

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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Viktor Orbán: Hungary and Slovakia want to be successful together

After receiving Slovak Prime Minister Igor Matovič in his office in Budapest on Friday, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán stressed that citizens of Hungary and Slovakia want mutual respect, they want to cooperate, meaning that they would like to be successful together. At a joint international press conference held after the meeting, Mr. Orbán thanked his Slovak counterpart for his messages and gestures to Hungarians living in Slovakia as well as for the cooperation forged during the coronavirus epidemic. Mr. Orbán stated that with all these actions, Hungary and Slovakia are contributing to the stability of the whole of Central Europe. He asked his Slovak colleague to support Hungarian-Slovak relations and to consider the Hungarian community in Slovakia favorably.



Romanian Chamber of Deputies rejects declaration of March 15 to be a national holiday

On Wednesday, the Chamber of Deputies in Bucharest rejected by a large majority the bill of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) which would have declared March 15 a holiday for the Hungarian community in Romania. The law would have allowed Hungarian communities, institutions and local councils to support celebrations on 15 March, would have obliged employers to provide a day off for Hungarian employees if needed and would have provided Romanian TV and radio the possibility to report on the Hungarian national holiday. The bill was already rejected by the senate in 2017, and the final voting of the Chamber of Deputies resulted in 189 rejections out of 240 deputies.



Matovič: Our aim is to provide equal rights for Hungarians in Slovakia

After a meeting with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán in Budapest, Slovak PM Igor Matovič pointed out that their aim is to provide equal rights for Hungarians in Slovakia. He stated that the regions of Slovakia will be developed regardless who live there. He added that he would like everyone to be able to teach their children in their mother tongue, without having to be afraid of any disadvantage later on. Mr. Matovič emphasized that he considers Hungary not only a neighboring country, but also a close friend. He added that this is why Hungary was one of the first countries that he visited as PM.



László Kövér ensures Hungarians in Vojvodina of the kin-state's support

Speaking in Szabadka/Subotica in Vojvodina on Friday, Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér pointed out that Hungarians in Vojvodina – similarly to the past ten years – can count on the support of the kin-state. Mr. Kövér recalled that the Hungarian government has been providing support for Hungarian communities abroad by restoring schools, introducing economic programs and providing political help as well. He underlined that the Serbian elections on 21 June will be crucial, encouraging Hungarians to vote for the candidates of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ).

KDNP: Hungarians in Vojvodina have a future

Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI after an official visit to Vojvodina, spokesman of KDNP (Christian Democratic People's Party) Lőrinc Nacsa stressed that Hungarian communities in Vojvodina showed significant progress lately due to the support of Serbia and Hungary. He added that in the approaching elections "we have to stress that Hungarians in Vojvodina have a vision and a future." During his official visit in Vojvodina, Lőrinc Nacsa met mayors of Magyarkanizsa/Kanjiža and Zenta/Senta and took part in several forums. As he said, he encouraged local young people to take part in the elections next Sunday, so they can participate in the decision-making in the future.



Kuleba: Education law will not be modified for the sake of Hungarians

Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba pointed out that the Ukrainian education law will not be modified based on Hungarian partners' requests. Mr. Kuleba stressed that all requests about the modification will be rejected, as there's only one official language in Ukraine, the state language. At the same time, Mr. Kuleba emphasized that his visit to Hungary served two purposes: restoring relations between Hungary and Ukraine and unblocking Ukraine's NATO committee meetings.

Szijjártó: the Hungarian government will always stand up for Hungarians in Transcarpathia

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó wrote on his Facebook page that the Hungarian government will always stand up for Transcarpathian Hungarians. Mr. Szijjártó wrote that "During the recent visit to Budapest by Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Dmytro Kuleba, we held meaningful negotiations in a friendly mood. But I repeated to him that we will only be lifting the ministerial-level veto of NATO-Ukraine commission meetings if the Hungarians living in Transcarpathia are given back their rights to native language education, of which they were previously stripped." The



Hungarian minister of foreign affairs and trade added that “We of course remain open to dialogue, are awaiting the upcoming meetings of the joint economic, education and minority committees, and hope that we find joint solutions to existing disputed issues.”



Potápi: the people of Central Europe realize that only together they can succeed

On Wednesday State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi visited the naval cemetery in Pula (Croatia), on the day of remembrance of Hungarian sailors who died a heroic death in the First World War. Speaking at the commemoration, the state secretary stressed that the people of Central Europe are realizing that only together they can succeed and face the challenges of the 21st century. He recalled a Hungarian naval memorial in the form of the tower of Rijeka that once stood at the foot of Petőfi Bridge in Budapest. Mr. Potápi highlighted that “since 2017, we have a possibility to commemorate these historic events again, as there’s a place for this, thanks to our Croatian friends.”



Árpád János Potápi thanked Hungarians in Slovenia for their hard work

At the event of the Year of National Cohesion, on Tuesday in Lendva/Lendava, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi thanked Hungarians in Slovenia for their hard work for preserving their culture, language and Hungarian identity. Mr. Potápi stated that the greatest achievement of the past 100 years is that we remained Hungarians and we are the greatest nation in the Carpathian Basin. Mr. Potápi met members of the National Community of the Hungarian Municipality in Slovenia (MMÖNK), leaders of Hungarian institutions and media and visited the mayor of Lendava, Janez Magyar.