

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Kövér: guaranteeing the right to identity is a vital interest

In his opening speech at the plenary session of the Forum of Hungarian Representatives from the Carpathian Basin, Speaker of the National Assembly László Kövér said that it is a vital interest for every European state to provide the right to identity. Mr. Kövér emphasized that providing, internationally codifying and enforcing the right to national identity is an effective weapon for self-defense in the hands of national states against privately-controlled powers.

KMKF: the opinion of autochthonous national minorities must be considered

According to an official statement by the Forum of Hungarian Representatives from the Carpathian Basin (KMKF) sent to Hungarian News Agency MTI on Friday, in the formation of Europe's future we must not ignore the opinion of autochthonous national minorities. The KMKF welcomes a discussion on Europe's future and expresses their conviction that in the formation of the future, "every European citizen counts, including approximately 50 million citizens of autochthonous national minorities." Minister of Justice Judit Varga stressed that Hungary sees autochthonous national minorities as resources and neighboring countries as partners. State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi claimed that "our most important task is to strengthen and preserve identity by strengthening the institutional system and supporting families and prosperity in the homeland, but we can only succeed if we cooperate with national minorities."

Potápi: the Hungarian government thinks in terms of a unified nation

Speaking at a two-day jubilee conference of the Convention of Hungarian Journalists' Association Abroad, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi pointed out that our most important aim is not to incite opposition among Hungarian communities abroad, but to strengthen national cohesion. He added that we have to appreciate our current state, as in Hungarian history, it is unprecedented to have 10-12 years that bring so many developments for Hungarians in the kin-state, in the Carpathian Basin or in the diaspora. At the conference, Katalin Szili noted that after its rejection by the European Commission, the Minority SafePack will be taken to the Court of Justice of the European Union. The counting of signatures supporting the initiative will be finished in the coming days.

Meeting of the MÁÉRT specialist commission

Speaking at the general meeting of the Hungarian Standing Conference (MÁÉRT) in Budapest on Thursday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi stated that during the pandemic Hungarian communities abroad did not weaken, but strengthened, thanks to this year's New Beginnings Program. Mr. Potápi said that economic development is the most important policy area for Hungarian



communities abroad, and he also set the goal of unifying the Carpathian Basin economically.

Klaus Iohannis thanks Viktor Orbán for providing care for COVID patients

On Friday Romanian President Klaus Iohannis thanked Viktor Orbán for helping Romania in the difficult situation caused by the COVID pandemic. According to a statement from the Romanian presidential office, Mr. Iohannis made a phone call to the Hungarian prime minister to thank him for the help he has offered in the care of Romanian patients. Mr. Iohannis called this a true gesture of European solidarity.

Szijjártó: Hungary receives 50 ICU patients from Romania

In Budapest on Wednesday, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó announced that Hungary is helping Romania by accepting 50 of its COVID patients in intensive care. Mr. Szijjártó emphasized that Romania is facing huge challenges, as the number of serious COVID cases is growing by the day. He has been meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Hunor Kelemen and Minister of Health Attila Cseke over the past few days to discuss how Hungary could help Romania in this extraordinary situation.

By the end of 2023, four new bridges will be built on the Hungarian-Slovakian border

In a statement on Wednesday, State Secretary for Parliamentary and Strategic Affairs Tamás Schanda announced that after the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the rebuilt Mária Valéria Bridge, the Assembly made agreements between Hungary and Slovakia on the construction of three new border bridges. Mr. Schanda said that two road bridges over the Ipoly and a bridge over the Danube for cyclists will be built on the longest border section.

Orbán: Hungarians and Serbians are now building a new future

Speaking at the celebration of the restoration of a railway between Szeged and Szabadka/Subotica on Monday in Horgos/Horgoš, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán emphasized that Hungarians and Serbians are now building a new future, and both nations will profit from it. He explained that we are stronger together and we need to strengthen the bilateral relations, which is why we made an agreement on strategic cooperation and alliance. Serbian president Aleksandar Vučić stressed that Hungarians and Serbians are twice as strong together and everything they build together proves this.



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Statement of the KMKSZ Presidency on the final statement of the Ukraine-EU summit

The KMKSZ sees it as a positive development that the final statement of the Ukraine-EU summit includes a paragraph on minority rights. According to Article no. 17, "Ukraine and the EU declare their willingness to respect the rights of national minorities in accordance with the provisions of the UN and Council of Europe conventions and relevant protocols. In this regard, Ukraine shall continue to consult and cooperate with the Venice Commission and to maintain the current substantive dialogue with representatives of national minorities and on relevant legislation."