

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
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Presidential election in Romania

Prime Minister Victor Ponta of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) and Klaus Iohannis, the candidate of the opposition Christian Liberal Alliance (ACL) have gone through to the second round of Romania's presidential election. In the first round of the election Mr. Ponta had a 10 percent advantage over Mr. Iohannis, winning 40.44 % of the votes, while Mr. Iohannis received 30.37%. The head of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen received 3.47% (i. e. 329,729 votes), while the candidate of the Hungarian People's Party of Transylvania (EMNP) Zsolt Szilágyi received 0.56% (i.e. 53,146 votes). Therefore, the number of people who voted for Hungarian candidates was 382 873 (4.03%), which is 10,000 more than in the previous election in 2009.

After the meeting of the Standing Council of the RMDSZ (SZÁT) on Thursday, the head of the party Hunor Kelemen announced that the RMDSZ would not support any of the candidates in the second round of the election. He added that a large majority of the party (with one vote against and one abstention) voted for leaving this decision to the people and let them vote according to their own conscience in a way that the interests of the Hungarian community are not harmed.

General renewal in the Hungarian People's Party of Transylvania (EMNP)

After the resignation of the President of the Hungarian People's Party of Transylvania (EMNP) Tibor T. Toró and the party's vice-president and presidential candidate Zsolt Szilágyi, the leaders of the EMNP announced that a general renewal will take place within the party. At a press conference held after the board meeting of the party held in Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş on Sunday, the head of the party's board Zoltán Zakariás announced that the national board evaluated the responsibility of the former leaders and found that responsibility is shared, thus rejecting their resignations. The board ordered a general (bottom-up) renewal within the party, and decided to convene an extraordinary national meeting for the re-election of officials on 15 February 2015. The leaders of the party agreed that it had been the right decision for Mr. Szilágyi to run in the presidential election. They also agreed that the party had managed to communicate the idea of federalism and regionalism to the voters, represent Hungarians' need for autonomy and improve the party's national recognition during the campaign.



Prime Minister Viktor Orbán holds talks with Hungarian leaders in Slovakia

On Monday Prime Minister Viktor Orbán held talks with the mayoral candidate of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) and the Most-Híd ("Bridge") in Révkomárom/Komárno Attila Czírai and the president of the MKP József Berényi in Budapest. At the meeting the politicians urged the continuation of cross-border



projects and the better use of the potential of forest systems and emphasized the importance of the bridge in Komárom – which will be renovated. The parties reviewed the situation of Hungarian-language schools and vocational schools, as well as theatres in Slovakia. With regard to this question, the Prime Minister said that institutions serving the preservation of Hungarian identity can count on support from the Hungarian government, which also includes the provision of required financial resources. The parties also discussed the Hungarian government's proposals for new border crossing points and the situation of the local labor market.



The regulation abolishing the collective guilt of Hungarian towns in Vojvodina has political and practical consequences

On Tuesday the parliamentary group leader of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) Bálint Pásztor told the Hungarian news agency MTI in Belgrade that the fact that after seventy years the Serbian government had abolished the collective guilt of the Hungarian residents of Csúrog/ Čurug, Zsablya/Žabalj and Mozsor/Mosorin has serious political and practical consequences. Mr. Pásztor underlined that the most important political consequence is that with this regulation, adopted on 30 October, the concept of collective guilt has been removed completely and peremptorily from Serbia's legal system. He added that although the deadline for submitting property restitution claims was this March, this does not mean that these people are late and will not be able to submit their claims. Mr. Pásztor said that the government decision adopted last week "will undoubtedly contribute to the faster rehabilitation of these people, and will therefore accelerate pending cases and make them smoother," since the lawyers must attach this government decision to the claims.



KMKSZ plans to establish a Hungarian district

On Saturday the head of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) and member of the Ukrainian parliament László Brenzovics announced in Transcarpathia's Aknaszlatina/Solotvyno that during the planned reforms in Ukraine he would like to realize the establishment of a district including the majority of Transcarpathian Hungarian towns and to eventually see Hungarian-language Transcarpathian schools led by Hungarians. Speaking at the annual meeting of the leaders of the KMKSZ, Mr. Brenzovics stressed that the results of the parliamentary elections in Ukraine predict the realization of long-planned territorial administrative reforms, which will include high-level decentralization, and the rearrangement of territorial-administrative units – first of all, the contraction of districts and municipalities. The main aim and task of the KMKSZ is to establish a 150,000-strong Hungarian district in Transcarpathia, which would include the majority of Hungarian towns, since this is the only solution which could ensure the permanence of Hungarians in Transcarpathia as a community.



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