

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Potápi: We are grateful to the Association of Hungarians in Sweden (SMOSZ)

Speaking at the online leadership renewal congress of the Association of Hungarians in Sweden (SMOSZ) on Saturday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi expressed his gratitude to the organization for their work in the diaspora. As Mr. Potápi pointed out, the association was founded in 1974, and ever since then it has been coordinating the lives of 35 million Hungarians in Sweden. Thanks to them, he said, the Hungarian community in Sweden have managed to preserve their traditions, culture and language, and they form a bridge between Sweden, Hungary and the Carpathian Basin.

Call for application of this year's dr. Szász Pál Scholarship announced

The State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad announced this year's application for the dr. Szász Pál Scholarship. State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi claimed that applications are expected from Hungarian law students abroad. The state secretary stressed that it's crucial that Hungarian communities abroad have educated, devoted legal experts. Mr. Potápi recalled that the dr. Szász Pál Scholarship program was launched in 2012 in cooperation with the Budapest Bar Association in order to support education of Hungarian law students abroad. Application is available at www.bgazrt.hu and www.kulhonimagyarok.hu.



Memorial to the victims of Black March inaugurated in Sângeorgiu de Mureş

In Sângeorgiu de Mureş/Marosszentgyörgy – which is now merged with Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş – on Saturday, there was the inauguration of a memorial to the victims, wounded and summarily interned of the bloody Romanian-Hungarian clashes of 1990, which is remembered as “Black March”. Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén sent a memorial speech which was read out by László Tóth, Consul General of Miercurea Ciuc/Csíkszereda. Mr. Semjén recalled that it is thanks to the victims of Sângeorgiu de Mureş that there were no further victims and greater tragedy. He expressed his belief that the monument proves that as Hungarians, Romani people, Catholics and Calvinists, our fate is indivisible. If we respect one another's religion and identity, we will have a common future.

Initiators of the Minority SafePack are taking legal action against the European Commission's decision

On Wednesday the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) announced that the initiating committee of the Minority SafePack (MSPI) has initiated proceedings in the Court of Justice of the European Union against the negative decision from the European Commission (EC). On 15 January the EC announced that it



did not envisage any new legislation on the nine points of the European Citizens' Initiative for the codification of minority rights in the European Union.



Agreement on the establishment of a unified Hungarian party

The presidents of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP), Unity of Hungarian Community and Now-Bridge (Most-Híd) have announced that an agreement was reached on the establishment of a unified Hungarian party to represent Hungarians' interest. The new party will be called Alliance – Hungarians, nationalities, regions. Before reaching the agreement, there were nearly two years of attempts, which were often impeded by problems in negotiation. President of MKP Krisztián Forró pointed out, this is another huge step towards the unification of Hungarians in Slovakia.

The kin-state congratulates the unified Hungarian party in Slovakia

Deputy Prime Minister for National Policy, Church Affairs and Nationalities Zsolt Semjén and State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi have welcomed the new unified Hungarian party in Slovakia. On his Facebook page Mr. Semjén posted his congratulations to Krisztián Forró on the establishment of the unified Hungarian party. In his statement Mr. Potápi expressed his delight that Hungarians in Slovakia recognized that the Hungarian future depends on their cooperation, and separate policies are useless. Mr. Potápi emphasized that a unified Hungarian representation is the guarantee of preservation of Hungarians abroad.



István Pásztor: Commuting is still possible within 30 km of the borders

In a Facebook post, István Pásztor, President of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ), stated that new COVID policies are not introducing any changes related to the Hungarian-Serbian border, and everything remains as it was. This means that commuting between the borders is possible within a zone 30 km from the border and for a maximum period of 24 hours. Mr. Pásztor asks everyone to register for vaccination, as it is now certain that those who do not get vaccinated will face serious limitations in the future. As he pointed out, vaccination can save lives.





MEPs: the protection of national minorities should be a criterion for Ukraine's aspirations to join the EU

As Fidesz MEPs Andrea Bocskor and Kinga Gál pointed out at a meeting of an intergroup on minorities, the protection of national minorities should be a criterion for Ukraine's aspirations to join the EU. The aim of the meeting was to inform European decision-makers about rights violations and restrictions targeting the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia. Co-chairman of the working group Kinga Gál pointed out that the rights of minorities in Ukraine – including the Hungarians in Transcarpathia – are being gravely violated week by week.



First installment of nursery school support forwarded

In 2016 the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad launched the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Development Program. Their professional partner in Croatia was the Forum of Hungarian Teachers in Croatia. The Croatian program involved numerous investments and applications, with parents being eligible to apply for nursery school allowance for 4 years. The first installments have recently been forwarded to the beneficiaries' accounts. The support, which serves to provide high quality Hungarian nursery school education, is implemented within the framework of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Development Program, with the participation of the Bethlen Gábor Fund Management Ltd.

