

## Draft

# THE AUTONOMY STATUTUM OF SZEKLERLAND (Terra Sicularum – Tinutul Secuiesc)

## Preamble

Considering that it is the **inalienable** right of citizens to participate in the affairs of the community, and that it is included in the basic principles of member states of the European Union the Region supports the prevalence of this principle.

As the representatives of the Region are elected through a democratic process of free general election, it enables the citizens of the Region to have an effective **and at the same time approachable** Government and the Region is governed with real and genuine Authority within the principle of Subsidiarity, which is an accepted principle in Europe as well, in building Democracy.

The subsidiarity as a basic principle must be respected and **adhered** to within their internal organisation by the States participating in the European integration.

The formation and **shaping** of the Region must not infringe on the Autonomy local communities, in fact it must work together with and take measures which guarantee the protection of rights which were granted within the framework of the European Charter of local Autonomy.

It must be expressed that the recognition of Regional Autonomy contains the principle of loyalty to, and confirms the territorial integrity of the State.

The Region as an important constituent part of the State, is proof of the versatility of Europe and respecting the historical traditions of the Region contributes to its cultural enrichment.

The contact and intercourse between the Regions across borders makes a valuable and indispensable contribution to the building of Europe, therefore the European Institutions must take into consideration the presence of the Regions in the European States in drawing up and applying their policies and must encourage the participation of the Regions in these Institutions.

These basic principles assume the existence of a Regional Power, which possesses a democratically created decision making organisation, has wide ranging Autonomy in the exercise of democratic authority and has the necessary means at its disposal to carry out its tasks.

The Szeklers who are indigenous Hungarian inhabitants of Szeklerland claim the right to territorial Autonomy, which have already been formulated in international documents and are part of the procedures in European States.

The autonomy of Szeklerland (Terra Siculorum) does not infringe on the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of Romania, local self-rule is based on the right of communities to manage their own affairs within the framework of the state.

The authority embodied in historical Szeklerland was based on the organisation of the Szekler Székek “Sedes”, the existence of which is referred to in official documents in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The autonomy of the Szekler Sedes functioned as territorial self rule with its own administration and particular machinery of social and governmental setting with particular rights and special status, similarly to the Saxon Sedes. The citizens of these Sedes today expressed their wish for territorial self rule through their elected representatives. They formulated their demands within the statutes the framework of lawful self rule which guarantees the autonomy of Szeklerland. The practise of autonomy, the transfer of authority ensures the real equality between the citizens. History and the practise of European States ruled

by Law proved that minorities within the state are protected by specific laws.

The European Security Council meeting in Copenhagen in (1990) /35. the signatory states, among them Romania agreed that they will take steps to protect the rights of ethnic minorities to preserve their language and cultural, administrative and religious identities.

In the Geneva document (1991) which was also signed by Romania the participating states accept the importance of these steps and agree that special attention to these measures should be taken by the states mostly affected by the afore-mentioned problems. The signatory states acknowledged and paid special attention to the positive results obtained with democratic solutions. These among others are as follows:

The administrative or local autonomy and the territorial autonomy which includes through free and regular periodical elections the creation of advisory , legislative and executive bodies and institutions. The European Council No.1201/1993 paragraph 11 refers to the rights of people belonging to ethnic minorities, that in the regions where these people constitute a local majority to have autonomy or local self rule or special status which takes into consideration their local, territorial and historical characteristics.

Paragraph 3 of the 1991 Nov. 21 resolution of the European Parliament concerning Union citizenship declares that the Union and its constituent States encourage the preservation of the identity of the existing historical, ethnic communities, promote their peaceful co-existence and guarantee the real equality of the citizens, ensuring the specific local, regional or group forms of self-rule, the cooperation between the regions across (crossing) national boundaries.

The European Charter of regional self government adopted by the CLRAE, the resolution No.1997/1118 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council formulates among others the following fundamental principles:

the recognition of Regional Autonomy contains the loyalty towards the state, the regions of which progress respecting sovereignty and

territorial integrity, in organising the development of suitable European Institutions, the presence of the various regions have to be taken into consideration in the policies of the European States. The Region as an important part of the State, through its self-identity is witness to the versatility of Europe and the respecting of historical traditions of the Region contributes to its cultural and material enrichment; accordingly the European Charter of regional Self-Government, regional autonomy means, that the right and duty of the biggest territorial community, in the interest of the relevant population taking over the solving of problems of public interest within the framework of subsidiarity.

The No.2003/1334 resolution of the General Assembly of the European Council states regarding the positive experiences as a conflict solving method among others, the following conclusions: The newly emerging tensions in Europe are partly the consequences of the territorial changes and the creation of new States after the 2 World Wars and the collapse of the Communist regimes after 1990. These tensions mirror the unavoidable progress through which the concept of the “Nation State” evolved which considered sovereignty and cultural homogeneity as an all important question.

In our own days through the practise of democracy and the progressive development of International Law, the States have to face new expectations. The States have to as it were to pre-empt possible tensions by instituting constitutional and legal changes to meet these expectations. This can be accomplished by the transfer of power or administrative authority to the minorities to manage their own affairs. The principal of territorial integrity does not have to be in conflict with cultural versatility.

Many European States have already solved these problems, or are in the process of solving them now by instituting territorial and cultural autonomy in different forms and on a wide scale. Autonomy as exists in these States, respect basic rights and enable ethnic minorities to practise their lawful rights and preserve their identity, whilst at the same time it gives certain guarantees regarding sovereignty and territorial integrity to the State.

The expression “Territorial Autonomy” is usually understood to mean that the population in a specific region are given wider powers which

mirror their special geographical position and which protects and promotes their cultural and religious traditions.

The different forms of political formations may be granted Autonomy Status within the States in various ways, from simple decentralisation to real power sharing, or from symmetrical, or asymmetrical regional or federative arrangements.

The Autonomy Statute of Szeklerland – Terra Siculorum contains the decrees referring to self-rule, which if accepted by the Parliament of Romania would ensure and guarantee the framework in which the people of the Autonomic Region would create more wealth, whilst their national identity and the specific interests of the communities would be protected.

Taking into consideration the above principles, the Parliament of Romania will pass a Law to adopt the Autonomy Statutum of Szeklerland.

Statute draft. Dr. Joseph I. Csapó 1995.

Chapter I.  
General Stipulations.

Chapter 1.  
Section 1.

