

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Árpád János Potápi receives interns of the ReConnect Hungary program in Parliament

On Wednesday in the Parliament in Budapest, State Secretary responsible for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi received the interns of the ReConnect Hungary Program (young people of Hungarian origin, living in the USA and Canada). Welcoming the interns, the State Secretary said that approximately one and a half million Hungarians or people of Hungarian descent live in the USA and Canada. Mr. Potápi expressed his pleasure that the young people were participating in the program, and he encouraged them to stay in touch with Hungary and the Hungarians after finishing the program.



House Speaker inaugurates cultural center in Transylvania

Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament László Kövér has said that there are no longer Hungarian issues that affect only the inhabitants of Hungary or ethnic communities beyond the borders. He was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of a Hungarian cultural center called Duna House (Duna-ház), established by the Duna Television Nonprofit Zrt. in Torockó/Rametea in western Romania. Mr. Kövér said that after the unification of the nation under the public law, "There is a single crucial Hungarian issue: that of survival and growth." The Speaker of Parliament said that the unification of the nation beyond the borders started in 1992, with the establishment of Duna Television. He added that in 2014 the "rebuilding" of the Hungarian state and the strengthening of the Hungarian nation which had started four years ago will continue.

Romania rejects Hungary's application to open two new consulates

On Thursday spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Anna Nagy informed the Hungarian news agency MTI that Romania had rejected – without any explanation – Hungary's application submitted more than one year ago to open two consular offices in the Romanian cities of Nagyvárad/Oradea and Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureș. She added that Hungary cannot understand this decision, since Romania has not given any substantive explanation, and Hungary has never blocked any such intentions by another state.

On Friday the Secretary General of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Péter Kovács informed MTI that the RMDSZ – which is a partner in the Romanian government – does not agree with the decision of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He added that he finds it ridiculous that the Romanian government explained its decision by the principle of proportionality.

On Saturday State Secretary of Foreign Affairs Radu Podgorean said that "The interests of Hungarians living in Romania are represented by the state of which they are the citizens, i.e. Romania."



Minority SafePack: RMDSZ involved in a lawsuit against itself

The Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), which is part of the Romanian government, expects Romania to drop its challenge to the lawsuit launched at the Court of the European Union in relation to the "Minority SafePack" initiative on minority protection, stating that otherwise the party will consider quitting the coalition. The Minority SafePack is an initiative of European citizens, prepared jointly by the RMDSZ and the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN), which urges EU-wide legislation in the field of the protection of national minorities. The petition was rejected by the European Commission (EC), as a result of which the RMDSZ appealed to the Court of Justice of the EU. Romania also joined the lawsuit, but on the side of the European Commission and not the RMDSZ. The President of the RMDSZ said that the Romanian ministry of foreign affairs decided on this issue alone, without discussing it with the RMDSZ, its coalition partner. He added it that it is unacceptable for him to be both a plaintiff and a defendant in the same case.



Navracsics: Slovak-Hungarian relations are excellent

On Monday Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Tibor Navracsics said in Bratislava/Pozsony that Slovak-Hungarian relations, though generally excellent, are not free from disputes, but the aim is to resolve disputes instead of avoiding them. He added that the work of respective parliamentary committees has had a huge impact on building trust and mutual understanding between the two countries.

After the talks with Mr. Navracsics, the head of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Berényi stated that the Hungarian-Slovak treaty which was concluded twenty years ago should be revised and adjusted to suit changed circumstances. The head of the MKP said that the updating of the treaty would mainly be necessary because in the period since its signing – during which the number of Hungarians living in Slovakia decreased by 110,000 people – the basic conditions of the Hungarian community's survival in Slovakia have changed, and it has become necessary for the permanence of the community to enlarge its institutional and financial framework.



Cultural Institute opens in Belgrade

On Tuesday Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orbán and President of Serbia Tomislav Nikolić opened the Hungarian Cultural Institute in Belgrade. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said that "To open a cultural center in Belgrade seems obvious, since Belgrade is a city of culture, and down the centuries it has been a place where not just rivers meet, but also peoples, cultures and religions. Belgrade is Europe's gateway to the Balkans." He added that the European Union cannot do without Serbia and Belgrade because "That would be like putting this gate beyond the fence that you want to pass through." The Prime Minister said he was delighted that at last Hungarian culture has a home in the city which has bound together the Hungarian



and Serbian peoples down the centuries. Mr. Orbán added that he expects the institute to provide a home for dialogue between Hungarian and Serbian culture, to collect and preserve the common heritage of Hungarian and Serbian culture, and to enrich it with further examples.



The 22nd Transcarpathian Summer University takes place from 2-6 July

The 22nd Transcarpathian Summer University was organized this year between 2 and 6 July in Felsőszinevér/Synevyrskaya Polyana in Western Ukraine. The event was opened by the head of the Transcarpathian Association of Hungarian Pedagogues (KMPSZ) Ildikó Orosz, Deputy State Secretary Zsuzsanna Répás and the President of the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) László Brenzovics, who welcomed the participants. The head of the Hungarian parliament's foreign affairs committee Zolt Németh said that Hungary fully supports preserving the territorial integrity of Ukraine. Mr. Németh said that it was a considerable step forward that, despite the current difficult situation in Ukraine, the change of leadership within the KMKSZ took place peacefully, without any conflict. He added that the fact that the President of the Hungarian Democratic Alliance of Ukraine (UMDSZ) István Gajdos resigned from his post seems to imply that a unified Hungarian policy could be formed in Transcarpathia, which would be extremely important in the current situation.

