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Viktor Orbán: Hungary takes all efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis in Ukraine

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has had talks with the leaders of the Alliance of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) in Budapest. The parties discussed the crisis in Ukraine, Transcarpathian Hungarians' representation in the Ukrainian parliament and the development of Transcarpathia. The Prime Minister received the president of the KMKSZ László Brenzovics and the vice presidents of the alliance Géza Gulácsy and József Barta in the Hungarian Parliament. Mr. Orbán emphasized that the Hungarian government takes all efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis and pays extraordinary attention to the situation of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia. Concerning the approaching elections in Ukraine, the parties expressed their hope that Ukraine would fulfill its promise and would realize Transcarpathian Hungarian representation in the Ukrainian Parliament.

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán holds talks with Hunor Kelemen on the Romanian presidential election

On Thursday Prime Minister Viktor Orbán had talks with the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ). The Prime Minister wished Mr. Kelemen every success in his participation in the Romanian presidential election. Mr. Orbán said he hopes that the influence of the Hungarian community in Romania's domestic policy would strengthen and Hungarian-Romanian relations could be placed on a more reasonable foundation. Mr. Kelemen said that Hungarians in Transylvania must show that they are a strong community and that "they cannot be avoided when decision is made on the future of the country". During their talks held in the Hungarian Parliament, Mr. Orbán and Mr. Kelemen overviewed the topical questions of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad, and agreed to further strengthen relations between Hungary's governing Fidesz and the RMDSZ.

On Monday the RMDSZ started to collect the 200,000 supporting signatures necessary for the participation at the presidential election scheduled for November. The Secretary General of the RMDSZ and campaign manager of the party Péter Kovács said that "Mr. Kelemen is a serious and even-minded leader who knows well the values and problems of the community." He added that "Hungarians know and trust him, while Romanian politicians respect him and listen to him. The RMDSZ's candidate – Mr. Kelemen – represents every Hungarian."



Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Romania's relation to its citizens does not concern Hungary

On Friday Romania's Ministry for Foreign Affairs issued a statement, saying that Romania's relation to its citizens does not concern Hungary. In its statement the Ministry repeated the standpoint the Minister for Foreign Affairs Titus Corlatean had



stated earlier, saying that the treaty which was signed in 1996 does not entitle Hungary to demand ethnicity-based territorial autonomy or collective rights for national minorities. The statement says that “We suggest Hungary to read the treaty attentively and to comply with its provisions. Regarding Romania’s relations with its own citizens, it does not concern any other country, and Hungary is not an exception.”



The amendment to the Slovak Citizenship Act is delayed

The planned amendment to Slovakia’s Citizenship Act has still not been submitted to inter-ministerial consultation though the Minister of Interior Robert Kaliňák had promised it for the first part of the year. Allegedly, the proposed amendment was completed several months ago. One month ago Mr. Kaliňák said that the Ministry of Interior is waiting for the Foreign Ministry’s approval. Informing the Slovakian news agency TASR, Mr. Kaliňák said that according to the new law, the acquiring of a country’s citizenship will depend on permanent residence. Therefore, those Slovak citizens who have permanent residence in another country, can take the citizenship of the given country without being deprived of their Slovak citizenship. This proposed amendment, however, does not solve the problem of those Hungarians living in Slovakia who were deprived of their Slovak citizenship as a result of becoming Hungarian citizens. This amendment will not make it possible for them to acquire Hungarian citizenship while they live in their homeland, in Slovakia.

So far more than 860 people were deprived of their Slovak citizenship due to the Slovak Citizenship Act. The current form of the law was adopted during Robert Fico’s previous government term in June 2010, in reaction to the simplified naturalization procedure adopted by the Hungarian government. Several attempts have already been made to amend the act but none of them proved successful so far.



Referendum on minority language use in Croatia will not be held

According to the decision of the Constitutional Court made on Tuesday, referendum on the change in the legal framework of minority language use in Croatia cannot be held since the proposed question is not compatible with Croatia’s Fundamental Law. According to the current law, national minorities can use their mother tongue equally with the Croatian language in administrative units where their ratio reaches the one third of the given administrative unit’s population. The question of the civil initiators was whether Croatian citizens agree with raising this threshold to 50 % but the Constitutional Court found that this question is not compatible with Croatia’s Constitution. The initiative of the Vukovár/Vukovar nationalist civil organization was signed by more than 520 thousand people what exceeds the ratio of citizens entitled to vote prescribed by the law, that is, 10 %.