- (1) To express its historical self-identity, to guarantee equal opportunity to its citizens and to safeguard its Hungarian identity, Szeklerland will be transformed into a self-governing community.
- (2) The political and administrative order of Szeklerland is built on geographical, economic, social, cultural circumstances and on the historical desire of the people to be granted Autonomy.
- (3) The endeavour of the region towards Autonomy aims at the democratic participation of the citizens in the life of Society, the economic and social progress, the effective promotion and protection of territorial interests.

- (4) Regional Self-Government denotes the right and the ability of the largest territorial authorities within each State, having elected bodies, being administratively placed between central government and local authorities and enjoying prerogatives either of self-organisation or of a type normally associated with the central authority, to manage, on their own responsibility and in the interests of their populations, a substantial share of public affairs, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity.

The Autonomy of a Region means, that based on the principle of Subsidiarity a People who live in their historical place of birth and still constitute a local majority there, have the right to manage its own affairs through its freely elected representatives. (Az én fordításom)

Section 2.

Szeklerland is an Autonomic Region and Legal Entity within The Republic of Romania.

- (1) The competence of the Region is defined by the Statutum,
- (2) Law and International Jurisdiction.
- (3) The specific competence of the Region may only be questioned or curtailed within the framework of law or International Jurisdiction.
- (4) The Region has decision making and executive rights within the specific territories of its competence. This right must guarantee the working out and applying its own policies.

### Section 3.

The political and economic Autonomy of the region does not infringe on the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Romanian State.

- (1) Specific competence may be transferred to the Region within the framework of this Statutum from other levels of authority.
- (2) The transfer of competence must be clearly defined and formulated. Provision for the means to ensure that these additional tasks may be carried out efficiently must be taken into consideration and provided.

\_\_\_\_\_3. The bodies responsible for exercising such competences shall, as far as is possible within the limits of the law, be allowed discretion in adapting their exercise to the conditions specific to the region and to their organisational structures, in the interests of efficiency and in accordance with the wishes of the region's inhabitants. Provision for the financial aspects in the instrument of delegation shall not excessively restrict this discretion.

### Section 4.

- (1) The territory of the autonomic region contains the present territory of Kovászna and Hargita county and the historical Maros Sedes now part of Maros County. Appendix No.1

contains the territorial borders of Szeklerland and the names of the Szekler settlements.

- (2) The Sedes are traditional Szekler administrative territories.
- I. Kézdi Sedes, with Kézdivásárhely as its local administrative centre;
  - II. Orbai Sedes, with Kovászna as its local administrative centre;
  - III. Sepsi Sedes, with Sepsiszentgyörgy as its local administrative centre;
  - IV. Csík Sedes, with Csíkszereda as its local administrative centre;
  - V. Udvarhely Sedes, with Székelyudvarhely as its administrative centre;
  - VI. Gyergyó Sedes, with Gyergyószentmiklós as its administrative centre;
  - VII. Maros Sedes, with Szováta /Marosvásárhely?/ as its administrative centre;
  - VIII. Miklósvár and Bardóc Sedes, with barót as its administrative centre.

#### Section 5.

The elected local governments of the autonomic region of Szeklerland select the administrative centre of the Szekler Institutions.

#### Section 6.

The four-yearly elected Szekler Council and the committee appointed by it exercise the executive power of the Autonomic Region.

#### Section 7.

- (1) The Regional Council is the Institution through which the self-rule of Szeklerland is established.
- (2) The authority of the Regional Council is defined by the present Autonomic Statute and the people.

#### Section 8.



- (1) Based on the present Autonomic Statute and in Harmony with the general laws of the State, every Romanian citizen is entitled to Szeklerland political status, who possesses a permanent abode in any locality of Szeklerland.
- (2) Those who were born in Szeklerland, who are Romanian citizens living abroad at present also possess the rights which are defined in the present Autonomic Statute if their last legal place of abode was in any Szekler settlement in Szeklerland.

#### Section 9.

- (1) Every citizen is granted genuine, total, real equality in the Autonomic Region.
- (2) The Local Council as Public Authority ensures the equality of the citizens, and of the communities made up of these citizens, has the task founding conditions where participating in political, economic, cultural and social life is guaranteed unhindered to all.

#### Section 10.

- (1) In Szeklerland the Hungarian language has the same right as the official language of the State.
- (2) The local councils of the Autonomic Region and the Public authorities of the Sedes ensure, that both languages are treated equally in official dealings and where necessary create the appropriate conditions to achieve this.
- (3) In the Autonomic Region, where the number of permanent residents, who belong to an ethnic or different language speaking, minority whose number exceed one hundred in villages, one thousand in towns, five thousand in municipalities and ten thousand in the territory of the Sedes, the language of the minority has the same rights as the official language.

#### Section 11.

- (1) The description of the flag of Szeklerland.
- (2) The description of the emblem of Szeklerland.

- (3) The present Autonomic Statute recognises the right to the free usage and showing of the flags and emblems of the various Sedes in Szeklerland.
- (4) The present Autonomic Statute guarantees the free usage and showing of the Hungarian national flag and emblems, and also the flags and emblems of other minorities in Szeklerland.
- (5) Legal regulations and laws are applicable to the usage and showing of the emblems of the State.

## Chapter II.

The establishment and cessation of an Autonomic Region.

### Section 12.

The Autonomy process may be initiated by any democratically elected body in the region.

### Section 13.

The draft of the Autonomic Statute is debated by the assemblies of citizens of the settlements of Szeklerland, the Representatives of the Szekler National Council and after being finalised and passed by the above with a 2/3 majority of the vote, it is placed before the Romanian Parliament for ratification according to the rules of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

### Section 14.

(1)

The present Autonomy Statutum is passed by Parliament to become Law.

(2)

The process of enacting the Autonomy Statute into Law applies to its legality and not to its justification.

(3)

Based on Section no.117. paragraph 3 of the Constitution the validity of the present Autonomy Statute is recognised by the Senate and the House of Representatives as an organic part of

the legal system.

(4)

The legally accepted Autonomy Statutum of Szeklerland will be confirmed by a plebiscite of the citizens of the Region.

(5)

In case of rejection by Parliament, the democratically elected body of the Region may take their case to the relevant International Institutions for legal redress.

#### Section 15.

In case the Statute of Autonomy should be modified the process defined in Section 129. should be followed.

#### Section 16.

Through the process of general and secret election by the people with permanent abode in the region, the Self-governing Council, the self rule of Szeklerland comes into existence.

#### Section 17.

The self-rule and Autonomic Statute of Szeklerland may only be terminated by a plebiscite in Szeklerland.

