

# The Aromanian Community from Romania Fara Armâneascã dit Romania

## **REPORT** **on the activity of the “Aromanian Community from Romania”** **Association** **between 2004 and 2007**

The hereby Activity Report reflects the mission undertaken by our organization, the way we have put into practice the principles of the organization, the projects performed by us on the fulfillment of the objectives set as well as the relationships developed with various partners – non-governmental organizations, national, European and international institutions.

The Report describes the activity carried out by the “Aromanian Community from Romania” Association between 2004 and 2007 regarding the cultural activities and projects, the finances received from the state budget, the increase in the number of members and the development of the human resources.

A special focus is put on the actions taken in the relationship with the state institutions for the fulfillment of the objectives set.

### **The Aromanian Community from Romania – objectives, mission**

The Aromanian Community from Romania is aware that when the identity of a people is not well shaped and strong enough, the respective people could leave the stage of history. All the peoples who lost their definition and identity have been taken over by nations which clearly, strongly and effectively affirmed their identity. Definitely, any nation that does not preserve and promote its identity is doomed to have a historical disappearance.

The Aromanian Community from Romania has taken over the historical challenge for affirming the identity of the Aromanian people as a separate people from any other people and has undertaken the mission to save from disappearance the Aromanian language, traditions and the entire Aromanian spiritual and cultural features, the only action that could preserve, develop and affirm the Aromanian’s own identity being the *de jure* **acknowledgement and also the registration as a national minority.**

The members of the Aromanian Community from Romania adopted – on **April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005** – during the General Assembly, the document called “**Vrearea a Armănjlor**”, which describes the decision to preserve and develop the Aromanian language, the Aromanian traditions and culture within an institutionalized framework and also the *de jure* registration of the Aromanian as a national minority in Romania.

For such purpose, in accordance with the objectives stipulated by the Bylaws of the Aromanian Community, various actions and activities have been conducted between 2004 and 2007 both internally and internationally.

## **THE YEAR 2004**

The year 2004 was an especially important moment for the Aromanian Community from Romania, as the year when the Aromanians’ intention to preserve and promote their identity, to claim the social and cultural rights granted to people belonging to national minorities has been reaffirmed.

So, on **January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004** the activity for the organization of the Aromanians’ community living in Romania took place in Slobozia and the **Declaration of Slobozia** was adopted then.

This is a very important document for the Aromanian Community from Romania, which affirms the decision regarding the organization based on community principles, with central and local representation, as well as the cooperation with the states institutions in charge with the implementation of social and cultural rights for the development of the Aromanian language and culture.

In 2004, the Aromanian Community from Romania started a process for the expansion of its representativeness at national level, and in **November** the **Constanta Subsidiary of the Aromanian Community from Romania** was established.

On **June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004**, CARo took part in the organization of the meeting for the Aromanian businessmen in the Republic of Macedonia and Romania. The even took place in Bucharest and was part of the project for the development and consolidation of the economic exchanges among the border areas of the European Union, the other member states and the candidate countries.

The **first edition of the “Days of the Aromanian Culture”** event took place in 2004, in Constanta, on **August 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

During these manifestations, were performed contemporary arts exhibitions, projections of documentaries, theatre shows and old traditional Aromanian music shows as well as poetry recitals.

Moreover, a seminar with the topic “**Contemporary Aromanian Literature**” was organized and various personalities in the country and abroad participated to this event.

### **The development of human resources**

In 2004, the number of members of the Aromanian Community from Romania increased significantly, in comparison with the previous years.

Therefore, a total number of **1,186** requests were filed and approved in each subsidiary; the evolution in the number of members is clearly presented in the table below:

<b>Subsidiary</b>	<b>Number of registered members</b>	<b>Total members on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004</b>
Bucharest	208	208
Constanta	303	436
Tulcea	280	280
Ialomita	245	245
Calarasi	150	150
<b>TOTAL CARo</b>	<b>1.186</b>	<b>1.319</b>

## **THE YEAR 2005**

For fulfilling its purposes and objectives, in 2005 the Aromanian Community from Romania took various actions requesting the creation and development of an effective institutional dialogue for obtaining the protection measures granted to people belonging to national minorities.

In 2005, during the General Assembly of **April 16<sup>th</sup>**, the members of the Aromanian Community from Romania adopted a very important document called “**Vrearea a Armănjlor**” (Will/desire of the Aromanians).

In this document, they decided to **de jure register the Aromanian Community as a national minority** and to do every formality necessary for the fulfillment of this desire.

Moreover, this document indicates the decision regarding the preservation and promotion of the Aromanian language, of the Aromanian traditions and

culture within a institutionalized framework, so that all the members in the Aromanian Community could benefit from the protection measures granted to the people belonging to national minorities.

## **I. Internal actions**

Internally, the following institutions have received petitions:

### **1. The Romanian Government – Mr. Calin Popescu Tariceanu – Prime Minister**

The Aromanian Community from Romania addressed the Prime Minister and asked for the development of a direct dialogue for the “promotion of the identity within the context of multiculturalism” (**address no. 11/April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005**), the allotment of the “sums necessary for the organization and operation of the <<Aromanian Community in Romania>> Association”, from the state budget (**address no. 17/7233/April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005**). Moreover, the establishment of an audience with the Prime Minister was requested (**address no. 17/9427/June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005**).

### **2. The Romanian Government – the Department for Interethnic Relations (DRI)**

Taking into account the attributions of this body, in the field of interethnic relations, the DRI was invested by CARo with numerous petitions, requesting mostly the amendment of the Government Resolution no. 589/2001 regarding the establishment of the National Minority Council (**address no. 17/April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005**).

