

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Government backs ethnic kin's efforts for autonomy

Speaking at the annual meeting of Hungarian diplomatic mission leaders in Budapest on Monday, Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén said that the Hungarian government “fully backs” the efforts of Hungarian communities abroad to achieve autonomy. The Deputy Prime Minister said that the Government supports all autonomy concepts developed by the communities for their own survival. Mr. Semjén added that Hungarians living abroad have never demanded anything for which there is no precedent in Europe, saying that at community level autonomy is a human right.

Speaking at the same event, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Tibor Navracsics said that although the Foreign Ministry's portfolio and name had recently changed to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, its policy continues to focus on its Euro-Atlantic obligations, Central European neighborhood policy and a commitment to the policy for Hungarian communities abroad.

Tamás Wetzel: Hungary to have one million new citizens by 2018

Speaking in Szentendre, Hungary, at the 26th Camp of Hungarian College Students from the Carpathian Basin, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Tamás Wetzel said that it is a government priority that the number of people acquiring Hungarian citizenship and enjoying all the rights it guarantees reaches one million by 2018. So far more than 600,000 people have acquired Hungarian citizenship through the simplified naturalization procedure. At the camp organized by the Rákóczi Association, Mr. Wetzel said that interest in the simplified naturalization procedure is still undiminished. So far more than 660,000 applications for citizenship have been submitted and more than 600 people have acquired Hungarian citizenship through the simplified naturalization procedure. The Deputy State Secretary added that maintaining relations with regional Hungarian advocacy organizations is an important task. He added that the policy for Hungarian communities abroad should be able to create consensus and to listen to the legitimate representatives of Hungarian communities abroad.

László Kövér would expand the system of human rights

On Saturday the Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament László Kövér participated in an event in Berlin organized by the Federation of Expellees, the umbrella organization of Germans expelled from their homeland as a result of the Second World War. Mr. Kövér, who was a guest of honor at the event entitled “The Day of Homeland”, said that it would be useful to expand the system of human rights with the right to live in one's homeland. He emphasized that this right – as an absolute and illimitable human right – would guarantee that no one can be expelled from his or her homeland or prevented from return to it against his or her will. Mr. Kövér said that “We would like to have a future in which neither Germans, nor Hungarians, nor members of any other



European nation could lose their homeland, and their right to control their future. We would like a Europe where no one can become stateless, either legally or spiritually.”



[RMDSZ's parliamentary groups receive the party's draft law on autonomy](#)

The head of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen announced on Thursday that the party's parliamentary groups have received the draft law on autonomy, consisting of almost one hundred articles and based on the autonomy model of South Tyrol. Mr. Kelemen added that this is the finalized version of the draft law, which will be discussed first within the party, then put to public debate. The president of the party said that the exact day when the draft law will be completely finalized cannot be predicted, since the party would like to discuss it with the whole of Romanian society.

[László Tőkés is called upon to remove Szekler flag from his office in Nagyvárad](#)

The press office of Member of the European Parliament László Tőkés has announced that there will be a further lawsuit on the use of the Szekler flag – this time in Nagyvárad/Oradea. According to the press office's statement, on 21 August the town's police drew up a report ordering László Tőkés, as a “natural person”, to remove the “advertising flag” from his office, since he had not asked for permission and was not allowed by the Town Council to use it, thus being in violation of Act 185 (of 2013), which regulates the use of advertising media. In the event of this warning being ignored, the authority warned that the penalty would be a fine of between 30,000 and 50,000 lei. Mr. Tőkés is taking the case to court, demanding its invalidation, “because the Szekler flag is not an advertising tool and its use does not violate any law.”



[Election of national councils is scheduled for October](#)

Serbia's Minister of Public Administration and Local Self-Government Kori Udovički has announced that the election on the new composition of national councils in Serbia will be held on 26 October. The Minister said that 17 national minorities – including Hungarians – can elect their national councils directly, while four of them will do so by means of electors. The Polish, Macedonian, Montenegrin and Croatian national minorities will elect their councils by electors. Minorities can elect directly if 40% of their members have registered previously. The electoral register of national minorities was closed at midnight on Saturday, and then it was decided which communities can elect directly.



No Hungarian electoral district to be established for Ukraine's parliamentary elections

On 27 August 2014 the Central Election Commission of Ukraine scheduled an early parliamentary election in Ukraine for 26 October 2014. According to the Commission's decision, the 2012 electoral districts – apart from smaller modifications – remain the same. The Commission established six electoral districts in Transcarpathia, splitting up the block of the county's Hungarian community into smaller districts, thus making it impossible for the community to send a Hungarian representative to the Ukrainian parliament. Prior to the elections several international organizations, the Hungarian government, the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) and the Ukrainian Democratic Alliance of Hungarians (UMDSZ) had urged the establishment of an electoral district where Hungarians are in the majority.

The Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) has approached the Central Election Commission of Ukraine and has requested the establishment of a Hungarian electoral district. The KMKSZ asked the Commission to pay attention to those articles of Ukraine's electoral Act which concern national minorities. The KMKSZ underlined that Article 18 of the Act's third paragraph states that the borders of electoral districts have to be established regarding the borders of territorial-administrative units, the interests of the territorial community and territories inhabited by national minorities. The Act also states that territorial-administrative units where national minorities live in a block and which have common borders have to form one electoral district.

Previously, the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) concluded an election agreement with Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko, in which Mr. Poroshenko