### Chapter III.

The self-rule Institutions of Szeklerland.

#### Section 18.

- (a) The Institutions of the Autonomic Region;
  - Self-Government Council;
  - Self-Government Committee;
  - President of Szeklerland;
- (b) The Institutions of the Sedes;
  - Sedes Council;
  - Sedes Committee;
  - President of the Sedes;

- (c)  
The Institutions of self-rule of the villages, towns and municipalities;  
Village Council;  
Town Council;  
Municipality Council;  
Mayor.

#### Chapter IV.

#### The Self-governing Council of Szeklerland.

##### Section 19.

The Self-Government Council is invested with the Authority of the Region.

##### Section 20.

(1)

The Self-Government Council is made up of Councillors, elected for four years, by free direct secret ballot on a proportional basis.

(2)

There are seventy seven Self-Government Councillors in the region. The numbers allotted to each electoral district is calculated on the basis of the last census returns.

(3)

The President of Szeklerland, the Presidents of the local Sedes., the local Councillors and Mayors are elected at the same time as the members of the Self-Government

Council.

(4)

The revised Decree No.70/1991. dealing with local elections applies to the election of the President of the Region, The Sedes Presidents, Mayors, and Councillors.

(5)

The election of the President of the Region and The Election of the Sedes Presidents, is based on the regulations regarding the election of Mayors.

Section 21.

The operating principles of the Self-Government Council:

- (a) The Council represents, protects and defends the rights and interests of the citizens of Szeklerland and exercises civil authority in the Region;
- (b) Applies the principle of decentralisation;
- (c) Ensures the openness of the Council meetings;
- (d) Guarantees to publish the budget of the Region;
- (e) Enforces and ensures the Rule of Law.

Chapter V.

The limit of authority of the Self-rule Council of Szeklerland.

Section 22.

The provinces of competence of the Self-rule Council of Szeklerland.

The responsibilities of the Self-rule Council:

- (1) Organising its own Self-rule Institutions;
- (2) Enact legislation which have the force of Law based on the special Legal Status of the Autonomic Statute of Szeklerland regarding:
  - (a) Culture;
  - (b) Education;
  - (c) use of the mother tongue, in this case the Hungarian language;
  - (d) historical, artistic, archaeological, scientific heritage,

- (e) social questions;
- (f) information;
- (g) administering the State possessions of the Region;
- (h) general directing of the economic life of Szeklerland;
- (i) introducing local taxes and duties;
- (j) the independent financial affairs of Szeklerland;
- (k) the representing of Szeklerland.

### Section 23.

Within its own authority, and in harmony of the laws of the State and according to the Special Status of the Region, the Self-governing Council makes regulations which have the force of law in the Region:

- (a) by-laws and Statutes regulating the work of the administrative offices,
- (b) the rules of the Sedes Institutions in Szeklerland,
- (c) the drawing and defining of local borders, establishing new communities,
- (d) expropriations of public interest which do not affect the State directly and do not infringe on the authority of the Sedes,
- (e) creating a Land Registry,
- (f) fire protection,
- (g) public health,
- (h) supervising the Chamber of Commerce,
- (i) establishing and supervising commercial companies,
- (j)

- credit cooperatives and insurance,
  - (k) public utilities of the region,
  - (l) maintain public order and cooperate with the Police,
  - (m) mining and energy,
  - (n) development and use of local energy sources,
  - (o) agriculture,
  - (p) forestry,
  - (q) protecting the environment,
  - (r) public and commercial transport of regional interest,
  - (s) public information.
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Section 24.

The authority of the Self-governing Council extends to the management of social care, security and insurance, where it may enact laws and create autonomic Institutions.

Section 25.

The Self-rule Council may establish an independent Police Force within the law and within its own authority in situation which are not covered by the Autonomic Statute.

Section 26.

The responsibility of the Self-rule Council extends to radio and television broadcasting to cover the special requirements of the Region.

Section 27.

(1)  
In the territories which are covered by the authority of the Self-rule Council the Laws of Szeklerland enjoy priority.

(2)

In situations where the Self-rule Council does not make a decision within its own authority, the laws of the State may apply.

#### Section 28.

The Self-rule Council may request the transfer of power or authority from the Government which are not covered by the present Autonomic Statute.

#### Section 29

Within 30 days of coming into existence, the Self-rule Council will work out and agree upon its House Rules, during this period the work of the Council is being chaired by the President of Szeklerland.

### Chapter IV

The Self-rule Committee of Szeklerland.

#### Section 30.

(1)

The Committee of the Self-Government is a body, which exercises the authority of the Autonomic Region of Szeklerland within its own sphere of activity.

(2)

The President of the Self-Government Committee is appointed by the President of Szeklerland.

(3)

Members of the Self-Government Committee are selected through a process of secret voting for four years at the recommendation of the President of the Committee within thirty days of his appointment. During this period of time, as a result of a valid vote of "No confidence" any member of the Committee may be relieved of his post by the President of the Region.

(4)



Members of the Self-Government Committee are appointed by the President of Szeklerland.

Section 31.

The Self-Government Council works out the organisational structures and set of rules of the Self-governing Committee, and it is approved at the same time as the members of the Committee are voted upon.

Chapter VII:

The authority of the Szekler Self-rule Council.

Section 32.

The executive power of the Self-rule Committee extends to:

- (1) the enforcement and supervision of statutes created by the Self-rule Council which have the force of law;
- (2) the working and managing of its own Self-rule Institutions;
- (3) to initiate laws and regulations, which have the force of law;
- (4) to manage the officials of the Institutions and their advancement;
- (5) to supervise the work of public utilities, institutions and state-owned commercial companies;
- (6) to manage publicly and privately owned wealth which is of regional interest;
- (7) to manage the affairs of State, Public and Private wealth;
- (8) the establishing and managing its own commercial companies;

- (9)  
to collect taxes;
- (10)  
the planning and executing the independent budget of the Region;
- (11)  
the planning and helping the economic development of the Region;
- to execute the tax, monetary and commercial policies of the Region;
- (12)  
to execute the tax, monetary and commercial policies of the Region;  
to establish or wind up the official Institutions of the Region;
- (13)  
to establish or wind up the official Institutions of the Region;
- to ensure the safety of the public, cooperate with and supervise the Police force;
- (14)  
to ensure the safety of the public, cooperate with and supervise the Police force;
- (15)  
to ensure and protect the independence of the Local Authorities;
- (16)  
to deal with international treaties and agreements concerning the Region, to further the cooperation between the Regions;
- (17)  
to ensure the free use of different languages of equal rank in the Region;
- (18)  
to manage the network of the state schools and within the

framework of the state schools the Hungarian language schools;

(19)

to deal with problems affecting the communities of the Region;

(20)

to apply the Laws of the State.