CARo addressed the Department for Interethnic Relations for the establishment of a direct and transparent dialogue with the DRI representatives (**address no. 784/April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005**) and for an audience (**address no. 1104/June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005**).

Moreover, the DRI was informed – through **address no. 55/September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005** regarding the provisions stipulated by the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and their application in Romania.

### **3. The National Minority Council (CMN)**

The National Minority Council **is a body made up of representatives of the** national minority organizations; therefore in 2005 CARo addressed requests to it, for the amendment of the Government Resolution no. 589/2001 regarding the establishment of the National Minority Council (**address no. 16/April 20<sup>th</sup>,**

2005), as well as for the development of a transparent and effective dialogue for the promotion of the Aromanian identity (**address no. 784/April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005**).

#### **4. The Ministry of Education and Research (MEC)**

The Aromanian Community in Romania requested the Ministry of Education and Research to amend its budget for providing the financial and logistical support necessary for the creation of an educational body specialized on the Aromanian language, culture and history (**address no. 13/April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005**). Moreover, CARo expressed its desire to create and develop a transparent and effective dialogue with the representatives of the Ministry of Education and Research for the promotion of the Aromanian identity (**address no. 17074/April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005**), requesting also an audience with the Minister of education and research (**address no. 17795/June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005**).

#### **5. The Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs (MCC)**

The Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs received the request to support the financing of the “Armanamea” monthly publication (**address no. 12/April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005**), the development of a transparent and effective dialogue with the representatives of the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs (**address no. 7040/April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005**), as well as for an audience (**address no. 7475/June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005**).

**6. The Ministry of Public Finance (MFP)** – CARo addressed this authority and requested the inclusion in the state budget for 2005 of the income and expense budget of the Aromanian Community in Romania (**address no. 41190/June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005**).

#### **7. The Romanian Broadcasting Society (SRR)**

The Aromanian Community in Romania filed with the broadcasting public service requests regarding the daily allotment of a space segment during a show in Aromanian, the creation of an effective dialogue with the SRR, as well as an audience for the direct exposure of the CARo requests (**address no. 15/April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006**, **address no. A790/April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005**, **address no. 208/June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005**).

#### **8. The Romanian Television Society (SRTv)**

The Romanian Television Society received requests regarding the daily allotment of a space segment for a show in Aromanian (**address no. 14/April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005**), the development of an effective and transparent dialogue with SRTv

(address no. 1039/April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005), as well as for an audience (address no. 1473/June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005).

Moreover, in 2005 the Aromanian Community in Romania addressed also to:

- the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Mr. Teodor Baconschi – State Secretary**, requesting debates on the critical status of the Aromanian language during the international conference on the topic “The European Day of the Languages in Romania”, which took place on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005 (address no. 56/September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005).

- the **Romanian Presidency – the Constitutional-Legislative Department – Mrs. Renate Weber – Presidential Counselor** regarding the application – by Romania – of the provisions stipulated by the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (address no. 57/September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005).

- the **Information Bureau of the Council of Europe in Romania** (address no. 54/September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005).

## **II. The result of the actions taken**

Although the requests made by CARo have a legitimate and constitutional character and have in view only the acknowledgement of our characteristic values and the specific ethnical identity, many of the requests sent to the state institutions have received no answer.

Therefore, we have received the following answers:

### **1. The Romanian Government – the Department for Interethnic Relations (DRI)**

The Department for Interethnic Relations informed us that “*in Romania there are no procedures for the acknowledgement of an ethnical community as a national minority*” and that “*DRI cannot answer your request, meaning the inclusion of the Aromanian minority on the list of national minorities in Romania, which has to be done by the Romanian Parliament*” (address no. 965/May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005).

### **2. The Ministry of Education and Research (MEC)**

Through its answer dated **October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005**, MEC informed us that “*MEC is not in charge with the acknowledgement of a national minority*” and that “*The recommendation 1333/1997 made by the Council of Europe does not grant the quality of ethnical minority, but of linguistic community distinct at European level*” (address no. 19734).

### **3. The Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs (MCC)**

The answer given by the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs shows that “MCC does not have the legal attributes in order to register a community as a legal minority in Romania”, that “The recommendation no. 1333/1997, made by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, does not impose the member states of the European Union or other states to acknowledge the status of national minority for the Aromanian population” and that “the presentation of the opinion of the Department for Interethnic Relations is absolutely necessary for adopting a position for the acknowledgement of the status of national minority for the Aromanian community,” (**address no. 2423/10.06.2005**).

#### **4. The Ministry of Public Finance (MFP)**

The answer sent by the Ministry of Public Finance – to the request addressed by CARo – through **address no. 144201/July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005**, the answer of the Department for Interethnic Relations, according to which “The Aromanian Community in Romania does not fulfill the necessary conditions for benefiting from sums allotted from the state budget”.

#### **5. The Romanian Broadcasting Society (SRR)**

The Romanian Broadcasting Society informed us that “each week the Constanta Regional Studio broadcasts a show of 45 minutes, which is focused on the Aromanian language, tradition and culture” (**address no. 3640/May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005**).

Generally, we could note that from the answers received from the institutions we sent requests to, it results that we cannot benefit from the protection actions granted by them, because our organization is not registered as a national minority and therefore, it is not part of the National Minority Council.

In 2005, the **Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs** granted us a financial support for us to edit a monthly magazine called “**Armanamea**”, and the **Ministry of Education and Research** initiated the establishment of a mixed commission that helps the development of the optional classes in Aromanian language, indicating that we have to get the status of national minority.

