



הפדרציה של הקהילות היהודיות ברומניה The Federation of the Jewish Communities of Romania

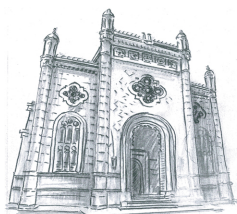
FEDERAȚIA COMUNITĂȚILOR EVREIEȘTI DIN ROMÂNIA – CULTUL MOZAIC

The leadership of **The Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania** is subscribing to the point of view issued by the Jewish Community of Caransebeș regarding to the inappropriate statements of Mr. Ion Marcel Vela, Minister of Internal Affairs of Romania. We express our astonishment, especially since we've had a high regard of the performances of Mr. Marcel Vela at the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and his involvement in resolving the emergencies in the life of our country.

We are deeply saddened by his statement and we are convinced that we will receive an appropriate response for this matter from Minister Ion Marcel Vela, to whom we wish great success in his political life in Caransebeș and at national level.

**Dr. Aurel Vainer**

President of the FEDROM



FEDERAȚIA COMUNITĂȚILOR EVREIEȘTI DIN ROMÂNIA  
BUCUREȘTI, 030202, STR. SFÂNTA VINERI NR. 9-11, SECTOR 3  
WWW.JEWISHFED.RO

TELEFON: 021-313.25.38; 021-315.50.90; 021-310.31.41  
FAX: 021-313.10.28 EMAIL: VAINER@JEWISHFED.RO  
CONT B.C.R., SECTOR 3, RO51RNCB0074011952750001



## Open letter

### Point of view of the Jewish Community of Caransebes regarding to the statements of Mr. Ion Marcel Vela, Minister of Internal Affairs of Romania

Dear Minister Ion Marcel Vela,

The members of the Jewish Community of Caransebes took note of your statements, during the show broadcast by Express de Banat on Friday, September 25, 2020, regarding the Jewish community, in which you mentioned, among other things, "the pavement placed in the backyard of the only Jew from Caransebes" and you have drawn a parallel with works at other places of worship of other denominations. We believe that this information is not only incorrect, but, being launched on a public channel of communication, is also becoming biased and we want to offer, in the following, a series of clarifications, for the correct information of the public opinion:

- The works in question were not carried out "in the courtyard of the only Jew from Caransebeș" as you stated, but of the Synagogue of Caransebeș which, in addition to the role of place of worship, is a cultural pole in Caransebeș Municipality. Before the pandemic began, the synagogue was visited annually by hundreds of people, and was also the place where cultural events such as concerts, exhibitions, book launches were constantly organized - all of which were open to the general public without any participation fee. On the occasion of the Jewish New Year (September 20), the synagogue hosted dozens of people, both Jews and non-Jews alike, and we would like to mention the many classical music concerts brought musicians from prestigious cultural institutions from Romania, Germany, Israel, Austria, etc.
- At the same time, we would like to mention that in Romania the cults are equal before the law and the public authorities, according to Art. 9 of Law 489/2006: (2) The cults are equal before the law and the public authorities. The State, through its authorities, will not promote or favor the granting of privileges or the creation of discrimination against any cult. 3. Public authorities shall cooperate with and support activities in areas of common interest. (4) The Romanian State, through the competent public authorities, supports the spiritual-cultural and social activity abroad of the cults recognized in Romania.





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In conclusion, regardless of the number of members of a minority living in Romania, we consider it worrying that an incumbent Minister disregards its importance, ignoring the contribution over the centuries to the economic and cultural development of the city in which it is located. We also consider the parallel with other denominations to be worrying, as this can create dissensions and misunderstandings in a city that has always been multiethnic and multicultural.

Best regards and respect,  
The Board of the Jewish Community of Caransebes



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