### Section 33.

The Self-rule Committee has the right to own, establish, maintain its own radio and television stations, press, and all other means of public information which help to promote its objectives.

### Section 34.

(1)

It is within the authority of the of the Self-rule Committee to appoint the Public Notaries, the officials of the Land Registry, the Official Archives, and the higher ranking Civil Servants.

(2)

The same conditions will apply to candidates for all the vacant Public Notary, Judge, Public Prosecutor and other Positions and the applicants may come may come from any other part of Szeklerland or Romania. In the Civil Service Exams for the above positions it is an advantage to speak both the Romanian and Hungarian languages fluently. Ethnic origin or permanent place of abode may not be considered as a disqualifying condition in any circumstances. The officials of Szeklerland must speak both the Hungarian and Romanian languages. After the present Autonomy Statutum will have the force of Law Hungarians with the appropriate qualification will be employed for the above positions, until the principle of proportionality will be

achieved. This principle must be respected and adhered to later as well.

Section 35

To perform its public obligations the Self-rule Committee may within its own authority may make cooperative agreements with other Self-rule Committees and may also participate in cultural, economic and social activities of other Regions. The Romanian Government will be informed about these agreements.

Section 36.

The Self-rule Committee is responsible to the Self-rule Council without the official responsibility of the members of the Self-rule Committee being diminished.

Chapter VIII

Section 37

The President of Szeklerland represents the Region. The President of Szeklerland is elected for four years through a process of general, secret and direct voting by the citizens of Szeklerland, according to paragraph 20 of the present Autonomic Statute.

Section 38.

In no circumstances may the Mandate of the President exceed two periods of four years.

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Section 39.

The President of Szeklerland may resign his post by presenting his resignation document to the Self-governing Council. The resignation becomes effective when the Self-governing Council accepts it.

#### Section 40.

(1)

In case the interests, rights and freedom of the community of Szeklerland are infringed upon and the duties as contained in the present Autonomic Statute are neglected, the Self-governing Council of Szeklerland may initiate the recall of the President of Szeklerland from his office with a two thirds majority of the vote.

(2)

On the basis of the accepted vote of “No Confidence” The Self-rule Council of Szeklerland will request the Government of Romania, that within 30 days of this motion, the Government of Romania will decree the date for the election of a new President.

(3)

In case the office of the President becomes vacant before the next elections are due, the new President is elected for a full term.

#### Section 41

The newly elected President of Szeklerland will be sworn in at a meeting of the Self-governing Council during the last day in office of the retiring President. In case this procedure is not possible to follow, the new President will be sworn in ten days after the results of the elections will have been announced.

#### Section 42.

During the swearing in Ceremony the newly elected President will be sworn in by repeating the following words: “I swear by my honour, that I will carry out the duties of my office to the best of my abilities, I will represent and defend the interests of the people of Szeklerland, I will respect the Laws of the Region and the State and will confirm and adhere to the Constitution of Romania. So help me God!”

Section 43.

In case the President of Szeklerland is temporarily incapacitated, or the position becomes vacant, the duties of the President will be taken over by the President of the Self-governing Council. In case he is also incapacitated, the duties will be carried out by his deputy, until the newly elected President is sworn in.

Section 44.

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The President of Szeklerland is entitled to the same immunity as members of the Romanian Parliament.

Section 45

The President of Szeklerland may not hold any other position, public or private during his term of office.

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Section 46.

The sphere of authority of the President of Szeklerland includes:

- (a)  
To propose the date of regular and other elections in the Region to the Government of Romania;
- (b)  
To order and extraordinary meeting of the Self-governing Council;
- (c)  
To appoint the President of the Self-governing Council;
- (d)  
To appoint or relieve of their post members of the Self-governing Committee, as selected by the Self-governing Council;
- (e)  
To preside over the meetings of the Self-governing Committee when requested to do so by the President of the Self-governing Committee;
- (f)  
To sign and make public the decrees of the Self-governing Council within 20 days of their enactment, which have the

force of Law in the Autonomic Region of Szeklerland.

Without the above the decrees are not valid;

(g)

To verify the legality of the decrees of the Szekler Council, in case he considers a decree to be illegitimate, he may refer it to the Court of Public Administration within 15 days of the Bill being passed, the decree will not have the force of Law until the final Judicial decision;

(h)

To request from the Constitutional Court an evaluation of the Constitutionality of the Laws and Decrees in advance;

(i)

To request a decision from the Constitutional Court regarding the Constitutionality of the Judicial norms;

(j)

After consulting the Self-rule Council, initiate the holding of a Plebiscite regarding Cardinal questions of the Region based on Statute No. 2000/3 regarding local plebiscites.

## Chapter IX.

### The Sedes Council.

#### Section 47.

(1)

The Sedes Council is the decision making body of the Szekler Administrative Region.

(2)

The Sedes Council is elected according to Section 20. of the present Autonomic Statute.

(3)

Within 30 days of coming into existence the Sedes Council will work out and agree upon its House Rules, during this time the work of the Council is being chaired by the Sedes President.

(4)

In the Szekler Sedes the number of Councillors is 33 or 1 Councillor for every 3000 Sedes resident.

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## Chapter X.

### The sphere of Authority of the Sedes Council.

#### Section 48.

The Szekler Council may enact decrees and regulations regarding the following:

- (1) Maintaining the Institutions and the officials of the Institutions;
- (2) Compulsory use of the names of towns, villages, street names, road signs, company sign boards, advertising boards in both, the Hungarian and Romanian Languages;
- (3) The protection of historical, cultural and ethnographic values;
- (4) Local customs and traditions;
- (5) Activities of Sedes centred cultural Institutions;
- (6) Country planning, resettlement planning;
- (7) Organising the Institutions of the Self-rule Authority;
- (8) Changing of the settlement borders at the initiation of the Self-rule Authority;
- (9) The protection of public order;
- (10) The right of public usage;
- (11) handcraftsmanship;
- (12) Assisting and helping the building of dwellings;
- (13) Social care and well being of the people;
- (14) Schooling, Building of schools;



- 15) Vocational training;
- (16) Commerce;
- (17) Local fairs and markets;
- (18) Industrial production work of local interest;
- (19) Forestry, forestry workers;
- (20) Hunting, and game management;
- (21) Agriculture;
- (22) Water management;
- (23) The use of mineral and medicinal waters and spas;
- (24) Promoting tourism in their areas;
- (25) Village tourism;
- (26) Managing common grazing lands;
- (27) Animal and plant protection;
- (28) Protection of the environment;
- (29) Health protection;
- (30) Local road, gas and waterway network;
- (31) Local telecommunication and transport;
- (32) Railways and highways crossing the territory of the Sedes, local railways and roads, [cable laying](#);
- (33)

The managing of public utility services;

(34)

Managing of Civil Servants and Public Utility employees;

(35)

Expropriation in the interest and use of the Sedes;

(36)

Public works of local interest;

(37)

The general managing of economic activities, taking into consideration the principles of the free market;

(38)

Support of sport activities.