### **III. Internal activities – participation in the public life**

**1. On September 27<sup>th</sup>**, the representatives of the Aromanian Community attended the debate called “**The European Day of Languages in Romania**”, which took place in Bucharest, when the critical status of the Aromanian language was brought up. During this conference, the draft of the law ratifying the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages was presented and launched for debates.

On this occasion, CARo gave a **Report on the Aromanian Language** to Mr. Philip Blair – Director of the Department of Cooperation for Local and Regional Democracy, Head of the Secretariat Office of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

Afterwards, this document was filed also with the European institutions promoting the human rights and the rights of the people belonging to national minorities.

2. In 2005, an action for cooperation/collaboration with the representatives of the political parties and members in the Parliament began and 64 deputies of Bucharest and the counties of Constanta, Ialomita, Calarasi and Tulcea were contacted. Following the sent requests, various meetings and debates took place between the delegates of the Aromanian Community and the delegates of the political parties.

3. Moreover, amendments to the **Bill no. 502/2005 regarding the status of the national minorities in Romania** were made, and this Bill is now being debated by the Chamber of Deputies.

4. In October, the representatives of the Aromanian Community met – in Bucharest – the delegation of the **Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the protection of National Minorities** and exposed the situation the people belonging to the Aromanian Community have to face, without being able to benefit from the protection granted by the Framework Convention to people belonging to national minorities.

The situation was included by the representatives of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the protection of National Minorities in the document called **The Second Advisory Endorsement for Romania**, adopted in Strasbourg on **November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005**, and which recommends the institutions to continue with the development of the supporting actions in order to preserve the Aromanians' culture and identity.

The same document points out that it is not understood why **the Aromanians have been considered as a sub-group of the Romania people, which were the criteria leading to the inclusion of the Aromanians in the majority group and if these people have ever been consulted.**

5. The year 2005 represented the most important development of the Aromanian Community in Romania as far as its representativeness is concerned, and 4 subsidiaries were established.

Therefore, - **the Ialomita subsidiary** was established in **February**, **the Calarasi subsidiary** – in **March**, **the Bucharest subsidiary** was established in **April** and **the Tulcea subsidiary** in **May**.



6. The bases of the **Aromanians' Council (Consiliul Armănjlor)** were laid, which is the national legal representative of all the Aromanians and of the Aromanian community. The creation of the **Aromanians' Council** is the only way to concentrate the Aromanians active forces in their effort to achieve a better representation in their relations with the national governments and the European institutions.

The mission of this body is to open ways of dialogue with the governments of the states having Aromanian citizens as well as with all the other European institutions for their acknowledgement as a separate people having its own identity.

Through all the objectives set, the **Aromanians' Council** intends to reinvigorate the Aromanians' feeling that they belong to their ethnic group and therefore to assure the continuity on the scene of the European history, also providing the opportunity for them to be regarded as one of the peoples with great spiritual and cultural wealth of this continent.

#### **IV. The development of the human resources**

As far as the human resources are concerned, in 2005 the Aromanian Community in Romania consolidated its representativeness regarding the number of its members.

The membership in the Aromanian Community in Romania is obtained through the express request made with each territorial subsidiary, and all the requests have to be confirmed by the Community Board of Directors.

Therefore, for the year 2005, the registrations of new members in each of the subsidiaries are as follows:

<b>Subsidiary</b>	<b>Number of registered members</b>	<b>Total number of members on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005</b>
Bucharest	294	502
Constanta	1773	2209
Tulcea	723	1003
Ialomita	150	395
Calarasi	55	205
<b>TOTAL number of CARo members</b>	<b>2,995</b>	<b>4,314</b>

#### **V. Cultural activities**

The Aromanian Community in Romania organized various cultural activities, the most important of them being the events and concerts pointing out

the Aromanian traditions and all the Aromanian features, especially the Aromanian music, dance and customs.

The most important manifestation organized by the Aromanian Community in 2005 was represented by **“The Days of the Aromanian Culture”**, event which took place in August and which included debates on really important topics regarding the current status of the Aromanians, art exhibitions (sculpture, photography), and also included concerts and shows highlighting the beauty and specific features of the Aromanian traditions and culture.

Moreover, in 2005 CARo attended various cultural activities and seminars, such as: “The FUEEN Reunion for minorities without a state” (Disentis – Switzerland, June 2005), the “Etni Fair – Play” International Festival taking place in Valenii de Munte, in May 2005; the “Sinaia Forever” Festival focused on the “Unity through diversity – multiculturalism” topic (Sinaia, October 2005).

## **THE YEAR 2006**

In 2006, the Aromanian Community reiterated some of the requests sent to the state institutions in 2005 and initiated some new actions, believing that the values of democracy and the trust in the virtues of the dialogue are constitutive elements of understanding and solving any kind of request sent by citizens to the state institutions, institutions especially created in order to protect them and to preserve their interests.

### **I. Internal actions**

#### **1. The National Council for Discrimination Control (CNCD)**

On **February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006**, CARo sent CNCD an address regarding the article called “The Aromanians are not a minority in Romania” published in the *Cuget Liber* newspaper on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005, article focused on creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading and offensive atmosphere both for the Aromanian Community representatives who want to preserve and make their specific identity known, and for the Aromanian Community in Romania (**address no. 0805/February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006**).

Through this address, CARo asks CNCD to find the circumstances surrounding the regulations on the prevention and sanctioning of the forms of discrimination and therefore to take the necessary actions against the authors of the article mentioned above.

