

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

21/2020



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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COMMUNITIES ABROAD



## The government continues the economic development programs for Hungarian communities abroad

On Tuesday, speaking in Parliament, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó pointed out that the government continues the economic development programs for Hungarian communities abroad; they will spend further HUF 18.5 billion on this project. Speaking in the Parliament, Katalin Csöbör (Fidesz) emphasized that a responsible Hungarian government has to provide every help to every Hungarian, whatever threatens them, and this is what the government is doing. As the Hungarian News Agency (MTI) quotes her, “this is the method everywhere in the world where Hungarians need help.”

## The majority of the programs as part of the Year of National Cohesion will be held online

Speaking on Wednesday in the daily show “Jó reggelt, Magyarország!” (Good Morning Hungary) at Kossuth Radio, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi pointed out that due to coronavirus epidemic, the majority of the programs related to the Year of National Cohesion cannot be held. As he reminded, the Parliament decided last year that 2020 would be the Year of National Cohesion, but due to the pandemic, the majority of programs and commemorations related to the memorial year and the Year of Strong Hungarian Communities cannot take place. Mr. Potápi said that in a limited number, Christian worships can be dedicated to commemorations and many of the events will be organized online.

## 4 June was declared Day of National Cohesion 10 years ago

Due to the pandemic, the majority of the programs of the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad will be organized online, which gave the idea that a video application should be launched addressing young people. The application is open for children and young people between the age of 10 and 25 living either in Hungary or abroad whose task is to take short videos presenting what national cohesion means to them. The deadline for application is midnight 25 May. Speaking in the morning show “Ma reggel” (This Morning) at Hungary’s public media M1 channel, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi spoke about the details of the project. As he commented, “a hundred years ago, the Allies dictated a peace treaty known as the Treaty of Trianon and forced Hungary to sign it. Ever since, it has been a matter of crucial importance for Hungary to take care of Hungarians living abroad. The introduction of the simplified naturalization procedure (the decision on dual citizenship) on 26 May 2010 was an important milestone in this process since it made possible the reunification of the nation under common law.”



### Signature collection reopens for the protection of national regions

As MP of the European Parliament Loránt Vincze pointed out on Wednesday, deadline for the signature collection of European civic initiations will be postponed, however, the decision of the European Commission must be supported by the Parliament and the European Council, as well. According to the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), Mr. Vincze commented that “the European commission made a fair and correct decision by postponing the deadline. In most of the countries, the paper-based collection of signatures, as well as the promotion of the initiative became impossible due to the pandemic and the curfew. Mr. Vincze added that in his opinion, “the EC found a cure to this situation with this decision.”

### Petition for the withdrawal of Iohannis’s international prize

As Hungarian Newspaper Magyar Nemzet (Hungarian Nation) posted on its website on Friday, a petition was submitted for the withdrawal of Romanian president Klaus Iohannis’s Charlemagne Prize. According to the article, the campaign launched on CitizenGo is recruiting supporters to protest against honoring the Romanian president. The German foundation Internationaler Karlspreis zu Aachen honors Iohannis with the prize for “his equity, protection of minorities and proclamation of cultural diversity.” However, initiators of the petition believe that recently it has become clear that Mr. Iohannis does not support minorities and cultural diversity at all.



### The Beneš decrees are still a problem after 75 years

Based on the Beneš decrees, the state would confiscate the land of an individual in Slovakia in spite of the fact that the European Court of Human Rights ruled that the Slovak courts had acted unfairly against the landowner. The confiscation is based on the fact that ancestors of the landowner were Hungarians. In an official statement on their website, the Slovakian Ministry of Justice admits that on Tuesday, European Court of Human Rights, based in Strasbourg, condemned Slovakia for the confiscation of 35 hectares of woods of an individual under the Beneš decrees. János Butora-Fiara, who acted as an expert on the individual’s side in this case, emphasized that following the decision of the European Court of Human Rights, the Slovak government must also act.





## Hungarian-Serbian border restrictions lifted

Speaking in Rösztke, Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó announced that the Hungarian-Serbian border is now open without restrictions for the citizens of the two countries. Following a meeting with Serbian Minister of European Integration Jadranka Joksimović and President of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Szijjártó said that Serbian citizens may enter Hungary without the need to enter quarantine, and Hungarian citizens can return from Serbia in a similar manner, according to the report. He said that "the opening of the border provides an opportunity for families and communities living on either side of the border to once again meet, in addition to which it also gives a new impetus to "economic growth." The minister argued that Central Europe has been able to keep the spread of COVID-19 under control, thanks to the timely introduction of restrictive measures.



## Zelensky is ready to meet Viktor Orbán

Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky claimed on Wednesday that he's willing to meet Hungarian PM Viktor Orbán and he's ready to sign a memorandum to smooth conflicts between Hungary and Ukraine. He pointed this out on a press conference in Kiev in the event of the first anniversary of his presidency. As news portal Ukrayinska Pravda quotes Mr. Zelensky, "everyone has to speak the (official) language. We haven't been in touch with Hungary for years, and now they are blocking our EU and NATO membership based on historical heritages and the language issue."