#### Section 49.

The Sedes Council may enact decrees regarding the supervision and cooperation with the Police Force, the appointment and dismissal of Police Officers, the establishment of its own Police Force within the framework of the Law. Within 3 years of this Statutum having the force of Law, every member of the Sedes Police Force must be able to speak both the Hungarian and Romanian languages, in addition Police Officers must speak at least one World Language as well. The composition of the Police Force must mirror the ethnic proportions.

#### Section 50.

The Sedes Council may offer preferential treatment to citizens domiciled in its territory regarding employment, it is forbidden to differentiate on the basis of language. (ethnicity)

#### Section 51.

It is within the authority of the Sedes Council to enact decrees and regulations regarding preliminary, secondary and higher education.

#### Section 52.

It is within the Authority of the Sedes Council to approve regulations dealing with general Public Information.

#### Section 53.

It is within the Authority of the Sedes Council to plan and accept its local territorial Budget.

Section 54.

In cases outside the Authority of the Sedes Council, the rules of the Self-rule Council of Szeklerland, or the laws of the State may apply.

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Chapter XI.

Section 55.

(1)

The Sedes Committee is the executive body of the Szekler Administrative Region.

(2)

The president of the Sedes Committee is appointed by the Sedes President.

(3)

The members of the Sedes Committee will be selected at the recommendation of the President of the Committee, by the Sedes Council within 30 days of the appointment of President of the Committee, for four years through secret ballot. During the mandate as contained in the House Rules members of the Sedes Committee may be recalled, or new members appointed through secret ballot.

(4)

Based on the decision of the Sedes Council, the members of the Sedes Committee will be appointed or relieved of their post by the Sedes President.

Section 56.

The Sedes Council prepares the organisational structures and working manual of the Sedes Committee and it will have the force of Law from the same time as the members of the Committee are selected.

## Chapter XII

The executive power of the Sedes Committee. .

### Section 57.

The executive power of the Sedes Committee extends to:

- (1)  
The enforcement and supervision of the decrees and regulations enacted by the Szekler Self-rule Council, and by the Sedes Council;
- (2)  
The management and overseeing of the work of its own Self-Governing Institutions;
- (3)  
The planning and initiation of legislation;
- (4)  
The management of the officials of the Institutions and their advancement;
- (5)  
The supervision of the work of public utilities, institutions and state-owned commercial companies in the territory of the Sedes;
- (6)  
The management of publicly and privately owned wealth which is of Sedes territorial interest;
- (7)  
The establishment and management of its own commercial companies;
- (8)  
The collection of taxes;
- (9)  
The planning and executing the independent budget of the Sedes territory;
- (10)  
The planning and helping the economic development of the Sedes territory;
- (11)

To execute the tax, monetary and commercial policies of the Sedes territory;

(12)

To establish or wind up the official Institutions of the Sedes territory;

(13)

To ensure the safety of the public, cooperate with and supervise the local Police Headquarters, appoint and recall police officers;

(14)

To ensure and protect the independence of the Local Authorities;

(15)

To ensure and guarantee the free use of different languages of equal rank in the communal territories of Szeklerland;

(16)

To manage the network of the state schools and within the framework of the state schools the Hungarian language schools;

(17)

To manage the affairs and Institutions of Sedes Cultural Interests;

(18)

To manage and supervise the Cultural Heritage, the work of Museums and other Cultural Institutions;

(19)

The general supervision of the Economy;

(20)

Harmonising the work for the protection of the Environment;

(21)

Sedes Local water management, irrigation, land drainage, flood protection and Reclamation;

(22)

The promoting of foreign tourism;

(23)

Social care;

(24)

Health care, the establishment and supervision of pharmacies, hospitals orphanages and social homes;

(25)

The management of public and private wealth in the Sedes;  
Other factors which may have an effect on the life of the Community of the Sedes;

(26)

Applying the laws of the State;

Section 58.

The Sedes Committee has the right to establish and maintain its own radio and television stations, which help to promote its objectives.

Section 59.

The Sedes Committee may make within its own authority cooperative agreements with other Sedes Committees and may also participate in cultural, economic and social activities of other Regions.

Section 60.

The Sedes Committee has its own administrative apparatus, makes decisions about the status of the positions, how they are divided and appoints the officials.

Section 61.

The Sedes Committee is answerable to the Szekler Council, without the direct official responsibility of the members of the Committee being diminished.

Chapter XIII.

The Sedes President.

Section 62.

(1)

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The Sedes President represents the Sedes Administrative Region.

(2)

The Sedes President is elected for four years by the citizens with voting right in the Sedes, through a process of general, direct, secret ballot, according to paragraph 20 of the present Autonomic Statute.

### Section 63.

(1)

The Sedes Council may initiate the recall of the Sedes President from his office by a two thirds majority of the vote.

(2)

On the basis of, and within 30 days a motion of “No confidence” the Government of Romania will decree the date for the election of a new Sedes President.

(3)

In case the office of the Sedes President becomes vacant before the next elections are due, the mandate of the new Sedes President is valid for a full term.

### Section 64.

The newly elected Sedes President will be sworn in at a meeting of the Sedes Council during the last day in office of the retiring Sedes President. In case it is not possible to follow this procedure, the new President will be sworn in 10 days after the results of the election will have been announced.

### Section 65.

During the swearing in Ceremony the newly elected Sedes President will be sworn in by repeating the following words: “ I swear by my honour, that I will carry out the duties of my office to the best of my abilities, I will represent and defend the interests of the people of the Sedes, I will respect the Laws of the Region and the State and will confirm and adhere to the Constitution of Romania. So help me God!”

### Section 66

(1)

The Sedes President may resign his post by presenting his resignation document to the Sedes Council.