The delay in the answer from the National Council for Discrimination Control made CARo send another address, requesting information on the status of the solving of the address mentioned above, registered with the CNCD (**address no. 2101/April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006**).

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006, CARo prepared and sent to CNCD a **complaint** against the Resolution no. 130/April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006 adopted by the CNCD Board of Directors, in which it decides that the situation notified by CARo cannot be regarded as being discriminatory (**address no. 3263/July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006**).

Following the complaint made, the CNCD Board of Directors decided to stick to the initial resolution, so on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006 the Aromanian Community in Romania registered the **address no. 5660/October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006** requesting information on the resolution deciding the maintaining of the Resolution no. 130/April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the Aromanian Community in Romania addressed the National Council for Discrimination Control, requesting it to propose the Government an amendment removing the discrimination generated by the application of the Government Resolution no. 589/2001 regarding the creation of the National Minority Council, reestablishing equality among the people belonging to national minorities, who are not represented in the Parliament and those who are represented in the Parliament (**address no. 0806/February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006**).

## **2. The Romanian Government – the Department for Interethnic Relations (DRI)**

In **address no. 300/February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006** CARo requests DRI to prepare a **normative deed** that removes the discrimination generated by the application of the Government Resolution no. 589/2001 regarding the creation of the National Minority Council, reestablishing the equality among people belonging to national minorities who are not represented in the Parliament and those who are represented in the Parliament.

Moreover, CARo requests DRI to prepare and submit to the Government for approval, strategies and policies for the preservation, affirmation and development of the ethnic identity of the people belonging to national minorities.

On **April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006** CARo returned to the request made and sent another **address, no. 24/882/AM/April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006** requesting the communication of the result of analysis conducted regarding the amendment of the Government Resolution no. 589/2001 or the preparation of a normative deed for such purpose.

CARo received no answer to these addresses, in due time, so that on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006, it sent another notice, registered under no. 300/February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006, asking for the resolution – in the term stipulated by art. 8, paragraph 1 of the

Government Ruling no. 27/2002 regarding the regulation of the petition resolving activity (**address no. 1414/June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006**).

Following the answers received, CARo requests – through **address registered under no. 2128/September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006** – information on the note prepared by DRI regarding the requests made by the Aromanian Community in Romania. Moreover, they requested: information on the date when this note was sent to the Government and if the Government has taken any action regarding the things mentioned in such note.

The note sent by DRI imposed the formulation by CARo of a new address pointing out the relevant elements had in view for the preparation of “The note regarding various problems related to the Community of the Aromanians in Romania”, which could lead to a fair resolution of the demands made by CARo (**address no. 2337/October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006**).

Moreover, **address no. 2338/October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006** was registered with DRI; it indicates that the “Aromanian Community in Romania” Association is not affiliated to the “Aromanians’ League in Romania” Federation, as indicated in the “The note regarding various problems related to the Community of the Aromanians in Romania” prepared by DRI.

### **3. The Romanian Government – the Prime Minister**

On **May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006** various documents that are extremely important for CARo were recorded under no. **5/3790** – resolution adopted during the Extraordinary General Assembly of May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006, the manifest of the Aromanian Community in Romania, as well as a document for the presentation of CARo – description, activities, actions, the result of the actions taken.

The situation the Aromanian Community in Romania is facing, the way the Government understands to treat the requests made by CARo, as well as the discrimination generated by the application of the Government Resolution no. 589/2001 regarding the creation of the National Minority Council were also exposed in the **Request** sent to the Prime Minister by Deputy Costica Canacheu regarding the principles assumed under the Governing Program – Chapter 25 “Policies in the field of interethnic relations” (**Request registered under no. 1616B/May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006**).

### **4. The Romanian Government – the Government General Secretariat**

CARo addressed the Government General Secretariat in order to point out relevant elements that were not taken into account by DRI for the preparation of “The note regarding various problems related to the Community of the

Aromanians in Romania”, which could lead to a fair resolution of the requests made by CARo (**address no. 1715995/October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006**).

**5. The Presidential Administration** – Mr. Traian Basescu – the Romanian President.

In **December 2006**, CARo filed with the Presidential Administration a **Memo** in which the Aromanian Community in Romania addresses the President for him to mediate – according to his role granted by art. 80, paragraph 2 of the Constitution – the dialogue between CARo and the state institutions authorized to support and solve the problems of his citizens, in order to overcome the existing communicational blockage.

Moreover, CARo requested a meeting in order to expose its problems through a direct dialogue.

The Memo addressed to President Traian Basescu **was registered on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006 under no. DPO 1061**.

#### **6. The Ministry of Education and Research (MEC)**

The Aromanian Community in Romania registered with MEC the **address no. 15550/February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006** regarding the study of the Aromanian language in areas where there are communities of Aromanian citizens and demands for such purpose. In this address, it requests the appointment of MEC representatives who could compose – together with the CARo representatives – a commission that follows up the requests for the study of Aromanian language as mother tongue.

#### **7. The Association for the Defense of Human Rights in Romania – the Helsinki Committee (APADOR-CH)**

In 2006, CARo addressed the APADOR-CH Association with a note regarding the article called “The Aromanians are not a minority in Romania”, published in the *Cuget Liber* newspaper on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005 (**address no. 101/February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006**). In this note, we ask APADOR-CH to observe that the attitude shown by the authors of the article mentioned above is the expression of some facts governed by the legislation that prohibits discrimination and therefore we asked it to take the actions required by such a situation.

