

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
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STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Prime Minister Viktor Orbán re-elected by Parliament for the third time

The new National Assembly of Hungary has elected Fidesz leader Viktor Orbán as Prime Minister, having done so previously in 1998 and 2010. In his speech after taking the oath of office, Mr. Orbán said that the issues of Hungary have remained unresolved since the Second World War. He said that “We consider the issues of Hungary to be European issues. Ethnic Hungarians living in the Carpathian Basin have the right to dual citizenship, community rights and autonomy. This is our standpoint and we will stand up for it in the arena of international politics. The topicality of this issue is reinforced by the current situation of the Hungarian community of almost 200,000 living in Ukraine, the members of which must receive dual citizenship, community rights and an opportunity to realize self-government. This is our clear expectation of the new Ukraine which is now being formed.” At a rally held after the Prime Minister’s re-election, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad and head of the Christian Democratic People’s Party Zsolt Semjén said that by the end of this parliament in 2018 the number of people receiving Hungarian citizenship is expected to have reached one million. The Act on Citizenship, which simplified the naturalization procedure for Hungarians living abroad, was adopted by the Hungarian parliament in 2010; under its provisions, almost half a million ethnic Hungarians living abroad have so far received Hungarian citizenship.

Hungary prepares teaching-aid package for diaspora schools

At a press conference held on 8 May in Budapest, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsuzsanna Répás said that the State Secretariat for Hungarian communities abroad together with the Balassi Institute has prepared a teaching-aid package for diaspora Sunday schools. The Deputy State Secretary added that the package is designed to aid 129 Sunday schools catering to four thousand children. Ms. Répás said that Hungarian Sunday schools operate on every continent from North America to Australia, where second and third generation Hungarians teach and study Hungarian language, culture and history. The Deputy State Secretary added that the Government of Hungary must compensate Hungarian communities living in diaspora for the negligence of the past two decades, therefore the Government has initiated several programs to support these communities. She recalled the establishment of the Hungarian Diaspora Council, the launch of the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program and that of the Julianus Program. At the press conference, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Gergely Próhle said that the permanence of the Hungarian community abroad is of vital importance for everyone, since its members are potential lobbyists for Hungary.

Support for the Határtalanul! (Without Borders!) Program has tripled

Seeing off students from the Piarist Academic Secondary School on their trip to Vojvodina, Minister of Human Resources Zoltán Balog said that this year the Government is providing 1.5 billion forints (18,000 euros) in support for excursions to



neighboring countries. Mr. Balog promised that in one or two years no Hungarian student will complete eighth grade without having been on at least one state-funded visit to Hungarian communities living in neighboring countries. While since 2010 40,000 students have visited Hungarian communities abroad through the program, over the coming academic year another 40,000 students will have been able to do so. The Minister added that the deadline for applications for the current stage of the program is in two weeks.

Zsolt Semjén has talks with RMDSZ leader Hunor Kelemen

On Tuesday Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad Zsolt Semjén had talks in Budapest with Hunor Kelemen – the leader of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Transylvania (RMDSZ) – in which they discussed the main challenges for the Hungarian community in Transylvania and the current situation at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Târgu Mureş/Marosvásárhely (MOGYE). Head of the Prime Minister's press office Bertalan Havasi told the Hungarian news agency MTI that the parties – who had talks at the opening session of the new parliament – agreed that it is extremely important for the turnout in the approaching European Parliament elections in Transylvania to be high, so that the RMDSZ has the chance to provide strong Hungarian representation in Brussels.

EMNT and EMNP call on Romanian parties to clarify their positions on the launch of mining operations

The Hungarian National Council of Transylvania (EMNT) and the Hungarian People's Party of Transylvania (EMNP) have called on Romanian parties to clarify their positions in the case of the planned gold mine in Verespatak/Roşia Montană which would use cyanide mining technologies. Supporters of the two parties held a demonstration in Verespatak, protesting against cyanide mining technologies. In a joint statement they stated that "The opening of the mine would be an outrage against Transylvania and the people living there." At the same time they asked that, after the European Parliament (EP) Elections on 25 May, the new President of the European Commission and the Environment Commissioner respect the EP resolution adopted at the request of János Áder and László Tőkés four years ago, in which the body decided on prohibiting cyanide mining technologies.

Polis Slovakia predicts 6.3 % for the MKP

According to a poll by the public opinion research agency Polis Slovakia, if the European Parliament election had been at end of April/ beginning of May, the governing Smer-SD party would have won and Radoslav Procházka's new party, Siet (Network) would have come second. Polis Slovakia ran the poll between 27 April and 4



May, with the participation of 1,250 voters; 60% of respondents said that they would vote in the election, 22 % would not and 18 % had not decided.



István Pásztor attacked by supporters of the Jobbik party in Budapest

The leader of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor was assaulted in Kossuth Square in Budapest by people who were incited by former lawmaker from the Jobbik party Tamás Gaudi-Nagy, who was holding a demonstration in the square. The President of the VMSZ, leaving the opening session of the new Hungarian parliament, was crossing the square when Tamás Gaudi-Nagy caught sight of him and called him a traitor. In reaction to this, demonstrators ran up to Mr. Pásztor, blocked his path, verbally abused him and spat in his face.

The head of the VMSZ told the Hungarian news agency MTI that he found the incident abominable and described the experience as horrendous, but he will not officially report the incident to the police.

In a statement sent to MTI, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad Zsolt Semjén said that “The assault on István Pásztor was directed against the unity of the Hungarian nation. Regardless of whether the attackers were deranged or provocateurs, the Government of Hungary utterly condemns the assault. Through their shameful acts, the perpetrators have insulted the whole Hungarian nation.”

At a press conference President of Hungary János Áder condemned the assault against Mr. Pásztor, and offered apologies to him and to all Hungarians living in Vojvodina. He said that the people who insulted Mr. Pásztor did the same to all minorities living in Hungary and ethnic Hungarians living abroad, including those living in Vojvodina and “the whole Hungarian nation.”

Lajčák: Vojvodina serves as an example regarding the question of minorities

In Újvidék/Novi Sad, Slovakia’s Minister for Foreign Affairs Miroslav Lajčák has said that “Vojvodina can serve as an example for the European Union regarding the treatment of minority questions. Serbia has one of the best records for minority rights.” Mr. Lajčák had talks with the President of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) and head of the provincial parliament István Pásztor. The Slovak minister congratulated the Provincial House of Representatives because it has done serious and responsible work in the field of harmonizing the Charter of Vojvodina with the Serbian Constitution.





Transcarpathian Hungarian Scout Association receives award from the Foundation for a Civic Hungary

This year the Transcarpathian Hungarian Scout Association received an award from the Foundation for a Civic Hungary; the prize was awarded in Budapest on Friday by Dalma Mádl, the widow of former President of Hungary Ferenc Mádl. In his speech delivered at the award ceremony of the Foundation for a Civic Hungary, Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament László Kövér said that Hungary's political community can now express its thanks to a community which can serve as an example in every respect. The Speaker of the Parliament added that "The courage and commitment, the hard and persistent work with which this association serves its smaller and larger youth communities and the whole Hungarian community living in Transcarpathia is worthy of our sincere respect and appreciation."

