

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
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Prime Minister Viktor Orbán receives the President of the KMKSZ

On Friday, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán received the head of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) László Brenzovics in his office, in the Carmelite Monastery in Budapest. The main topic of the meeting was the Ukrainian parliamentary election which is scheduled to take place on 21 July 2019. The parties agreed that it is important that the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia preserves its presence in the Ukrainian national assembly. The Hungarian Prime Minister and the head of the KMKSZ also encouraged Transcarpathians who work in Hungary to travel home on 21 July and vote in the Ukrainian parliamentary election.

Hungarian-Slovak relations improve year after year

In his office in the Carmelite Monastery in Budapest on Thursday afternoon Prime Minister Viktor Orbán held talks with Slovak President of the Republic Zuzana Caputová about the Visegrád cooperation, Hungarian-Slovak bilateral relations and European political topics. Mr. Orbán congratulated the new Slovak head of state, who entered into office in June, and thanked her for one of her first official trips being to Hungary. At the meeting, the parties agreed that Hungary and Slovakia are important partners for one another also with regard to their common historical past and one another's national minorities. In the Hungarian Prime Minister's view, since 2010 Hungarian-Slovak relations have improved gradually, and together the two countries have achieved impressive results. They both highlighted the importance of the Visegrád cooperation which is "a strategic issue for Central Europe," in particular during the present period in which there is an ongoing debate within the European Union about the most important issues related to the continent's future.

The State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad will support a Transcarpathian school hit by a storm

On Friday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi informed the Hungarian news agency MTI that his office will ensure financial support for the secondary school of Transcarpathia's Szürte/Siurte, which was hit by a storm last Sunday. The state secretary said that the school – which is the sole education institution in the village – will receive support as part of a large-scale Transcarpathian school development program launched by the Hungarian Government. Mr. Potápi stressed that it important that Hungarians in Transcarpathia feel that they are not alone. He added that this step is a further sign of the kin-state's care and attention for this Hungarian community.

Tamás Menczer: Standing up for Hungarians abroad is one of the cornerstones of our foreign policy

Speaking at the opening event of Eötvös Loránd University's Carpathian Basin Hungarian Summer University, Tamás Menczer, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and



Trade's State Secretary for Information and the International Representation of Hungary, stressed that "One of the most important cornerstones of Hungarian foreign policy is standing up for Hungarians abroad, and the protection and representation of their rights and interests". Mr. Menczer highlighted that "It is our firm belief that it is definitely better for Hungarian communities beyond the borders if the Hungarian Cabinet maintains good relations with the governments of neighboring countries". He also spoke about the fact that the Government is maintaining continuous contact and dialogue with the national community living in these countries. The State Secretary said that the most important conditions for continued existence and prosperity are the use of the mother tongue and the presence of Hungarian language education. In relation to Hungary's relationship with neighboring countries and the current situation Hungarian communities abroad, Mr. Menczer pointed out that "the Ukrainian Language Act, which strips the Hungarian community living in Transcarpathia of their acquired rights, is unacceptable to Hungary", adding that the legislation also violates international agreements. He added that following the election of the new Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky, a "quite cautious" optimism now characterizes the Hungarian position, as bilateral relations might once again be placed "onto a foundation of mutual respect".

[Péter Szilágyi receives Uruguayan Hungarians in Budapest](#)

On Tuesday Péter Szilágyi, Ministerial commissioner at the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Hungarian communities abroad, received a group of young Hungarians (of Hungarian descent) from Uruguay, who had travelled to Hungary as part of the Diaspora Program: a program operated by the Rákóczi Association and financed by the Hungarian Government. Welcoming the group, the ministerial commissioner stressed that "Hungary counts on young Hungarians living in the diaspora and helps them preserve Hungarian culture." Mr. Szilágyi emphasized that Hungarians are a small nation, therefore it is extremely important to preserve and strengthen ties between the 2.5 million diaspora Hungarians and the kin-state. The ministerial commissioner added that for the Hungarian community in Uruguay (numbering a few thousand), the most important "force" helping them preserve their Hungarian identity is folk dance and scouting. He added that Hungary is grateful to them for preserving the culture of their ancestors thousands of kilometers away from Hungary. Mr. Szilágyi added that as part of the Diaspora Program, every year 1,000 young people of Hungarian descent have an opportunity to travel to Hungary.



