



## ROMANIA

# Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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#### Minister Teodor Baconschi attends inauguration of Peter Maffay Foundation Children's Centre

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Foreign Minister Teodor Baconschi attended, as a guest of honour, the 9 July inauguration of the Children's Centre at Rodeş, Braşov County, a project of the Peter Maffay Romania Foundation, under the patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Romanian-born German artist Peter Maffay is the president of a foundation involved in protecting children's rights. His foundation conducts several projects in Romania, aimed at supporting civil society and building centres for orphans and children in distress.

At Rodeş, the Peter Maffay Foundation turned the onetime parish house of the fortified church into a place where institutionalized children can meet with foreign peers, interact, share their own culture and values, and enjoy country life.

"In the name of the wish that the longstanding collaboration between Saxons should extend into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, I welcome this initiative. I will further work politically to strengthen the bond between Saxons and their country of origin. You are at home here. Do come back more often so we can work together for the common good," stated Foreign Minister Teodor Baconschi on the occasion.

"This initiative is all the more noble as it addresses children from poor or broken families. Through you, Mr. Maffay, through all those who helped achieve this project, hopes for normalization of our society are reviving," Minister Baconschi emphasized.

In his turn, Peter Maffay said: "What is happening here stands proof to the will of many people to improve the situation of socially disadvantaged children, to offer them a respite, a moment to heal their wounds and find the strength to face up to this destiny. That this project has the support of the highest political echelons both in Romania and in Germany proves that the formula 'social competence' is not just an empty phrase."

"Recently, at the Saxons' gathering at Dinkelsbühl, Mr. Minister, you explicitly addressed the importance of reviving cultural and economic, as well as social collaboration, which is primarily linked to investing more in the future generations. I would like to thank you for those conciliatory and encouraging words that have already struck a chord in Germany and will continue to do so in future! Finally, we thank you for your spontaneous acceptance concerning the patronage of today's event," Peter Maffay said.