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006, CARo sent the **address no. 102** requesting the help of APADOR-CH in the actions taken for the issuance of a normative deed that removes the discrimination generated by the application of the Government Resolution no. 589/2001 regarding the creation of the National Minority Council for the reestablishment of the equality among people belonging to national

minorities which are not represented in the Parliament and those which are represented in the Parliament.

For the requests sent to **The Association for the Defense of Human Rights in Romania – the Helsinki Committee**, CARo received no answer, so on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006 it sent **another address** requesting an answer to the addresses mentioned above and registered with APADOR-CH.

**8. The Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs (MCC)** – The Aromanian Community in Romania filed a project for obtaining finances from the MCC. The financing was requested for the organization of the “Days of the Aromanian Culture” 2006 edition.

## **II. The result of the actions taken**

In 2006, the institutions receiving petitions and requests from us sent us the following answers:

### **1. The Department for Interethnic Relations (DRI)**

In **address no. 340 dated February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006**, DRI informs us that it is analyzing the possibility of amending the Government Resolution no. 589/2001 or the preparation of a normative deed that could regulate the organization and operation of the National Minority Council.

On **May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006**, DRI informed us that this body was preparing a note regarding all the requests made by the “Aromanians’ Community”, note which shall be included in the agenda of the Government session (**address no. 1154**). Moreover, the address mentioned above points out that DRI shall apply the actions resulted from the Government debates.

Upon the request made by CARo for the compliance with the legal term for the resolution of the petitions, we received the **address no. 1554/July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006** in which DRI tells us that it had uttered its point of view to the memo sent by the representatives of the Aromanian Community through the address registered on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006 under no. 340 during the legal term.

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006, through **address no. 2257**, DRI informed us on “*The note regarding various problems related to the Community of the Aromanians in Romania*”.

Moreover, DRI says that the “note” was debated during the Government session of **August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006**, after which the Government issued the **memo** formulating concrete proposals regarding this topic and prepared by

representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Research, as well as of the Department for Interethnic Relations.

## **2. The National Council for Discrimination Control (CNCD)**

a) The National Council for Discrimination Control informed us that the request sent by CARo for the proposal of a project of normative deed removing the discrimination generated by the application of the Government Resolution no. 589/2001 regarding the creation of the National Minority Council which could reestablish the equality among people belonging to national minorities which are not represented in the Parliament and those which are represented in the Parliament was analyzed by the CNCD Board of Directors (**address no. 1925/April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006**).

It uttered its opinion through the **Resolution no. 98/March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006**, with says that the resolution of the object of the petition does not fall within the CNCD attributions.

Moreover, the National Council for Discrimination Control submitted a copy of the petition and of the Resolution no. 98/March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006 to the Department for Interethnic Relations as the relevant institution in charge with solving the petition, **with the recommendation that DRI should continue taking the actions imposed for the amendment of the Government Resolution no. 589/20001 regarding the creation of the National Minority Council.**

b) Through **address no. 2661/May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006** we were informed on the **Resolution no. 130/April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006** made by the Board of Directors of the National Council for Discrimination Control, which decided that the facts notified by CARo regarding the article “The Aromanians are not a minority in Romania” published in the *Cuget Liber* newspaper cannot be regarded as discriminatory.

Against the Resolution no. 130/April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006 CARo filed a **complaint** which was debated by the CNCD Board of Directors during its session of July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Through **address no. 3981/August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006** CNCD informs us on the fact that – following the debates on the complaint made by CARo – they decided to keep the initial resolution, meaning the Resolution no. 130/April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

CARo requested the communication of the resolution enacted during the session of the CNCD Board of Directors on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006, and through **address no. 5753/November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006** we were informed on the fact that – according to the internal rules of the Board of Directors – in case the objections to the resolutions previously issued are judged and the decision made says that

the initial resolution should be kept, the new resolution does not have to be in writing, therefore they cannot send us the resolution deciding the keeping of the Resolution no. 130/April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

### 3. The Ministry of Education and Research (MEC)

The Ministry of Education and Research answered – through address **no. 15550/March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006** – and showed that *“the status of national minority is necessary for introducing the Aromanian language as mother tongue in the preschool and grade school education.”*

Moreover, it is shown that *“MEC has never issued any approval for the Aromanian language to be studied in schools as a mother tongue, nor has it ever agreed and supported the idea of a syllabus for optional classes, specific to the Aromanian dialect and civilization”*.

4. In 2006, the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs approved the financing of the cultural event “The Days of the Aromanian Culture”, the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2006.

Regarding the relation with the state institutions, between 2004 and 2007 we could witness an evolution in and the development of the CARo activity, both for the actions taken and for the results obtained.

The activity carried out between 2004 and 2007 – in relation to the actions taken for the fulfillment of the objectives set by CARo and the answers received – could be resumed as follows:

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>REQUESTS FILED</b>	<b>ANSWERS RECEIVED</b>
2004		
2005	25	5
2006	18	9
2007	11	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>17</b>

### III. Internal activities

1. The Timis subsidiary of the Aromanian Community in Romania was established in **2006**.

2. On **March 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>**, the Aromanian Community attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Intercultural Forum with the topic **“The Promotion of the Intercultural Dialogue between generations”**, which took place in Bucharest.



3. On **March 27<sup>th</sup>**, the Aromanian Community attended the debates regarding the Bill regarding the Status of the National minorities in Romania – “The Legislative and Institutional Framework of the Cultural Autonomy Concept”, organized by the PER Regional Centre for the Central and South-Eastern Europe.

