

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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**NPKI** | NEMZETPOLITIKAI  
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### Fidesz-KDNP presents candidates to represent ethnic Hungarians

Hungary's ruling Fidesz-Christian Democratic alliance has presented its European parliamentary candidates drawn from Hungarian communities abroad. Ildikó Pelczné Gáll, Vice-president of Fidesz and first on the party's electoral list, has announced that the following candidates will also be on the list: Andrea Bocskor, teacher at the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute, from western Ukraine's Transcarpathia region (9th place on the list); Andor Deli, member of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians, from the Vojvodina province in Serbia (10th place on the list); László Gubik, head of the youth chapter "Via Nova" of the Party of Hungarian Community (MKP) will represent Hungarians in Slovakia if given a mandate, and he occupies the symbolic 21st place on the list. In her introduction, Andrea Bocskor promised that in Brussels she will work to promote Ukraine's EU integration and to present Transcarpathian Hungarians' efforts in the European Parliament. Andor Deli said that the opportunity to appear on the EP list contributes to representing in Brussels the interests of all Hungarians around the world, and is also a "springboard" for the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ). He also emphasized the importance of Serbia's EU integration, in which the VMSZ – in Mr. Deli's opinion – "should play the role of a bridge".

László Gubik – one of those Hungarians in Slovakia who have been deprived of their Slovak citizenship as a result of taking Hungarian citizenship – said that he is "a symbolic figure in a symbolic place on a list which conveys an important message".

The ruling parties had earlier announced that Hungarians in Romania will be represented by László Tóké, head of the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania (3rd place on the list), and that György Schöpflin will represent the Hungarian diaspora (7th place on the list).

### NPKE: The CoE's resolution is an important step forward in the protection of minorities

The Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad (NPKE) considers that the resolution adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (CoE) – based on a report by Ferenc Kalmár (from the Christian Democratic Party) – is an important step forward in the field of the protection of minorities. According to an analysis by the NPKE, the resolution's statements related to territorial arrangements are extremely important regarding Hungarian communities abroad, especially those living in Transylvania. The analysis explains that the resolution calls on member states to look into and use as a guideline practices used by Alto Adige/South Tyrol and Finland, which grant collective or group rights; it also calls for implementation of territorial self-government arrangements, in a format agreed by all parties concerned. The full text of the analysis can be reached via this link:



[http://bgazrt.hu/\\_files/NPKI/ET\\_en.pdf](http://bgazrt.hu/_files/NPKI/ET_en.pdf)



### Romanian governing coalition submits draft law on flags to Parliament

Forty-two representatives of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) have submitted a draft law to Parliament on the adoption and use of the flags of local administrative units. The draft law signed by Prime Minister Victor Ponta and Deputy Prime Minister for Public Administration Liviu Dragnea was submitted on Monday, and will first appear on the agenda of the Senate, then that of the House of Representatives. It states that flags of municipalities, towns and counties should be adopted by government resolution following proposals from local governments. The shape and size of local flags should correspond to those of the national flag of Romania, they must not insult Romanian national symbols and they must not include the national symbols of other countries. Providing expert opinion is followed, the flags of municipalities or towns may include the crest and the name of the relevant administrative unit.

In towns or municipalities where a minority forms at least 20% of the population, the name of the administrative unit can be appear on the flag in the language of that minority below the Romanian name, written in letters of identical size and color. According to the draft law, these flags may only be displayed at public institutions together with the flags of Romania and the European Union. On Wednesday Árpád Márton, the Deputy Leader of the faction of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) told the Hungarian news agency MTI that his party had discussed the draft law – which had been issued for public debate in February – with its coalition partners, but he could not confirm whether the members of the PSD had registered in Parliament the version which includes the RMDSZ's proposed amendments.



### Slovakia submits application to intervene in Zoltán Lomnici's lawsuit against the European Parliament

Slovakia has submitted an application to intervene in the lawsuit before the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxemburg launched by the President of the Council for Human Dignity Zoltán Lomnici against the European Parliament (EP), because the EP's Committee on Petitions had removed from its agenda his petition against the Slovak Citizenship Act. Beatrix Ricziová, commissioner of Slovakia's Ministry of Justice – who has submitted the application to intervene – confirmed the news on Tuesday to the Hungarian news agency MTI.

Last December the President of the Council for Human Dignity made a complaint to the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxemburg, referring to “successive infringements” by the EP's Committee on Petitions; this was after the body removed Mr. Lomnici's petition on the Slovak Citizenship Act from its agenda last October. In the petition Mr. Lomnici had criticized the violations committed by the Slovak authorities



under the Right of Citizenship Act. Reacting to Slovakia's application to intervene, Mr. Lomnici told MTI that this step proves that Slovakia's government is making every effort to prevent the examination in European forums of the "violations committed by the authorities".

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### István Pásztor: We are participating in the new government with state secretaries

On Monday, after a board meeting of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), the elected Prime Minister of Serbia Aleksandar Vučić announced that the SNS – which won the election in March – will form a coalition with the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ). After the meeting Mr. Vučić said that a "small, modern and efficient government" will be established in Serbia by 27 April.

As already reported after the election in March, the VMSZ will have 6 representatives in the Serbian parliament. At a press conference on Tuesday, the head of the VMSZ István Pásztor said that coalition talks between the SNS and the VMSZ were concluded on Monday. The presidencies of the two parties agreed upon the composition of the governing coalition, and the mechanisms for cooperation were to be fixed in a coalition agreement in the middle of the following week. In the weekend edition of the Hungarian newspaper Magyar Szó, the head of the VMSZ said that they will have state secretaries in the new Serbian government, because this way they can be more successful over the next four years than if they had ministers.

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### The Constitution of Ukraine to be modified in the direction of decentralization

The interim Prime Minister of Ukraine and the acting President have urged national unity and promised to modify the Constitution of the country. By means of a new constitution, the Russian language could become an official language in some regions of Ukraine. The acting President of Ukraine Olexandr Turchynov said that – in order to create peace and mutual agreement between Ukrainian citizens – they will assure a right for the councils of counties, districts and towns to make Russian or other languages spoken by the majority of the local population official in the relevant regions, in addition to the state language of Ukrainian. The interim Prime Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatsenyuk said that they "will take measures to strengthen the special status of Russian and other languages spoken by local communities in the territory of Ukraine".