

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Minister heading the Prime Minister's Office Gergely Gulyás holds talks in Bucharest

Minister heading the Prime Minister's Office Gergely Gulyás has made an official visit to Bucharest. During his stay in the Romanian capital, he met with Romanian Minister for EU Affairs George Ciamba. Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI after the talks, Mr. Gulyás said that there are several extremely important issues that also directly affect Hungary and the agenda during the period of the Romanian presidency, including some with relation to which there are common Hungarian-Romanian interests. The Minister told the press that while in Bucharest he had also met with President of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen, with whom he discussed, amongst others, preparations for the EP elections. Mr. Gulyás added that "We hope that there can be a strong RMDSZ representation within the EP. This would reinforce both Hungarian representation and the People's Party group". During the meeting, the president of the RMDSZ also reported on current issues affecting the Hungarian community in Romania, including the problems surrounding Hungarian medical education in Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş. Mr. Gulyás stressed: "we hope that Romanian politics will be strong enough to solve these issues without wanting to repress national minorities, and while ensuring that they can truly practice the rights that they have enjoyed thus far, or which are guaranteed the by law, in future".

Transylvanian Hungarian parties urge the establishment of a Hungarian university of medicine and pharmacy

On Friday, the members of the Transylvanian Hungarian Autonomy Roundtable held a meeting in Temesvár/Timişoara, led by Prime Ministerial Commissioner Katalin Szili. After the meeting, the representatives adopted a statement which they sent to Hungarian news agency MTI. In the statement they stress that it would be important that Romania – during its EU presidency – adopt laws which can contribute to the development of the Hungarian community in the country. As an example, the parties mention the establishment of a Transylvanian Hungarian university of medicine and pharmacy. The members of the Transylvanian Hungarian Autonomy Roundtable also discussed current political events and the issues of the approaching European Parliamentary elections. The statement was signed by the executive vice president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) István Székely, executive president of the Transylvanian Hungarian National Council (EMNT) Krisztina Sándor, executive president of the Transylvanian Hungarian People's Party (EMNP) Tibor T. Toró and Prime Ministerial Commissioner Katalin Szili.





Two former presidents of the MKP lead the party's EP list

At a press conference held after the meeting of the national council of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) in Pozsony/Bratislava, it was announced that the first two candidates on the list of the MKP for the European Parliamentary elections will be two former presidents of the party: Pál Csáky and József Berényi. The list has 14 candidates. Speaking at the press conference, the head of the MKP – and candidate for Slovakia's presidential election – József Menyhárt said that the list includes only professionally prepared people, adding that there “young people and women among them.” He added that the two candidates who lead the list are well-known people in Slovakia.” The first person on the list is Pál Csáky who is the current MEP of the MKP. The second candidate is József Berényi, the former president of the Party of the Hungarian Community. Speaking at the press conference, Pál Csáky stressed that their first aim is to protect the interests of the Hungarian community in Slovakia at regional, national and European level.



István Pásztor: Vojvodina becomes stronger

Speaking to the Szabadka/Subotica Hungarian Radio, the head of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) and president of the Provincial House of Representatives István Pásztor stressed that economic indicators show that Vojvodina is developing and becoming stronger – not only at regional, but also national level. Mr. Pásztor added that Vojvodina's development can have a positive impact on the development of Serbia's economic development as well. He added, however, that further developments are necessary, especially in the field of railway network. Mr. Pásztor said that the renovation of the Szabadka/Subotica-Zenta/Senta railway line might start in March or April.



House Speaker László Kövér visits Transcarpathia

The Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér has made an official visit to Transcarpathia. The house speaker attended a Hungarian theater performance entitled “Időfonal” in Beregszász/Berehove. Addressing the event, Mr. Kövér stressed that with this performance “we are celebrating the indestructible creative force of Transcarpathian Hungarians.” He added that this force is rooted in “homeland, Hungarian culture and European traditions.” Mr. Kövér stressed that among the most urgent problems of Europe, the issue of communities' identity takes an important place. The house speaker highlighted that “restricting other communities' national identity will not make any country stronger or more stable, on the contrary, it makes a country unstable and weak.”



Péter Szilágyi: Hungary continues to support Hungarian diaspora organizations and weekend schools

Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI after the conference of Hungarian schools in Germeny held in Stuttgart, Ministerial Commissioner responsible for the policy for Hungarian communities abroad Péter Szilágyi said that Hungary will ensure increased support for Hungarian diaspora organizations and weekend schools in 2019. Mr. Szilágyi stressed that the amount of money spent on these purposes was HUF 400 million in 2018 and will be HUF 500 million in 2019. The ministerial commissioner stressed that these institutions play a crucial role in the permanence of Hungarian language and culture far from the kin-state, therefore, supporting them is extremely important. Mr. Szilágyi added that compared to the previous year, the number of Hungarian weekend schools applying for the Hungarian Government's program increased. He also recalled that in 2018, the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad organized the Meeting of Hungarian Weekend Schools in Budapest for the first time and it was extremely successful. He added that due to this success, the meeting will be organized in 2019 again. It is scheduled to take place on 22 February in the Hungarian capital.

Hungary opens consulate in Miami

Hungary has opened a consulate in Miami. In a telephone statement to the Hungarian news agency MTI, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó, who officially inaugurated the diplomatic representation, said the opening of the consulate was necessary to enable better contact with the Hungarian communities living there, develop economic relations, and manage the consular affairs of people on vacation there. The Minister said the consulate would partly represent the interests of Hungarian citizens, and partly facilitate the building of foreign trade relations. As he explained, seven EU member states, including Germany, Italy and Holland, have consular offices in Miami, but Hungary is the first Central European country to establish one. He added that "Our political and economic relations with the United States are expanding and improving dynamically, American enterprises are the second largest community of investors in Hungary, and the United States is our largest export destination outside the EU." Mr. Szijjártó added that there are some 110,000 Hungarians or people of Hungarian descent living in the area, who live a very active community life, and who regard contact with their native country as extremely important. The minister said that the second largest event on the calendar of Hungarians living in the USA, the Hungarian Festival, is held in Florida each year".

