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Viktor Orbán: we haven't heard such statements even in the worst anti-democratic era

Prime Minister Orbán Viktor has expressed shock at a statement by Romanian president Klaus Iohannis, saying that “we haven't heard such statements even in the worst anti-democratic era.” Speaking on the Hungarian daily show “Good Morning Hungary” (Jó reggelt, Magyarország!) on Kossuth Radio on Friday, Mr. Orbán pointed out that he knows Mr. Iohannis as a man worthy of respect who stands by his principles, and for this Hungary respects Romania and its president. This, he said, is why he cannot understand the statement, the like of which “we haven't heard even in the worst anti-democratic era.” Mr. Orbán said he would wait a while for the situation to become clearer and to comprehend what happened, and proposed that Hungary should focus on maintaining good neighborly relations and respect for Romania. He said, however, that he expects this to be reciprocated in respect for Hungarians in Romania and Hungary, and for Hungary's statehood.

Szijjártó: Iohannis's statement is extremely uncivilized and liable to incite hatred

According to Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the statement by the Romanian president “is extremely uncivilized and liable to incite hatred.” Mr. Szijjártó emphasized that Hungary has an interest in maintaining good relations with Romania, as the two countries are important trade partners, and it is also in the interests of Hungarians living in Transylvania and Szeklerland for relations between the two countries to be normal. “In recent days, however, representatives of the Romanian state have made a series of statements that make maintenance of good neighborly relations more difficult”, he added, emphasizing that Klaus Iohannis must know that the majority of Hungarians living in Transylvania and Szeklerland voted for him in the Romanian presidential election.

Potápi: Iohannis's statement is not only disrespectful and arrogant, but insulting to the whole Hungarian nation

Speaking to the Hungarian portal PestiSrácok (“Boys of Pest”), State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi pointed out that Romanian president Klaus Iohannis's behavior is outrageous and unacceptable, adding that it is not only disrespectful and arrogant, but also insulting to Hungarians in Szeklerland and Transylvania and to the Hungarian government. Mr. Potápi noted that as a person with Transylvanian German roots, Mr. Iohannis should know what it means to belong to a minority. He emphasized that the disappearance of Germans in Transylvania over the past century should prompt Mr. Iohannis to think about the consequences of allowing a minority to lose its identity and sovereignty. Mr. Potápi stressed that the leader of a country which considers itself European should see that the autonomy he considers to be evil does not represent a source of danger, but survival for many minorities across Europe.



Szili: It takes one minute to support the nation and national communities

Prime Ministerial Commissioner Katalin Szili was interviewed on TV station M1's Friday morning show about the petition launched by the SZNT (Szekler National Council) in support of the protection of national communities. She pointed out that it takes one minute to sign the petition and support the nation and national communities. The aim of the initiative is to make the EU strongly support regions that are nationally, ethnically, culturally, religiously or linguistically isolated from their surrounding regions. The initiative started on 7 May 2019, with one million signatures needed by 7 May 2020 for the European Parliament to take this issue into consideration and for the European Commission to hold a public hearing about it.

Transylvania



According to Klaus Iohannis, the PSD would give Transylvania to Hungary

On Wednesday there was a harsh anti-Hungarian outburst by Romanian president Klaus Iohannis, in reaction to the Romanian Chamber of Deputies tacitly accepting a bill on Szekler autonomy. President Iohannis condemned the Social Democratic Party (PSD) for the fact that the opposition-controlled Chamber of Deputies in Bucharest accepted the bill submitted by Zsolt Biró and József Kulcsár-Terza. According to Mr. Iohannis, the PSD provided significant support to the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), so that the bill could go through the Chamber of Deputies without debate.

“Romania is not for sale!” – The Senate votes down the bill on Szekler autonomy

On Wednesday, the Senate in Bucharest voted down the bill on Szekler autonomy, written by the SZNT (Szekler National Council) and submitted by two Hungarian representatives in December. The Senate, which is the legislative power in this question, voted down the bill by 126 votes to 9. The bill was only supported by the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ).



The MKP also protests against Iohannis's anti-Hungarian comments

The Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) has sent a letter of protest to the Embassy of Romania in Bratislava against the anti-Hungarian comments made about the bill on Szekler autonomy. The MKP strongly condemns the comments by the Romanian president, calling them manipulative, cynical and irresponsible. In the letter, executive chairman Péter Őry expressed his solidarity with the Hungarian community in Romania, all responsible political actors and citizens of Romania and



the government of Hungary, which he said was dragged into this dangerous manipulation.

Nursery schools in Serbia will reopen on 11 May

According to the relevant working group, the older class (aged 5 and 6) can return first to pre-school institutions. The institutions will receive instructions in the coming days. State Secretary for Education Annamária Vicsek has advised parents to only take their children to the nurseries if they cannot leave them with anyone else.

The KMKSZ urges restoration of local border traffic between Ukraine and Hungary

Hungary and its neighboring countries are gradually easing the restrictive measures against coronavirus introduced on the borders. The Transcarpathian Hungarian Cultural Association (KMKSZ) would also like to involve Ukraine in the procedure, in relation to which its president László Brenzovics has sent a letter to Dmytro Kuleba and Péter Szijjártó. On 14 April the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade proposed opening the border at Záhony to allow local citizens to commute to Dmytro Kuleba. He added that this would be a great help for Hungarians in Ukraine and Northeast Hungary. As no response was received from Mr. Kuleba, Mr. Brenzovics sent a letter to both foreign ministers, in which he urges the restoration of local border traffic between Ukraine and Hungary.