(2)

The resignation becomes effective when the Sedes Council accepts it.

#### Section 67.

In case the Sedes President is temporarily incapacitated, or the position becomes vacant, the duties of the Sedes President will be taken over by the President of the Sedes Council. In case he is also incapacitated the duties will be carried by his deputy.

#### Section 68.

The sphere of authority of the Sedes President includes:

(a)

To propose the date of regular and other elections in the territory of the Sedes;

(b)

To order an extraordinary meeting of the Sedes Council;

(c)

To appoint the President of the Sedes Committee;

(d)

To appoint, or relieve of their post members of the Sedes Committee as selected by the Sedes Council;

(e)

To preside over the meetings of the Sedes Committee when requested to do so by the President of the Committee;

(f)

To sign and make public the decrees of the Sedes Council within 20 days of their enactment, which have the Force of Law in the territory of the Sedes. Without the above the decrees are not valid;

(g)

After consulting the Sedes Council, initiate the holding of a Plebiscite regarding Cardinal questions of the Sedes;

(h)

To represent the Sedes within the State.



## Chapter XIV.

### Local Governments in the settlements.

#### Section 69.

The Institutional structure of the parish council, the town council, functioning and general duties of the local council and mayor is regulated by the amended No.2001/215 Local Administrative Law and the European Charter of Local Autonomy.

#### Section 70.

The special status and authority of the Local Councils of Szeklerland is defined by the present Autonomic Statute.

## Chapter XV.

### The special legal status and authority of the Local Governments.

#### Section 71.

The local Governments in all the settlements of Szeklerland, the local Governments of villages, towns, municipalities, function on the basis of the amended Statute No.2001/215 (Local Administrative Statute), the present Autonomic Statute and also the European Charter of Local Autonomy.

#### Section 72.

Due to the unique historical, territorial characteristics and the requirements of the local communities of Szeklerland, the Local Governments have special Legal Status. This special Legal Status is manifested and guaranteed in additional Administrative Powers to those mentioned in Statute No.2001/215 and their unhindered practise.

#### Section 73.

(1)

On the basis of local Autonomic Right and as defined by the present Autonomy Statute, the Local Governments is the possessor of special administrative and executive powers delegated by the State.

(2)

It performs its duties without influence and interference by the State.

Section 74.

In the Local Government the language of the Hungarian community and the languages of other ethnic minorities, as defined by Section 10 of the present Autonomy Statute possess equal rights with the official language of the State.

Section 75.

The basic principles of the Local Self-rule Government.

(a)

The Local Authorities have complete discretionary powers in the spheres of official functions transferred to them.

(b)

The communal duties are performed by the nearest administrative Institution to the citizens.

(c)

The powers of the Local Self-rule Government may only be curtailed by the relevant Statutory Provisions of the Regional or Central Authority.

(d)

The adaptation of powers transferred from the Central or Regional Authorities to local conditions.

(e)

To participate in the planning and decision making processes which have a direct impact on the work of the Local Authorities.

Section 76.

The special legal status and authority of the Local Governments extends to:

(1)

To ensure that the language of teaching is the mother tongue in the schools of the community and to establish, protect and

promote these schools.

(2)

To support and develop cultural and educational Institutions using the mother tongue.

(3)

To broadcast information to the community in their mother tongue and to guarantee the freedom of these broadcasts.

(4)

To ensure the use of the mother tongue of the community in public and private life, in public Institution and in the Courts.

(5)

To deal with social problems.

(6)

To promote development in the community and the area.

(7)

To promote economic development.

(8)

To manage communal, State and private wealth.

(9)

The establishment and management of communal Institutions.

(10)

The protection of general human rights and freedoms.

(11)

To prevent the intentional and forcible alteration of the ethnical composition of the community.

(12)

To prevent the arbitrary alteration of the borders of the territory.

(13)

To initiate the creation of new settlements and villages.

(14)

To guarantee Public order and security with a Police Force subordinated to the Self-Government.

(15)

To work out and manage the local Budget and allocate resources.

(16)

To make decisions regarding the name, symbols and badges of honour of the settlement.

(17)

To decide the dates of National Holidays and organise the events.

(18)

To look after and protect Historic Buildings and shrines.

(19)

Make the arrangements for tenders.

(20)

Offer grants.

(21)

To establish and manage Institutions, commercial, tourist, economic organisations, banks, insurance companies and other undertakings.

(22)

To make expropriations of communal interest according to the Law of the Land and within the framework of the present Autonomy Statute.

(23)

To look after and protect libraries, museums, records, archives and other institutions dealing with the heritage of the mother tongue.

(24)

To deal with all forms of teaching and education of the young generation and adult education as well.

(25)

To deal with Forestry and Water management.

(26)

To look after and supervise the communal forests and ensure their advantageous utilisation.

(27)

To supervise, look after and make advantageous use of the communal grazing lands.

(28)

To protect, look after and utilise the mineral wealth, hot water springs, spas, etc. belonging to the settlement.

( 29)

To look after and protect the habitat of wild game in the territories owned by the settlement.

(30)

To retain 90% of the income tax generated by the citizens of the settlement.

(31)

To retain 80% of all other taxes and duties generated in the territory of the settlement.

(32)

To look after the estates and other possessions returned by the State.

#### Section 77.

The Local Government guarantees equal rights and treatment to Romanian citizens and citizens of other nationalities residing in its territories.

#### Section 78.

It is not allowed to alter the borders of the settlement without the agreement of the communities involved and/or a [local](#) plebiscite.

#### Section 79.

(1)

The authorities of the Local Government will draw up their own code of internal work structure as needed, and to ensure their effectiveness.

(2)

The supervisory authority may only examine their activities from the point of view of Legality.

#### Section 80.

The Local Government and its various organs to ensure the effectiveness of their work, and in their mutual interests may cooperate with other Local Governments.

#### Section 81.

The Local Governments and its administrative organs may be members of Regional and International Treaty organisations to protect and promote their mutual interests.

Section 82.

The Local Government and its administrative organs may within the provision of Law cooperate with Local Governments of other States.

Section 83.

The Local Government may ask for the protection of the Law to freely perform its duties and to protect the Autonomy Statute.

Chapter XVI.

The [free](#) use of the mother tongue in the Educational System.

Section 84.

(1)

The citizens of Szeklerland have the right to study in their mother tongue, in state or private Institutions on all levels, types and forms of education.

(2)

Private persons, Churches, Organisations and Companies, ([Societies?](#)) may have the right to establish Schools using the language of the Community.

Section 85.