During the debates, the Aromanian Community in Romania pointed out that it could not overlook the insufficiencies of the Bill regarding the Status of the National minorities, meaning that this Bill grants protection actions only for the people belonging to national minorities which are represented in the Parliament.

Moreover, the Aromanian Community expressed its point of view on art. 74 of the Bill regarding the Status of the National minorities, which it considers to be non-compliant with the Constitution, because it excludes and eliminates the possibility that the people belonging to national minorities which have never expressed their intention to be registered as a national minority to be *de jure* acknowledged in the future.

4. In March, **the Forum for the Promotion of the Intercultural Dialogue between generations** took place in Bucharest; representatives of CARo attended it too.

5. On **May 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>**, the Aromanian Community attended the seminar with the topic “**Identity, Citizenship and Cohesion**”, organized by the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs as part of the project regarding the identity, the common values and citizenship.

This seminar explored the topic on the identity from the perspective of two of the international instruments of the human rights – the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

The debates during the seminar underlined the major contribution of the national minorities to the diversity of the culture, the fact that the intercultural dialogue is essential for the compliance with the diversity and for a better cohesion, showing that the purpose of the intercultural dialogue is to make all the members of our society share the fundamental values that have given Europe its identity and unity.

6. In 2006, taking into account the importance and necessity of involving the youth in the programs and activities carried out by CARo, a working body of the Aromanian Community was established – the **Council of the Young Aromanians (CTARM)** which could provide an active participation of the young people within the community.

CTARM intends to help the young Aromanians to get to know their true identity, history and people and to create a social and cultural dialogue with various organizations of young people and with other social partners.

7. Between **September 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006**, the Aromanian Community in Romania organized the **“Know Your Rights!” Program in Constanta**.

The program was financed by the Youth of the European Nationalities (YEN) Foundation, and included also a seminar that was meant to develop the skills of young leaders in the Balkan minorities, to stimulate the achievement of educational programs regarding the human rights and actions that encourage the community involvement in the promotion and understanding of the cultural diversity.

8. On **December 21<sup>st</sup>**, the representatives of the Aromanian Community in Romania had a meeting with **Mr. Teodor Baconschi, Internal Policy Counselor of the President Traian Basescu**, and during this meeting a memo for the President was filed.

Moreover, for a better knowledge on the CARo status, Counselor Teodor Baconschi received a document regarding the actions of and problems faced by the Aromanian Community in Romania for the fulfillment of its objectives – “The Status of the Aromanians between the actual situation and their desires”.

#### **IV. Cultural activities**

1. Like every year, on **May 23<sup>rd</sup>**, the Aromanian Community in Romania celebrated the **Aromanians’ National Day**. More than 3500 members of the Aromanian Community attended this event, as well as very important representatives of the political and cultural life, both from Romania and abroad.

**The Extraordinary General Assembly** also took place during this event; on this occasion, various documents that are extremely important for CARo were enacted: resolution, manifest, decision regarding the use of the terms *Aromanian/Aromanian language* and their derivatives, resolution regarding the appointment of the CARo representatives in the National Minority Council.

The Extraordinary General Assembly ended with an entertainment show with Aromanian groups and artists and was followed by a march all the way to the Government building, where the Resolution and the Manifest of the Aromanian Community in Romania were filed, documents enacted during the Extraordinary General Assembly.

2. Between **August 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>**, the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the **“Days of the Aromanian Culture”** took place in Constanta, and pointed out the Aromanian spirituality, culture and traditions that complete the European spirit of the union in diversity.

Many important personalities attended the event, such as representatives of FUEN – the Federal Union of the European Nations - **Romedi Arquint**, EBLUL – “The European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages”- **Dr. Tomasz**

**Wicherkeiwicz** and YEN – “Youth of European Nationalities” - **Aleksander Studen-Kircher**. Moreover, Aromanian cultivated people and representatives of the Romanian media attended this event.

This event also represented an important occasion for the consolidation of the partnership between the Aromanian Community in Romania and the FUEN, EBLUL and YEN international organizations.

**3.** Under the aegis of the “Days of the Aromanian Culture”, the edition of 2006, the “**Aromanians and Europe**” seminar was organized. This project was focused on pointing out – through various intrinsic features of the Aromanian soul typology, deep symmetry between the Aromanian people and the values specific to the European civilization on one hand and on highlighting the need for conceiving a mental and behavioral attitude that is specific to the new Europe, that encourages and allows the Aromanian to promote their identity on the other hand.

In order to fulfill this challenge, the following topics were debated during the seminar: “*Are the Aromanians a European nation?*”, “*The open European society – the paradigm of a new identity construction: the European identity: opportunity or the beginning of the national identity disappearance?*”

A conclusion of the seminar is that today, the Aromanians - like all the other citizens of Europe – are living in an open cultural and political space, where the issue of the identity is intensely debated and each people is invited to preserve and promote its own. But the identity can no longer be preserved spontaneously and as it is, but it has to take the shape of an institutionalized effort. This is why the Aromanians need institutions that provide protection to them.

A certain national and historical must is that the Aromanians have to come up with a pattern for their integration into the new Europe, which balances the need for preserving the national identity with the need for adjusting a European and supranational identity.

## **V. International activities and actions**

**1.** International bodies have been contacted; some of them are: the Commission for Minority and Regional Languages, the Venice Commission, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages (EBLUL).

**2.** Addresses were sent to the European parliamentarians, the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the protection of National Minorities, members of the Parliamentary Assembly within the Council of Europe, members of the European Commission for Education, Culture, Instruction and Multilanguage, the United Nations High Commissioner for

Human Rights, the Working Group for Minorities and the Independent Expert on Minority, within the United Nations Organization.

