

## EuroLang mourns the tragic loss of journalist Áron Balló



Brussel - Bruxelles, Tuesday, 11 July 2006 by Davyth Hicks



On behalf of all at EuroLang, we are shocked and deeply saddened to announce that our Hungarian correspondent, Áron Balló, died in a car crash on Friday (7th July). Áron was driving home from Satu-Mare, Romania, having completed a newspaper report, when he was involved in an accident caused by an unlit cart. He died instantly at the scene of the accident.

While he was overtaking an ambulance, he noticed that there was an unlit wagon in the front of the ambulance. In trying to avoid the wagon he had a head-on collision with another car coming from the other direction. Although the ambulance stopped immediately, no one was able to help Áron.

Áron was 38 years old.

Besides being a journalist of the first rank, writing in Hungarian, Romanian and English, Áron's EuroLang articles from Romania were the first from eastern Europe to look at the problems faced by the national minorities in the east. He almost single handedly raised awareness of the linguistic situation for Hungarian speakers and others across eastern Europe before the 2004 accession.

Áron was a frequent delegate at conferences and visitor to Brussels, he was a personal friend, a comrade, a stalwart supporter of EuroLang and a champion for language rights. The last time I saw him he was enthusing about EuroLang's future, suggesting ideas for funding and for articles, and for new avenues to follow.

One such project was to hold the annual meeting of MIDAS, the minority language daily newspaper organisation in his hometown of Kolozsvár (Cluj), Transylvania, in 2007. Both Áron's wife, Katalin Maksay (Kati), and Szabadság staff have said that they will work to ensure that this project, dear to Áron, will go ahead.

The funeral service will be held on Thursday, July 13th, at 1pm.

All of us at EuroLang offer our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Áron's wife Kati, his family, and to his staff at Szabadság, he will be sorely missed.

*Agus sith nan siothbrugh,  
A'laighe sios's ag eirigh suas,  
An cainnt, an gluasad agus kernaigh.*

[http://www.eurolang.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2680&Itemid=1&lang=en](http://www.eurolang.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2680&Itemid=1&lang=en)