The Mother tongue and Church Educational Institutions are financed by the State and in the appropriate proportions by the Local Government, the privately established Educational Institutions are also supported.

Section 86.

In the case of minors the parents or legal guardians will decide the language of education.

Section 87.

A separate Educational System will work in the Mother tongue of the citizens as desired and needed:

- (a) in independent kindergartens or in independent groups within the kindergarten, as needed;
- (b) in independent elementary schools, school sections, classes, or groups as needed;
- (c) in secondary education in independent grammar or secondary schools, lyceums, in vocational or trade schools, in school sections, classes, groups as needed;
- (d) in vocational or trade schools in independent school sections, classes, or groups as needed;
- (e) in independent Universities, High Schools, and Colleges, Faculties, sections, classes and groups as needed;
- (f) in post-graduate education as needed.

Section 88.

In the Educational Institutions of Szeklerland where teaching is done in the Mother tongue, the history, geography, ethnography, cultural heritages and values of the Communities and the Mother nation should be included.

Section 89.

- (1) In the Hungarian Educational Institutions the availability and possibility of learning the Romanian language must be ensured.
- (2) In the Elementary, Grammar, or Secondary Schools, and Lyceums, the teaching of Romanian language and Literature is arranged taking into consideration their special

requirements.

Section 90.

In the Vocational or Trade schools the Romanian equivalents of technical terms and terminology must be included in the Curriculum.

Section 91.

In the Schools, Universities, High Schools and Post-Graduate Institutions of Szeklerland it is guaranteed that the admission exams can be in the Mother tongue of the applicant.

Section 92.

The training of teachers for the Kindergartens, Elementary Schools, Universities and High Schools is the duty of the Local Governments of Szeklerland.

Section 93.

In the teaching of the Mother tongue, the employment of foreign guest teachers, is guaranteed.

Section 94.

Separate School Inspection Directorates will be established in the Region and the Sedes for the various ethnical groups. In Szeklerland the Chief Educational Inspector and the Chief of Sedes Educational Inspectorate will be Hungarian. These positions will be allocated proportionately between the various nationalities on the basis of the census returns.

Section 95.

The Denominational and Church Schools function within the framework of the Church Autonomy, the High Schools and Universities within the framework of the University Autonomy.

Section 96.

(1)

Based on the decrees of the present Autonomy Statute the decrees of the Official Gazette No.177 published in 1948 which nationalised the Church, Congregational and private means necessary for the maintenance of Educational Institutions are repealed and no longer valid.



(2)

The properties and possessions mentioned in the first paragraph will be returned to their rightful owners or their legal successors, or if this is not possible compensation will be made at present market values.

## Chapter XVII.

The use of mother tongue in cultural life

### Section 97.

In the territory of Szeklerland the use of the Mother tongue is free and unhindered:

- a. in cultural life
- b. in the areas of artistic creativity, criticism, research and bibliography special literature/
- c./ in the areas of translation, synchronization and subtitles.
- d/. in the areas of recognition of special national cultures;
- e/. in the dissemination of knowledge in every field and all levels.

### Section 98.

The different ethnic communities may carry out educational and research work in their mother tongue and have the right to establish Institutions and maintain international connections.

### Section 99.

The Self-Government of Szeklerland supports:

- a. the opening up and making available to the public the historical places of different ethnical groups, collecting

their artefacts, establishing and maintaining collections and museums.

b.

the publishing of books and periodicals in the languages of the ethnic minorities.

c. the maintenance of theatres and other cultural establishments functioning in the mother tongue of the local communities.

d. to broadcast articles of common interest in the languages of the different communities.

## Chapter XVIII

The use of mother tongue in administration and public life

### Section 100.

In their official dealings with the local and Regional administrative authorities the citizens must have the right and must be able to use their mother tongue. Members of the ethnic minorities, who speak the appropriate languages must be employed in these offices in their true proportions based on the census.

### Section 101,

The authorities of Szeklerland are obliged:

a.

to display the names of settlements, (towns, villages etc.) streets, squares, institutions and public places in the

official language of the state, in the language of the majority population of the region, and if there is a demand for it, in any other minority language as well.

b.

to publish legal and other resolutions, declarations in the official language of the state, in Hungarian and, conforming to Section 10, paragraph 3., of the present Statutum, also in the languages of any other, ethnical communities.

c.

to print documents and forms used in administrative procedures, in different languages /see Section 100. paragraph b./

The cost to be born by the respective authorities.

#### Section 102,

In Szeklerland's administrative units

a.

The Romanian and Hungarian languages, and the language mentioned in Section 10. paragraph 3. must be treated as equals by the administrative authorities..

b.

The administrative and legal documents must be published and printed in the languages described in Section 103. paragraph a.

#### Section 103.

The unhindered use of the languages of the different ethnic communities living in Szeklerland, in the fields of public information, social and economical life, and any other activity is guaranteed by the present Autonomy Statutum.

## Chapter XIX.

The use of mother tongue in the jurisdictional system.

### Section 104

The citizens of Szeklerland are entitled to use their mother tongue freely in the Judiciary system.

### Section 105

1.

The citizens of Szeklerland are entitled to use their mother tongue freely in criminal, civic and administrative procedures.

2.

The procedure is to be conducted in the citizens mother tongue, documentation must be recorded in the citizens mother tongue and also in the official language of the state.

## Chapter XX.

Financial matters.

### Section 106.

The Regional, Sedes and Settlement Self-governments of Szeklerland, in the interest of securing their internal development and sphere of authority, have financial autonomy, but, while exercising it, they adhere to the principle of harmonizing with the state's financial policy.

1. The funding system for the regions shall provide them with a foreseeable amount of revenue commensurate with their competences and allowing them to conduct their own policies.
2. The regions' sources of funding shall be sufficiently diversified and buoyant to enable them to keep pace, as far as possible, with the real evolution of

the cost of exercising their competences and with general economic development.

3. As regards the exercise of their own competences, the regions' financial resources shall consist mainly of own resources, which they may use freely.
4. The principle of solidarity necessitates the introduction, within each State, of a financial equalisation mechanism taking account of both the potential resources and the tasks of regions, with the aim of harmonising the living standard of inhabitants of the different regions.
5. Transfers and grants shall as a rule be made on a non-earmarked basis. Financial transfers to regions and, where applicable, sharing of taxes as provided for in Article 15, paragraph 3 shall be governed by predetermined rules based on a few objective criteria corresponding to the regions' actual needs.
6. Regions shall, within the limits of the law, have access to the capital market in order to cover their capital expenditure by borrowing, provided they can demonstrate their ability to service the debt throughout the repayment period from their own income.
7. A statutory obligation to comply with certain budgetary rules or a standardised accounting system shall not constitute an encroachment on the regions' financial autonomy.