Through the addresses sent, CARo express its desire in initiating an institutional dialogue between our organization and representatives of these European and international bodies for supporting the CARo activity and for overcoming the impasse the relation between the institutions in our state and our organization is in at the moment.

**3. An important step at international level is the achievement, by the Aromanian Community in Romania, of the status of member with full rights within FUEN.**

FUEN (the Federal Union of European Nationalities) is an independent union of the organizations of national minorities and of the ethnic groups in Europe, founded in 1949, whose main goal is to preserve and promote the national identity, the language and the culture of the ethnic groups, as well as the history of the national minorities. FUEN believes that a minority cannot develop relations that are harmonized with the majority population other than based on the democratic and constitutional principles and on a constructive dialogue, through negotiations and political solutions.

FUEN enjoys the advisory (participative) status within the Council of Europe even since 1989; this status has also been acknowledged by the United Nations Organization since 1995. Moreover, FUEN is also represented in the OSCE conferences regarding the national minorities and ethnic groups.

**4. In 2006, the Aromanian Community in Romania attended numerous international conferences and seminars on subjects that are really interesting for the CARo activity:**

**a) Between April 08<sup>th</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the Aromanian Community in Romania – through the representatives of the Council of the Young Aromanians – attended the “Living in diversity” seminar organized by YEN in Pecs – Hungary. The program was focused on the status of the minorities in Europe and on the various ways for the young people to get involved in promoting them through various national and international projects. On this occasion, the CARo representatives made a presentation of our organization in order to increase its visibility and gave interviews for the local radio and television networks.**

**b) Between October 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 the representatives of CARo and CTARM attended the “Youth and Minorities: Achieving Integrated Multicultural Society” program: the achievement of an integrated multicultural society”, taking place in Strasbourg. This program was organized by the International Federation of Liberal Young People and financed by the Council of Europe; its objective was the increase in the young people’s awareness**

regarding the importance of the multicultural society in the European continent of our times. During this event, the CARo representatives had the opportunity to present the organization and the activity carried out and to make contacts with other participants in order to find out how the principle of cultural diversity is complied with it their countries.

c) In **June**, the representatives of the Aromanian Community in Romania attended the event organized by EBLUL, on the subject “**Partnership for diversity**”, which took place in Skye, Scotland.

d) Between **October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006**, CARo attended the “**Minorities: laws and rights**” conference, which took place in Bolzano, Italy. During this event, the representatives of the Aromanian Community in Romania made contacts with numerous international organizations attending the conference and had the opportunity to describe both the CARo objectives and actions, and the Aromanian culture and specific features, through presentation of Aromanian folk costumes, music and dances. The conference provided the opportunity to make contacts, to create bonds and to shape common strategies in order to become “together, stronger in diversity”.

Moreover, the European Parliamentarian Michl Ebner presented the legal framework of the politicians in charge with the protection of minorities.

e) In 2006, CARo also attended the “**Tool Fair**” event, which took place in France, as well as the **intercultural dialogue seminar**, which took place in Spain.

f) Since 2005, the Aromanian Community in Romania has attended the Congresses of the FUEN Organization. In 2006, the Congress took place in Bautzen.

## **VI. The development of the human resources**

In 2006, the situation of the members registered in the CARo subsidiaries is as follows:

<b>Subsidiary</b>	<b>Number of registered members</b>	<b>Total number of members on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006</b>
Bucharest	84	586
Constanta	445	2649
Timis	195	195
Tulcea	1010	2013
Ialomita	62	457
Calarasi	45	250
<b>TOTAL number of CARo members</b>	<b>1,841</b>	<b>6,150</b>

If we analyze the data mentioned above, we could see a significant increase in the number of members in the Aromanian Community in Romania. Therefore, from 1319 members at the end of 2004, at the end of 2006 we have 6,150 members, and now – April 2007 – CARo has 6,256 members.

## **THE YEAR 2007**

In 2007, the Aromanian Community in Romania intends to development the relations between our organization and the state institutions for changing the existing communicational system.

For such purpose, various actions have been taken for setting various meetings with the representatives of the main political parties and of the ministries.

### **I. Internal actions:**

#### **1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE)**

The Aromanian Community in Romania addressed Minister Mihai Razvan Ungureanu and asked for **“a lucid, wise and comprehensive analysis”** in the preparation – by MAE – of the endorsement for the document called *“The note regarding various problems related to the Community of the Aromanians in Romania”* prepared by DRI, endorsement to be submitted to the Government. Moreover, CARo requests an audience in order to be allowed to directly expose and bring as arguments the relevant elements that have to be taken into account during the preparation of the endorsement for the fair resolution of the CARo requests (**address no. 05/February 2007 registered with MAE under no. 305/February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007**).

#### **2. The Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs (MCC)**

Taking into account that the year 2007 is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the enactment – by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe – of *“The Recommendation 1333/1997 regarding the Aromanians’ Language and Culture”*, CARo addressed the minister of Culture and Religious Affairs – Mr. Adrian Iorgulescu, and expressed its preoccupation regarding the lack of reaction from the state institutions in relation to the document mentioned above.

CARo requests also a meeting in order to expose the arguments and our fear regarding the Aromanian civilization and in order to find the best ways to solve the petitions submitted by the Aromanian Community (**address no. 6/February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 registered with MCC under no. 1043/February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007**).

