

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Zsolt Semjén outlines the strategic interests of Hungary and Romania

At the 20th anniversary ceremony of the Hungarian-Romanian department of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Békéscsaba, Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén pointed out that strategic interests of Hungary and Romania are the strengthening of the North-South axis, building freeways along the borders and support for Hungarian-Romanian businesses in entering third-party markets. Mr. Semjén emphasized that building freeways connecting Debrecen and Oradea/Nagyvárad and Békéscsaba, Arad and Timișoara /Temesvár is crucial, as is connecting the railways within and beyond Hungary's borders. According to Mr. Semjén, over the past twenty years the Hungarian-Romanian department has been crucial, as it has provided an opportunity for other joint enterprises to be created, but there must be a focus on also appearing in third-party markets in addition to those in Hungary and Romania.

## Szili: 2010 healed the wounds of the 2004 referendum

According to the commissioner dealing with questions of autonomy beyond the borders, the policies for Hungarian communities abroad after 2010 have been healing the wounds caused by the referendum of 5 December 2004. At the opening of a conference on the protection of Hungarian rights in the Carpathian Basin, Katalin Szili pointed out that since 2010 there has been agreement on the question of autonomy, citizenship and voting rights for Hungarians abroad. Speaking at the event of the Institute for the Protection of Minority Rights (IPMR) in Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Mrs. Szili said that the present government provides significantly more support to Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin than its predecessor did, and that the Constitution now states that the kin state is responsible for them. In response to a question about the 2004 referendum on a law providing citizenship for citizens of other countries who claim to be Hungarian, she said that the political elite which campaigned against it prevented the people from exercising their right to vote.



## The ministerial order sanctioning the refoundation of a Catholic high school has been declared void by the court of Târgu Mureș/Marosvásárhely

The 2018 ministerial order sanctioning the refoundation of Rákóczi Ferenc II Roman Catholic High School has been declared void in the first degree by a court in Târgu Mureș. Extracts from the judgement will be posted on the portals of Romanian courts. The court annulled three orders from 2018, all of which concerned the school; it also partially annulled a fourth, which refers to the school among other things. These orders include one passed in June 2018 which sanctioned the refoundation of the high school – when it was legally attached to Bolyai Farkas High School – and one that temporarily put Zsolt Tamási in charge. Later Mr. Tamási was named headmaster



after competitive applications. The case can be appealed within 15 days of the declaration of the judgement.

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### Unity is strength: Hungarian parties sign the agreement

The Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP), the Hungarian Forum and Unity have signed an agreement of cooperation before the parliamentary elections. The name of the three united parties is Unity of the Hungarian Community. According to József Menyhárt, immediately after the European Parliament elections the MKP formulated the slogan “Unity is the Future”, in order to convince all Hungarian parties to take part in the elections as candidates of one party, and recent months have mostly focused on this. The chairman of the Party of the Hungarian Community believes that the unification is a strong and genuine move. As he pointed out, these candidates want to serve the community. According to Zsolt Semjén, all parties have made compromises, but none of them have given up their principles. President of Unity Szabolcs Mózés stated that in Slovakia governments with Hungarian members have been the most successful, and they would like to return to these traditions and make sure that Hungarians stand on the side of good. He believes that the union of the MKP, Unity and the Hungarian Forum can replace the present government and create a better country.

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### The renovation program of the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad provides food for elementary schools in Vojvodina

State Secretary Árpád János Potápi pointed out that the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad has offered support of HUF 6.5 million for a development program enabling elementary schools to provide food for their pupils. He emphasized that an experiment has started which aims to provide 65 portions of hot food per day to first and third grade pupils. He said that this is even more important, as schools generally do not provide food for children either in Vojvodina or Serbia. Regarding the State Secretariat’s ongoing programs for Vojvodina, Mr. Potápi said that the development program’s goal is the refurbishment and construction of nursery schools for toddlers and children. Elementary schools, high schools and vocational schools are also under development, and the teacher’s training college is being renovated.

During his visit to Vojvodina, State Secretary Potápi checked ongoing developments and handed out gift packages worth HUF 100,000 to the winners of an online game called “Our Town”. He called these packages “Wondercorners”.



## Orbán: We would like Baranya and Slavonia to be “the center of the world” again

In Osijek/Eszék on Thursday at the inauguration ceremony for a student hall of residence for the Educational and Cultural Center of Hungarians in Croatia, PM Viktor Orbán said that Croatia and Hungary must be linked to again make Slavonia and Baranya County “the center of the world” and a prestigious region. Mr. Orbán’s Croatian counterpart Andrej Plenković also attended the ceremony. Speaking at the event, Mr. Orbán emphasized that around ninety years ago Baranya County and Slavonia were among the richest parts of the world. He said they were envied not only for their culture, but also for their high standards of living. He noted that if one asks a Croatian in Osijek where he lives, they will say “the north corner of Croatia”, whereas a Hungarian will say “the south corner of Hungary”. People and communities which say they live in corners will never be successful, Mr. Orbán said: only those who believe they live at “the center of the world” can be successful. In Mr. Orbán’s opinion, if these countries were able to achieve something in the past, they can achieve it again. He explained that the countries need to be connected: “as long as we are isolated, we will never be successful”.

