

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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New website focusing on Hungarian communities abroad is launched

On Tuesday, speaking at a press conference, Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén and State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi announced that the government has launched a new website called Hungarians Abroad (kulhonimagyarok.hu) with the aim to introduce the life of Hungarian communities abroad as well as the kin-state's work in a new way. Speaking at the press conference, the Deputy Prime Minister for Hungarian Communities Abroad, Church Affairs and Nationalities Zsolt Semjén said that the goal was to provide a new platform where everything connected with the policy for Hungarian communities abroad is available "at one place" and it is "personal" at the same time. Mr. Semjén said that the kulhonimagyarok.hu website can be divided into three parts: news portal, knowledge-base and the collection of "personal stories." He added that as a news portal its mission is to provide information on the most important news on Hungarians abroad. As a knowledge-base, it offers information on the various programs of the Hungarian Government for Hungarian communities abroad (like the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program, Petőfi Sándor Program, Without Borders Program, Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program and many others), as well as the main strategic and other documents of Hungarian communities abroad. Mr. Semjén added that the new website of the Without Borders program is also available from the kulhonimagyarok.hu. Both the Deputy Prime Minister and the State Secretary stressed that the main "novelty" of the website is the collection of personal stories: it introduces "everyday people" from the Carpathian Basin and the diaspora through the stories of whom we can get a better insight into the "real life" of Hungarian communities abroad.

Péter Szilágyi: strengthening Hungarian-Israeli relationship is important

On Tuesday, speaking in Budapest at the launch of the book "Hungarian Memories in Israel", Ministerial Commissioner for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Péter Szilágyi said that it is important for the Hungarian government to strengthen its relationship with Israel. The Ministerial Commissioner stressed that the friendly relationship between Hungary and Israel is based on the Jewish communities in the Carpathian Basin, which is the largest one in Central Europe. He added that this community has given several scientists and artists to the Hungarian nation. Mr. Szilágyi stressed that the Hungarian government supports the Jewish communities, their artistic events and the renovation of their synagogues. He praised the good relationship between the Association for Hungarian Memories in the World that organized the launch of the book and the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office.





László Tőkés: the events of 1989 may strengthen the Hungarians in Temesvár and Transylvania

Speaking at the opening event of the Hungarian Days in Temesvár/Timișoara, the President of the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania (EMNT) László Tőkés said that the consciousness of the “1989 resistance” may strengthen the Hungarians in Temesvár and Transylvania. Mr. Tőkés said that he considers it to be “the greatest honor of his life” that he was a pastor in Temesvár. He stated that the 1989 uprising in Romania had led to a diversion and a coup which was followed by a communist setback. The new national communism hindered the initial encounter between the different nations in Romania. Delivering the message of the Hungarian Government, Ministerial Commissioner Péter Szilágyi recalled that Timisoara was the capital of the Hungarian Kingdom for some time as Róbert Károly moved his royal seat there for a few years. Mr. Szilágyi stressed that the name of the city was eternally inscribed in the history by the Romanian revolution that overthrew the communist dictatorship in 1989. He added that that the Hungarian Days in Timisoara provide a cultural and gastronomic revitalization and at the same time carry the symbolic message that the Hungarians of the town can and want to live.

Common action plan: Hungarian parties in Transylvania negotiate a twelve-point document

On Friday in Kolozsvár/Cluj-Napoca, the representatives of Hungarian political organizations in Transylvania discussed a common action plan. The participants of the autonomy-roundtable that had been established at the initiative of Prime Ministerial Commissioner Katalin Szili, started negotiations on a 12-point work material. In a joint statement sent to the news agency MTI, they declared that they would initiate and support that the newly established institutional system of the European Union passes the five fundamental principles drew up by Ferenc Kalmár and Katalin Szili on autochthonous national minorities. In the meantime, they strengthened their commitment to the execution of the goals of the Cooperation Agreement signed by the leaders of the political organizations on 8th January 2018.



Hungarian Forum (MF), Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) and Fellowship (Összefogás) to collaborate

Non-parliamentary party Hungarian Forum (MF), the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) and the new movement named Fellowship are ready to create a joint electoral list ahead of the parliamentary elections next year. Currently they are discussing the form of the candidate list as well as their program. President of the MF Zsolt Simon and press secretary of the MKP Róbert Králik confirmed this to the news agency TASR on Thursday. Together with some representatives of a few civil organizations, the parties decided to set a joint electoral list. Mr. Králik said that the



MKP suggested a list with seventy-five places allocated to the party of József Menyhárt and seventy-five to the cooperating partners.

Szíjjártó: dialogue is easier with the new Ukrainian leaders

On Thursday in New York, following the discussions with the new leader of the Ukrainian diplomacy Vadym Prystaiko, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szíjjártó said that dialogue is easier with the new Ukrainian leaders. This has been the first meeting of the two ministers. Speaking about the meeting Mr. Szíjjártó told the news agency MTI that both parties are interested in good neighborly relations and in relations between the two countries returning to where they were a few years ago. The Hungarian minister said that Mr. Prystaiko showed openness, indicated that any and all questions may be put forward within bilateral relations, and clearly expressed the fact that the new Ukrainian administration is flexible with relation to discussing issues. Speaking about the meeting the Minister said that the discussions were conducted in a positive, constructive manner.

The 4th Western European Hungarian Folk Dance Festival ends on Sunday

The 4th Western European Hungarian Folk Dance Festival ended in Stuttgart, Germany on Sunday. Ministerial Commissioner for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Péter Szilágyi told the Hungarian news agency MTI that eight Hungarian folk dance groups from three countries – Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland – participated in the 4th Western European Hungarian Folk Dance Festival, which ended on Wednesday. The goal of the three-day festival was to connect the Hungarian folk dance groups operating in Western Europe and to provide them the opportunity to get to know each other and live their commitment to the mother land through folk dance and folk music. Mr. Szilágyi stressed that the Hungarian folk art, including Hungarian folk dance reflects the tradition of hundreds of years in their moves. This art helps the Hungarian communities living in the diaspora to preserve their patriotism and their awareness to be Hungarians.