#### Section 107.

The Self-Governments of Szeklerland, collect state and local taxes and also administer measures regarding tax matters.

#### Section 108.

Taxes and charges are regulated by State law, and also by

## Self-Government edicts.

### Section 109.

The Local Governments are entitled to their own financial sources, (revenues) which are regulated by edicts and utilized on the basis of their own budget.

### Section 110.

The financial sources of the Self-Government

- a. taxes transferred partially or totally by the state
- b. charges after taxes;
- c. a certain fraction from the states revenues.
- d. own taxes, charges, additional taxes;
- e. income from own property;
- f. income from "private property;
- g. donations;
- h. proportionate money transfers from the state budget for the services and duties taken over from the central government.

### Section 111

The extent and limit of financial authority described in the Section 110 is regulated by law.

### Section 112.

The proportion of financial resources from their own sources at the disposal of the Self-Governments is defined in the present Autonomy Statutum and in No.2001/215 Local Administration Edict. It is proportionate with the duties and spheres of authority.

### Section 113.

1, To guarantee the unhindered functioning of Self-Governments the state budget allocates proportionate financial means; the purpose of which is to eliminate the effects of disproportionate distribution of financial resources and the correction of resulting

burdens.

2, Measures like these, cannot diminish the freedom of action of the Local Governments in the territories under their own responsibilities.

Section 114,

The use of monies, transferred from the State Budget to the Local Governments is decided by the Sedes, Regional and Settlement authorities.

Section 115

Monies, transferred from the state budget, cannot be used for financing special projects.

Section 116,

In the territories of the Self-Government, 90% of the legally determined income tax is part of the budget of the Local Government.

Section 117,

In the territory of the Self-Government, 80% of the taxes and charges determined by law, is part of the budget of the Local Government.

Section 118,

The budget of the Sedes Self-Government is made up as follows:

- a./ from the territorial proportionate budget equalization;
- b./ the equalization of the transfers from the state budget;
- c./ own income;
- d./ donations;
- e./ other legal financial resources.

## Section 119,

a.

The budget income of the Self-Governments settlement comes from the equalization of the proportionate transfers;

b. from the appropriate proportion of the State Budget;

c. own income;

d. donations;

e. other legal financial resources.

## Chapter XXI.

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Common or public property and its management.

### Section 120.

1. The condition of Szeklerland's public property is regulated by No.2001/215

local public Administration law; the handling of it is executed by law as well as the Self-Government authority regulations.

2. The Wealth of Szeklerland consists of publicly and privately owned real estate and chattels.

3. The publicly owned wealth of the Region consists of items which according to law and by their nature or intended purpose are for the common good, can be found in the territory of the Region and are not the property of any Sedes Town, Settlement or Local Authority.

4. The natural wealth and resources of the Region, the mineral wealth, the rivers and thermal waters which are potential sources of energy, the road and water ways are the publicly owned property of the Region.

5. Szeklerlands commonly or publicly owned wealth



is non transferable, the right of ownership is inalienable.

6. The compliance with the regulations in the first paragraph, the legal position of the Region and Sedes are identical with that of the Regional public Administration Authority.

#### Section 121.

1. Within 60 days from the formation of the Self-Government Authority of Szeklerland, a government decree designates the national and common properties which are in the national interest,

2. The territorially competent Authorities will decide about ownership and management of Regional, Sedes, State, Public and private properties, taking into consideration the territorial interest.

#### Section 122.

After 1945, from Szeklerland's national institutions, organizations, corporations or from the predecessors of these, illegally and forcibly confiscated private properties transferred to the state or co-operatives, art treasures, libraries, archives and others be returned to their legal owners or, their values be paid in money at today's market prices to their assignees.

### Chapter XXII

#### The relationship of State and Region.

#### Section 123.

1. A Government Commissioner looks after the supervision of lawfulness in the Region.

2. In controversial questions The Government Commissioner mediates between the Central Government and the Region.

3. The edicts and regulations of the Romanian

Government and Parliament which are applicable in Szeklerland will be implemented taking into consideration the specific requirements of the Region, or may be vetoed by a 2/3 majority of the Self-governing Council.

#### Section 124.

The legal edicts of Szeklerland are exempt from 'the administration's appeals and from the Constitutional point of view, can be examined only by the Constitutional Court.

#### Section 125

Against the documents and resolutions issued by the executive and administrative authorities and offices, appeals can be made to the respective administrative authority.

#### Section 126

In the Region, the work of the Judiciary is conducted by the legitimate, Constitutional Authorities.

#### Section 127.

The following bodies are entitled to supervise the Autonomic Institutions of the Region:

- a. the Constitutional court, regarding the normative constitutional rules;
- b. the Government, with reference to the practice of

- the jurisdiction of nation-wide interest;
- c. the Public Administration Court regarding the by-laws and the activities of the organs of the Self-government;
- d. The Public Auditor's office concerning the nation-wide economy and the use of monies transferred from the State budget.

#### Section 128.

The President of Szeklerland based on the decisions of the Presidents of the Sedes, the Self-Government Councils or the Sedes Councils can protest against laws concerning the traditional use of the Hungarian and other languages in the Region, in case of violation against the prescribed rules.

### Chapter XXIII.

#### Closing regulations

#### Section 129.

The modification of the present Autonomy Statute may take place according to the following procedure:

- a. 1/5<sup>th</sup>. of the members of the Autonomy council may initiate modifications;
- b. the modification is ratified by a two-third majority vote of the Self-governing Council;
- c. the modification accepted by the Self-governing Council is validated by the Romanian parliament;
- d./ within. 60 days, dated from the decision of the Parliament, the citizens with voting rights in the Region ratify the modified, statute by plebiscite; the ratification is valid even if the parliament refuses to validate the previously accepted amendments; however, under such conditions, the modification may not have the force of Law and may only be applied internally;

e. in case the Autonomy Council or the plebiscite, rejects the proposed amendments, a similar one can be initiated, but only a year later.

Section 130

The present Autonomy statute complements the state's lawful regulations.

Section 131.

At the time of the present Autonomy Statutum becoming Law all other edicts, contrary to this, lose their validity.

Sepsiszentgyörgy,  
2004. január 17.

Accepted by the :

SZEKLER NATIONAL COUNCIL