[Romania's statement is making the improvement of relations more difficult](#)

In a statement to Hungarian news agency MTI in reaction to Wednesday's statement by the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said that "Romania has issued a statement that is making the improvement of bilateral relations more difficult." The information released



states that the Romanian Foreign Ministry issued a statement about Tuesday's meeting between Péter Szijjártó and his Romanian counterpart Teodor Melescanu which took place on the sidelines of an informal meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) foreign ministers in Štrbské pleso, Slovakia. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that, according to the Romanian statement, Mr. Szijjártó had asked for the "disregarding of the rulings of law enforcement institutions and intervention in the justice system of the Romanian state". In response Mr. Szijjártó said that "In a state governed by the rule of law that respects European values, it is not those who, for instance, hold a peaceful demonstration in a cemetery that are punished, but those who attack them". He added that "We continue to maintain that it is the duty of the Romanian Parliament and the Romanian government to do everything possible and create a suitable legal environment to enable minorities to practice their rights, and that nobody punishes the members of the national community with 'horrific fines' simply for using their symbols."

Kalotaszeg Hungarian Days are held in Bánffyhunyard

On Sunday the third Kalotaszeg Hungarian Days were held in Romania's Bánffyhunyard/ Huedin. The event was organized by the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), and addressed by Ministerial Commissioner at the Prime Minister's Office Péter Szilágyi, who expressed the Hungarian Government's gratitude that the people of Kalotaszeg have preserved their Hungarian identity and traditions. Mr. Szilágyi stressed that Kalotaszeg is a treasure which is used as a synonym for "Hungarian" everywhere in the world. As an example, he mentioned that at the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games, the Hungarian team wore national costumes decorated with Kalotaszeg motifs.



The MKP and the Most-Híd hold talks on a potential cooperation

Last week the leaders of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) and the mixed Slovak-Hungarian party, Most-Híd (Bridge) held talks on a potential cooperation on the approaching elections. In a statement issued after the talks, the two parties agreed that two options are possible: taking part in the election separately or in coalition. In the following days, the two parties will analyze, which option is better for Hungarians in Slovakia. If the MKP and the Most-Híd take part in the election in coalition, they will have to reach 7% in order to win seats. The representatives of the two parties agreed that "their responsibility is huge since it is extremely important that national communities in the country, among them Hungarians, have representation in the Slovak parliament after the 2020 election."





A new sports field is inaugurated in Kishegyes

Last week a new sports field for the Kindergarten Sport Foundation was inaugurated at the Pán Péter Pre-School Institution in Kishegyes/Mali Idoš. This is the institution where the well-known singer, Magdolna Rúzsá went, and she was pleased to accept an invitation to the ceremony. Also taking part in the event were famous public figures, provincial and local officials, who opened the sports field while watched by a large number of nursery school children. The event was also attended by the President of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor and the head of the Hungarian National Council (MNT) Jenő Hajnal. In his speech, Mr. Pásztor praised the activity of the foundation and Magdolna Rúzsá.



We have unwavering faith that the Hungarian peoples of Transcarpathia do indeed have a future

Speaking in Ukraine's Berehove/Beregszász, Levente Magyar – Parliamentary State Secretary and Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade – stressed that “Our faith in the fact that the Hungarian peoples of Transcarpathia do have a future is unwavering, as also evidenced by the fact that the Transcarpathian Hungarian community has successfully made use of the over 18 billion forints (EUR 55.2 million) in economic development funding provided to it by the Hungarian Government over the past 2.5 years for its own construction”. As part of the ceremony Mr. Magyar announced new economic development programs and tender opportunities. In his speech to hundreds of Transcarpathian Hungarian entrepreneurs in the assembly hall of the Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute, the deputy foreign minister emphasized that “The Hungarian Government remains committed to strengthening Hungarian life in Transcarpathia, including strengthening Hungarian enterprises that provide people with jobs and keep young people in the region”.