### **3. The Ministry of Education and Research (MEC) – minister Mihail Hardau**

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 MEC registered under no. **15436**, the address no. 7/February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in which CARo shows its concern and preoccupation regarding the way the state institutions understood to treat the Recommendation 1333/1997 enacted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the Aromanian language and culture. Moreover, through this address, CARo asks for an audience in order to directly present the petitions of CARo and the arguments they are based on.

**4.** The Aromanian Community in Romania also addressed the main political parties and showed its openness for the construction of an effective dialogue with their representatives for the support of the CARo actions.

Moreover, CARo asks for an audience, so that it could present the level of actions and the critical situation the members of the Aromanian Community face following the legal provisions discriminating us in comparison with the other ethnic groups.

For such purpose, various addresses were sent to the **Social-Democratic Party (Partidul Social Democrat)** – President Mircea Geoana (address no. 1/February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 registered with PSD under no. 44/February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007), the **National Liberal Party (Partidul National Liberal)** – President Calin Popescu Tariceanu (address no. 2/February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 registered with PNL under no. 789/February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007), the **Democratic Party (Partidul Democrat)** - President Emil Boc (address no. 3/February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 registered with PD under no. 9/February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007), the **Democratic Union of the Hungarians in Romania (Uniunea Democrata a Maghiarilor din Romania)** – President Marko Bela (address no. 4/February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 registered with UDMR under no. 69/February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007).

## **II. The result of the actions taken**

Following these requests, up to date, the CARo representatives had meetings with the representatives of the Democratic Union of the Hungarians in Romania and of the Ministry of Education and Research.

**1.** Therefore, on **February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007** took place the meeting with a delegation from the **UDMR** during which the representatives of this political party expressed their understanding of the Aromanians' current situation and assured us of the support to be provided by the UDMR during our actions.

**2.** On **March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007** a delegation of the Aromanian Community met Mr. Dumitru Miron, State Secretary in the **Ministry of Education and**

**Research.** During this meeting, they talked about topics that are extremely important for CARo and especially on the critical situation of the Aromanian language and culture due to the lack of institutional framework that could provide the instruments necessary for survival and promotion.

During the audience, a note was prepared, which indicates the decision reached, meaning *“the preparation and presentation – by CARo – of the actual situation of the Aromanians in the country and separated per areas, even various localities, in order to allow a better analysis and determination of the actions stipulated by the law”*.

**3.** Following the address registered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we received the **address no. A 7-1/296/February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007** in which MAE confirms its participation – together with other ministries – in the preparation of a material of the Government *“with real proposals regarding the preservation and development of the Aromanian dialect of the Romanian language, of the Aromanians’ history, culture and civilization”*.

Through this address, MAE expresses its point of view according to which *“the Aromanian Community is clearly connected to the Romanian population through history, language, culture, traditions and customs, as an important branch of the Roman world, with rich dialectal, folkloric and ethnographic elements”*.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed – through the address mentioned above – its approval for the organization of the audience requested by CARo with MAE.

### **III. International activities**

**1. Between February 06<sup>th</sup> and 08<sup>th</sup>, 2007,** the Aromanian Community in Romania attended the intergovernmental forum on the subject **“The Common European Framework of Reference for languages (CEFR) and the development of language policies: challenges and responsibilities”** organized by the Council of Europe.

This event discussed about the role and place of the languages, as well as the importance of the cultural and linguistic diversity and was focused on the necessary means in order to make multilingual world accessible to every European citizen.

On this occasion, it had a meeting with **Joao Ary**, Secretary of the Commission for Culture, Science and Education of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, when our organization and its purposes were presented to him. Following this meeting, the conclusion reached was that during this year a meeting with / about Aromanians shall be organized in Strasbourg.



2. On the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “Recommendation no. 1333/1997 regarding the Aromanians’ language and culture” issued by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Aromanian Community in Romania addressed the **Commission for Culture, Science and Education** and the **Sub-commission for the Rights of the Minorities within the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**, as well as the **Venice Commission** for the organization of a special event – a seminar or a symposium that could mark this act that is very important for the Aromanians.

Moreover, CARo asked for the support of the **Commission for Culture and Education within the European Parliament** in organizing a cultural event that highlights the importance of the Aromanian people among the other peoples, due to the fact that this ethnic group has been and is a model of identity integration into the multinational Europe.

#### IV. The financial situation

Financially, the status of the Aromanian Community in Romania – between 2004 and 2006 – reported to the level of incomes, expenses and excess, is as follows:

	<b>Incomes</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Excess</b>
<b>2004</b>	RON 106,332	RON 93,946	RON 12,386
<b>2005</b>	RON 181,382	RON 180,452	RON 930
<b>2006</b>	RON 278,423	RON 336,795	RON -58,372

The financial situation of the “Aromanian Community in Romania” Association, described per chapters, corresponding to the period between 2004 and 2006 is the object of the **appendix** to the hereby Activity Report.

We believe that the expansion and awareness of our uniqueness by each individual is a difficult task, but the possibility of saving our Aromanian nation from disappearance consists just of the increase in the number of people reaching this level of understanding of the Aromanian reality.

Our chance to be perceived as different and to eliminate the possibility of us being assimilated by another ethnic group means the increase in each Aromanian citizen’s awareness that he/she belongs to the Aromanian people.

This final desire has to be assumed as a historical must and therefore any individual or joint effort means an extremely important contribution to the fulfillment of our objectives.

The success of our actions becomes possible only if we continue doing the efforts we have done so far. This report is a phase in the fulfillment of our

desires and we want it to prefigure each Aromanian citizen's intention to participate in our common goals.