aware about the importance of this organization at the regional and European level and about the responsibilities which we will face when we will become members. I would like to assure you that we will do our best to fulfill those responsibilities.

We intend to become more active in the Balkans and to represent much better the interests of rural municipalities in regional activities and we are considering that through NALAS we can create very well the framework for this. Also, our intention is also to try to put more focus on rural areas' interests inside the network and to create a working group focus on this issue.

I hope that we can count on your full support in the process of accession and I am confident that our association will be able to become as soon as possible member of NALAS.

I would also like to renew my invitation to participate, together with the Executive director of NALAS, at the General Assembly of our association, held in Mamaia (near Constanta), between 2-5 August 2009. The cost of the accommodation and meals will be cover by A.Co.R.

In the Annex of this letter you will find a short description of the Association of the Romanian Communes.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely yours,

Emil Draghici

President

ANNEX

Romanian Association of Communes (A.Co.R.) was founded in 1997 at the initiative of a group of mayors from commune level (local authorities with population varying between 100 and 16.000 inhabitants, with a medium size of 5.000 inhabitants) convinced that together they can promote their interests in a much more effective way. Out of a total of 2876 communes in Romania, our association has 1834 members. Romanian rural population represents 47.7% of the total Romanian population; the members of association represent two thirds of the rural population and around 30% of the total population.

The mission of the association is to create a tighter relation between local authorities from communes' level by promoting the ideals and principles stipulated in the European Charter for Local Self-government that offers real administrative and financial powers for the local levels.

The main purpose of the association is to represent the specific interests of the communes in the relation with the other parties (central government and institutions, other associations of local authorities from Romania and worldwide, European institutions and organizations). To fulfill this purpose the association was involved in the following activities:

- The active participation to the improvement of the existing legislation, according to the Constitution of Romania and to the European Charta of Local Autonomy;
- Strengthening the position of ACoR as a dialogue partner of the Romanian Government, Parliament, Presidency and other central institutions in order to support the local authorities in their activities;
- Organizing its own training activities and improving the expertise of local elected officials, public officials and other categories of personnel belonging to local government;
- Promoting forms of collaboration and mutual support among the members of the Association;
- Organizing specialists' bodies and policy commissions to analyze and offer solutions in solving the specific problems of the public administration and local communities;
- Unique representation of the local communities' common interests within the relations with the central public administration, non-governmental organizations and third parties;
- Representation of communes' interests in the European institutions (Chamber of Local Authorities of CoE and the Committee of Regions);
- Organizing information and databases concerning the local public administration.

Association of Romanian Communes is recognized by the Council of Europe and it is represented in the Romanian delegation in the Chamber of Local and Regional Authorities of the CoE (1 delegate and 2 alternate delegates). A.Co.R. is also represented in the Committee of Regions (3 members and 3 alternate members). In May 2006 the Association of Romanian Communes became first Romanian member of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), an umbrella organization of the associations of local authorities from the European countries.