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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Pál Csáky: the policy for Hungarian communities abroad has been stabilized

On 27 June the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad held a conference in Budapest entitled “Transylvanian and Slovakian Hungarian advocacy in the European Parliament” with the participation of Deputy State Secretary Zsuzsanna Répás, and Members of the European Parliament Csaba Sógor and Pál Csáky. Ms. Répás said that “We cannot ‘make’ policy for Hungarian communities abroad by sitting at a desk in Budapest, trying to guess what Hungarians living abroad need.” The State Secretary argued that the European Union should pay more attention to the rights of indigenous minorities and it is important that Hungarian MEPs find partners on this question. Member of the EP from the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) Pál Csáky said that no nation or part of a nation can be saved from the outside, adding that it is a huge problem if a community does not believe in itself and its future. MEP Csaba Sógor said that the most important task is to keep the question of minorities on the agenda, since without this there will be no peace in Europe. He added that it is possible to apply the policy of “small steps” in Brussels and to seize every opportunity.



RMDSZ’s draft law to be issued for public debate

President of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen has announced that after the consultations between the leaders of the RMDSZ and the Hungarian People’s Party (MPP) scheduled for next week, the RMDSZ’s draft law on Szeklerland’s territorial autonomy will be issued for public debate. Mr. Kelemen was attending the opening ceremony for a statue park in Magyarfenes/Vlaha when – answering questions from journalists – he said that “After we have received the proposals of the Hungarian People’s Party, we will analyze them, and after that we will put the draft on the website of the RMDSZ.”

Mr. Kelemen – who is also the Deputy Prime Minister of Romania – added that, in addition to the draft law, the RMDSZ’s proposals on the amendment of the Romanian Constitution will also be made public. He explained that it is evident that the draft law on autonomy which would be acceptable for the party is not compatible with the present framework of the Romanian Constitution.

Székelyudvarhely and Csíkszereda adopt resolution on autonomy

The local governments of Székelyudvarhely/Odorheiu Secuiesc and Csíkszereda/Miercurea Ciuc have adopted a resolution supporting Szekler autonomy proposed by the Szekler National Council (SZNT). According to a report in the online newspaper Székelyhon, the local governments of Székelyudvarhely and Csíkszereda announced on Thursday and Friday respectively that they want to belong to the region of Szeklerland, and asked for additional competencies for the region. Both Székelyudvarhely and Csíkszereda are led by mayors from the RMDSZ party and members of the RMDSZ form majorities in both local governments. Csíkszereda is the first county seat in Szeklerland



to adopt a resolution supporting autonomy. The resolution has been submitted by local government representative of the RMDSZ Dávid Veress, the President of the Csík Szekler Council (an organization of the SZNT in Csíkszék) and a group of MPP representatives.

Hungarian to become a regional language in certain regions of Romania?

The Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) is willing to make an agreement with its Romanian coalition partner on the regional status of the Hungarian language. Political vice-president of the party László Borbély said that language use is an urgent problem and they will discuss it soon with the Social Democrats, their Romanian partners. Mr. Borbély said that "This issue is about our linguistic rights. We proposed – already during the process of amending the Constitution – that the Hungarian language should be recognized as a regional language in certain regions of the country, and that this should not be problematic, as Romania and Hungary jointly asked the Ukrainian parliament to restore the former, extremely strong language law and to recognize Hungarian as a regional language." He also added that there is another reason for the urgency of these talks, as Romania has a serious debt to pay: although it signed the 2007 European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, it is not applying this in several fields.



The Slovak Attorney General's Office is examining the MKP's draft on autonomy

The Slovak National Party (KSNS) – led by Ján Slota – wants to see the forced dissolution of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP), because the latter has a plan for autonomy which – according to the KSNS – threatens the territorial integrity of Slovakia. In addition, the KSNS is concerned that József Berényi was illegally appointed the head of the party, since it is doubtful whether he has Slovak citizenship. As a result of this, the Slovak Attorney General's Office has asked the MKP to send it their draft on autonomy or explain if the draft threatens the territorial integrity of Slovakia. They also expect an explanation on whether József Berényi was legally appointed president of the MKP. The MKP stated in its response that all activities of the party and its program document are based on the charter registered by the Slovak Ministry of the Interior. In his letter of reply, Mr. Berényi stated that he had been elected head of the party as a Slovak citizen, and therefore in accordance with the law.



Vojvodina's House of Representatives and the Parliament of Baden-Württemberg sign joint declaration of intent

The Parliament of Vojvodina has issued a statement announcing that the speaker of the Vojvodina parliament István Pásztor and the speaker of the Germany province of Baden-Württemberg's parliament Guido Wolf have signed a joint declaration of intent. With this



declaration, the Parliament of Vojvodina and one of Germany's most developed provinces have expressed their desire to deepen and reinforce their cooperation. Mr. Pásztor said that this event is considered an acknowledgement for Vojvodina, after several years of building relations.



Dual citizenship to be adopted in Ukraine?

At a conference of NATO foreign ministers held in Brussels on Wednesday, Hungary's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Tibor Navracsics said that it is in Hungary's interest that Ukraine should be a democratic, independent state enjoying territorial sovereignty. Mr. Navracsics added that the Hungarian community in Ukraine supports the country's current leadership, as before he was elected as Ukraine's new president, Petro Poroshenko had made commitments to ensuring the formation of a separate administrative district of Hungarian localities and to ensuring members of the Hungarian community unrestricted use of their mother tongue and the possibility to create the basic conditions for cultural autonomy. Mr. Navracsics told the Hungarian news agency MTI that during his bilateral meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart he had asked Pavlo Klimkin that Ukraine should, if possible, allow the introduction of dual citizenship for its citizens.

President of the UMDSZ István Gajdos resigns from his post

The ruling council of the Hungarian Democratic Alliance of Ukraine (UMDSZ) has issued a statement announcing that the president of the party and member of the Ukrainian parliament István Gajdos has resigned from his post. Mr. Gajdos said he hoped that with this step he would make possible the party's agreement with the kin state and with the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ), and also enhance the cooperation and unity of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia. According to a statement sent to the Hungarian news agency MTI, Mr. Gajdos announced his resignation at a meeting of the UMDSZ's ruling council held in Beregszász/Berehove at the weekend.

