

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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National Election Office suggests early voting

At a press conference held in Miercurea Ciuc/ Csíkszereda, head of the National Election Office (NVI) Ilona Pálffy has suggested that Hungarian citizens living outside the borders of Hungary and voting by post should vote early. She pointed out that voters should also pay attention to the delivery time when posting letters containing their votes. Postal votes will only be valid if they arrive at the NVI by midnight (CET) on 5 April at the latest. The head of the National Election Office added that it is advisable for Hungarian citizens living abroad to vote immediately, as soon as they receive the package for postal voting. Registration is possible until 22 March, which is the latest date electoral requests should be submitted to the NVI.

Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad: Hungarian citizenship is a bond for Hungarian communities living abroad

According to analysis by the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad, the high number of applications for Hungarian citizenship proves that Hungarian citizenship has great significance for Hungarian communities abroad, and it is a bond to the Hungarian state – irrespective of whether the motivation for acquiring it is symbolic or the hoped of some kind of advantage. The analysis also highlights that the number of people registered for the election will presumably increase to 200,000 – mostly due to the information and support of Hungarian organizations abroad – and the great majority of the people registered are also likely to vote.



Szeklerland may become a sub-region within Transylvania

The Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) is making efforts to establish special status for Szeklerland and Partium, by establishing administrative sub-units within the Romanian regions, as laid down in the Romanian constitution. Thus Szeklerland may become a sub-region of Transylvania in the future.

Traian Băsescu postpones decision on László Tőkés' state award

Romanian President Traian Băsescu has announced that he will not decide upon the withdrawal of the Order of the Star of Romania awarded to László Tőkés, as long as the case is in court. At the beginning of January László Tőkés, Member of the European Parliament from Transylvania, contested the record of evidence in court, in which the Order's court of honor found him unworthy of the Order of the Star of Romania, which was awarded to him for his role in the 1989 revolution in Romania.

Zsolt Németh: 6 April will see establishment of a real National Assembly

In Odorheiu Secuiesc/ Székelyudvarhely, Zsolt Németh said that 6 April will be the celebration of the Hungarian National Assembly's establishment; he encouraged Hungarians living beyond the borders to participate in great numbers in this historic



moment for Hungarian democracy. The State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs explained that this will be the day when the Parliament truly becomes a National Assembly, as with their votes Hungarians living outside the borders of Hungary will be able to influence the composition of the Hungarian legislature.

Malina Hedvig will not give up, she just needs peace

Slovak weekly paper "Týždeň" made a farewell interview with Malina Hedvig, who is planning to move to Hungary. Ms. Malina, who was attacked by two men in Nitra/ Nyitra, because she was talking in Hungarian in the street, decided in December 2013 to obtain Hungarian citizenship, leave Slovakia and move to Győr (Hungary) with her family. According to Ms. Malina, the reason for her decision was not the Slovak prosecution proceeded against her and a potential lawsuit: her only aim was to save her children from constant police harassment. She added that she would not like to take part in the politics of Hungary and she would attend the trials in Nitra/ Nyitra. Meanwhile, the online version of the newspaper SME (sme.sk) asked all the presidential candidates in Slovakia if they would give Malina Hedvig amnesty if the court found her guilty. While the candidates gave rather different answers, the candidate of the Party of the Hungarian Community (SMK) Gyula Bárdos said "Yes". According to him it is unacceptable and reprehensible that senior officials of the state could force Malina Hedvig from the country.

VMSZ presents electoral list to the National Electoral Commission in Belgrade

The Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) presented their electoral party list to the National Electoral Commission in Belgrade, making official their participation in the early parliamentary elections in Serbia. While ten thousand supporting signatures are required in order to participate in the Serbian elections, the VMSZ managed to collect 13,200 signatures within three days, something István Pásztor called a huge success that has never been experienced before. He added that their aim is to collect enough signatures to ensure their current parliamentary representation in the Serbian parliament: i.e. five seats.

István Pásztor: the VMSZ is mobilizing Hungarians living in Serbia to vote in the Hungarian election

The early parliamentary elections in Serbia set for 16 March and the parliamentary elections in Hungary set for 6 April were both discussed at a meeting between Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and head of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor, held on 4 February in Budapest. The Prime Minister and the head of the VMSZ reviewed the possibilities for the further building of Hungarian cultural autonomy in



Serbia with regard to Serbia's EU accession process and the Serbian constitutional court's decision. Mr. Orbán and Mr. Pásztor agreed that there is no alternative to the strategic cooperation established between the Hungarian government and the VMSZ in 2010 in classical minority questions – such as education, culture and language use; it was agreed that a definite and planned action program is the key to success in assertion of national interests.



János Martonyi opens consular office in Lendava/ Lendva, Slovenia

In Lendava/ Lendva, Foreign Minister János Martonyi inaugurated a consular office of the Hungarian Embassy in Ljubljana. Lendava/ Lendva is the center of a region in northeast Slovenia which is inhabited by many Hungarians. The Minister said that Hungary has fulfilled an old promise, noting that a Slovenian Consulate-General had been operating in Szentgotthárd, Hungary, since 1998. Prior to the ceremony, Mr. Martonyi and his Slovenian counterpart Karl Erjavec marked the 20th anniversary of the Hungarian-Slovenian minority protection agreement in Szentgotthárd.

