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Szijjártó: The Ukrainian language Act violates international rights, according to the Venice Commission, too

On Saturday Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó told the Hungarian press agency MTI that the latest expert opinion of the Venice Commission shows that the Ukrainian language Act, passed under the previous Ukrainian president, deprives communities of their existing right to use their mother tongues. Mr. Szijjártó stated that it has now been proven that, following the education Act, the language Act is also in contravention of international law and Ukraine's commitments. He added that former president Petro Poroshenko and his government in Kiev supported laws that aimed to completely prevent minorities from using their mother tongues. He emphasized that Hungary considers this unacceptable, but that it believes in "new hope with the new president" – referring to Volodymyr Zelensky. As soon as Hungarian communities in Transcarpathia regain their rights, he said, Hungary will be ready to support Ukraine's NATO integration project.

Potápi: HUF 1,000,000,000 for Hungarians in the diaspora, twin town programs and youth organizations

Speaking at a press conference in Budapest on Tuesday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi pointed out that the State Secretariat is providing HUF 1,000,000,000 in support for Hungarian organizations in the diaspora, twin town programs and the activities of scouts and youth organizations. Calls for applications in these three areas have just been published.

Mr. Potápi explained that Hungarian organizations and activities in the diaspora will receive HUF 500 million, youth and scout organizations will receive HUF 250 million, and twin town programs and cooperative activities will receive another HUF 250 million. He explained that the aim of the diaspora program is to ensure prosperity for communities in the diaspora, maintaining and developing their relations with the kin state and preserving Hungarian culture, language and identity. The goal of the call for applications for scouting and youth organizations is to create team building programs for Hungarian scouts (age 15-35) living abroad, and that for twin towns is to maintain and develop relations between Hungarians in different twin towns.

Call for applications for the diaspora program of the Rákóczi Association launched on Wednesday

At the request of the Hungarian Diaspora Council and with the support of the Government, the Rákóczi Association has published its diaspora program, which will enable to organization of a study tour for 1,000 Hungarian students between the age of 10 and 29 living in the diaspora. The aim of this program is to strengthen the Hungarian identity of young Hungarians in the diaspora through trips in the Carpathian Basin, establishing relationships and gaining experiences. Students are



invited to participate in thematic study tours and summer camps. They can spend 8 to 10 days in Hungary and are offered a choice of nine program phases.



Zoltán Balog and György Gaál receive the Kincses Kolozsvár Prize

On Sunday Ministerial commissioner Zoltán Balog and historian György Gaál received this year's Kincses Kolozsvár Prize ("Treasures of Cluj-Napoca"). The award was given by the Kincses Kolozsvár Association, host of the Hungarian Days in Cluj-Napoca. Addressing the nominees, president of the association Balázs Gergely pointed out that Zoltán Balog had been a major help in organizing the Hungarian Days in Cluj-Napoca. In addition to this, he said, he has been effective in secular and religious roles as a pastor, State Secretary, Minister of Human resources and a ministerial commissioner. After the ceremony, the Hungarian National Dance Ensemble presented an act from Tenkes kapitánya (The Captain of Tenkes). Before the performance Réka Brendus, Head of Department at the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad, said that the National Assembly designated 2019 as the memorial year of Ferenc Rákóczi II, as Rákóczi was named Prince of Transylvania 315 years ago in Alba Iulia.



We can't start a new era without ambitions – Gyula Bárdos in Nézőpont (Point of View) on the expectations of Hungarians

The Unity of Hungarian Community party sent the names of its candidates to the Ministry of Internal Affairs before the legal deadline. At the top of this list is the President of Csemadok and former parliamentary leader of MKP Gyula Bárdos, who gained 5% of the votes in the first round of the 2014 presidential elections. As Mr. Bárdos pointed out, a solution to the problem of the legal status of Hungarians in Slovakia has been continuously postponed ever since the fall of communism 30 years ago. The southern territories of Slovakia are in an economically disadvantageous position, and have lost their advantage – at least in the Western region. Over the past 30 years the assimilation of Hungarians has increased significantly. Mr. Bárdos said that Hungarians' right to use their mother tongue, their independent school system and control of their culture are domains in which only a partial solution has been reached, or compromises have been made not to talk about them.



Ukraine's Minister of Education and Science meets Transcarpathian Hungarian leaders in Uzhhorod

During her one-day visit in Transcarpathia on Friday, Ukraine's Minister of Education and Science Hanna Novosad met Transcarpathian Hungarian leaders and negotiated



the application of Ukrainian education law, which is disadvantageous for Hungarian communities. She met Head of the Transcarpathian Hungarian Pedagogical Association Ildikó Orosz, President of the Transcarpathian Hungarian Cultural Association László Brenzovics and President of the Hungarian Democratic Alliance in Ukraine László Zubánics. They discussed questions about the Ukrainian education Act that concern Hungarian education. The Transcarpathian delegation also included Hungarian consul general in Uzhhorod József Buhajla. After the talks Mr. Brenzovics told the press that they did not manage to come to an agreement on the Ukrainian education Act, which violates minority rights.

Inauguration of nursery school and GP's surgery financed by government in Transcarpathia

During the Committee on National Cohesion's two-day visit to Transcarpathia, in Uzhhorod on Wednesday its chairman Károly Pánczél opened a Ukrainian-Hungarian nursery school which had been refurbished with HUF 30 million in funding from the Hungarian government. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Mr. Pánczél stressed that the Hungarian government had launched the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Development Program three years ago. This program has been the most significant investment in education in the past couple of years, enabling the construction of 110 new nursery schools and the refurbishment of more than 700 institutions abroad with funding of HUF 47,000,000,000. During their visit they also inaugurated a GP's surgery in Zapson, near Berehova. In his speech at the opening ceremony, Mr. Pánczél mentioned that the restoration and economic development of doctor's surgeries, nursery schools, churches, schools and cultural centers all serve the same purpose: preserving culture, identity, language and ensuring prosperity and a bright future for Hungarian communities in Transcarpathia.



Árpád János Potápi: preserving and strengthening Hungarian identity in the diaspora is crucial

Speaking in a telephone interview in Innsbruck, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi emphasized that preserving and strengthening Hungarian identity in the diaspora is crucial. On the first day of his three-day visit to Innsbruck, Mr. Potápi inaugurated developments in the Hungarian Students' Hall of Residence and Cultural Center in Innsbruck supported by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. Since 2017 the Hungarian government has supported the institution with HUF 30 million in funding. As the State Secretary noted, this establishment has had a very important historical role, serving as a center for Hungarian émigrés in 1956, and is currently a center of culture and education hosting 22 students – mostly Hungarians. As Mr. Potápi pointed out, “no matter where we go, everywhere these Hungarian communities preserve their identity.”



In Washington DC Zsolt Németh underlines the importance of cross-border national unity

Addressing a gala event in Washington organized by the Hungarian American Coalition (HAC), Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs Zsolt Németh underlined the importance of cross-border national unity. Founded in 1991, the HAC was hosting the event for the 28th time in the ceremonial hall of the Embassy of Hungary in Washington. After László Szabó's annual evaluation speech, Mr. Németh talked about the fall of communism in 1989 and emphasized that the USA played a major role in bringing about this change. He stated that the USA and NATO are once again crucial in ensuring stability and security in Central Europe. In his words, Central Europe is not only being reunited, but also rebuilt.

