



## ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ

4 June 2020

### **A Century After the Treaty of Trianon**

The Great Union accomplished by the Romanian people in 1918 required – as in the case of similar acts undertaken by Czechs, Slovaks, Croats, Poles, Slovenes, Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians, etc. – an international legitimacy, which was achieved in the years 1919-1920, through the five peace treaties concluded in Paris. The Treaty with Hungary, the last of them, signed at Trianon on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1920, enshrined the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the formation of independent states or the completeness of others. Among these complete states was Romania, whose western border was recognized, among other matters, through the above mentioned treaty. The Romanians' decision to unite Transylvania with Romania was achieved based on the application of the principle of peoples' right to self-determination, recognized by the international community, following the initiative of the American President Woodrow Wilson. The peace treaties between the Allied and Associated Powers, on the one hand, and Austria and Hungary, on the other hand, only formalized – not without certain difficulties – the resolutions of the Romanian, Polish, Croatian, Czech, Slovak, Slovenian, etc. peoples that represented ethno-demographic majorities in the territories detached from the former empire. Obviously, for the Hungarian elite, the disintegration of Austria-Hungary and the reduction of independent Hungary to its ethnic borders meant a great loss and led to great frustration, which, in some circles, has not yet died down. On the other hand, the international recognition, in 1920, at Trianon, of the decisions of the former subject peoples, having come to live after 1918 in their own independent states, has always been confirmed by the new treaties concluded in the post-World War II period. Thus, the Romanian people, without enjoying anyone's sadness, is free to celebrate its historical fulfillment, the recognition of its rights, along with the righteousness of other neighboring peoples, engaged today in building the new united Europe.

Although the Romanian Academy – like other institutions of our country and in the world – could not properly mark the importance, a century later, of the Treaty of Trianon-Paris, the high forum brings before the nation its tribute of gratitude to all those great statesmen, Romanians and foreigners, who built modern Romania, united by the will of the Romanian people. It is important not to forget their sacrifices and to carry on their message of justice, peace and understanding.

*The Presidium Bureau of the Romanian Academy*