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The Day of National Cohesion

Visiting World War One historic monuments in Italy and Slovenia on the Day of National Cohesion, President of Hungary János Áder said that the Day of National Cohesion means that Hungarians nurture their historical traditions and respect their heroic dead. The President stressed that this day means not only loving our joint homeland, nurturing our cultural traditions and shared language but also nurturing our historic traditions, “paying respect to our heroic dead.”

Speaking on the Day of National Cohesion in the House of the Hungarians in Budapest, Deputy Prime Minister for Hungarian Communities Abroad and president of the Christian Democratic People’s Party (KDNP) Zsolt Semjén said that “we will not abandon, nor assist in abandoning, any segment of our nation.” The Deputy Prime Minister added that “any segment of the nation that falters could endanger the entire Hungarian nation.” He also stressed that Hungarians living abroad can only preserve their national identity with help of the kin-state. This makes the survival of educational and other institutions in the diaspora so important, together with the relations between brothers and sisters and between the Churches.”

Speaking at a commemoration in Hungary’s Harc, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that we must never forget the historic events which unite our nation. The state secretary highlighted that we must remember the generations which helped Hungarians survive after the Peace Treaty of Trianon. Mr. Potápi added that despite its 20th century wars, revolutions, counterrevolutions and population decline, Hungarians are still the largest nation in the Carpathian Basin.

The Day of National Cohesion was also commemorated by Hungarians communities living in the Carpathian Basin and the diaspora.

The Hungarian National Assembly declared 4 June the Day of National Cohesion in 2010. On this day in 1920 the Peace Treaty of Trianon was signed as a result of which Hungary lost two thirds of its former territory.

Meanwhile, the majority of the members of the Romanian Parliament (90 senators out of the 171) have voted in favor of a draft law which would make 4 June the “Day of the Peace Treaty of Trianon” in Romania. On this day, Romanian public institutions would celebrate the anniversary of the annexation of Transylvania to Romania. The draft law (initiated by Minister of Foreign Affairs Titus Corlatean in March) was supported not only by the social democrats who constitute the main force of the government, but the co-president of the opposition National Liberal Party (PNL) Vasile Blaga and House Speaker Calin Popescu Tariceanu.

In connection with the draft law, the former president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Béla Markó highlighted that 4 June is a day of mourning for Hungarians, while it gives a cause for celebration for Romanians.





Árpád János Potápi: a negative tendency can be observed in the field of minority rights in Romania

Speaking at the session of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Hungarian Parliament on Wednesday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that over the recent years (since the beginning of the 2000s), a negative tendency can be observed in Romania in the field of minority rights. The state secretary mentioned the re-nationalization of the Székely Mikó High School and the case of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Targu Mures/Marosvásárhely as examples. Mr. Potápi also stressed that there are problems in the use of the Hungarian language in public administration and the installation of Hungarian-language town and street signs. He added that the new law on the use of flags will not bring any step forward for the use of the Szekler flag. The state secretary said that similarly to Hungarian-Romanian relations, Hungarian-Slovakian relations are not improving in the field of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad, mentioning the prohibition of dual citizenship in Slovakia, and the fact that due to the Slovak public educational reform, several hundred Hungarian schools have become endangered. Concerning Hungarian-Serbian relations, Mr. Potápi expressed his pleasure that a positive tendency can be observed, mentioning the Serbian President's paying tribute to the innocent Hungarian victims of 1944-45 as a symbolic step in Hungarian-Serbian reconciliation. The state secretary also stressed that Serbia's EU accession negotiations have reached an advanced stage. Speaking about Hungarian-Ukrainian relations, Mr. Potápi said that Hungary is paying particular attention to the current state of mobilization in Ukraine and will continue to support the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia.



Árpád János Potápi attends Duna Day in Transylvania's Torockó

Addressing the second Duna Day in Transylvania's Torockó/Râmetea (dedicated to Hungary's public Duna Television), State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that today there is no need to modify borders in order to unite the nation. Mr. Potápi said that "we have managed to cross the borders set by the Treaty of Trianon, not by tanks and military means, but by our faith in belonging together." The state secretary emphasized that national cohesion is a source; a source which rises up with natural force, and finds its beds. He said that "the Duna Television is such a bed for the Hungarian nation which reaches all Hungarians living in different continents of the world."

US Congressmen signal their "effective support" to Hungarian delegation from Romania

A group of United States congressmen has assured a delegation from the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) of their "effective support" for the party's objectives to improve the situation of the country's 1.5 million-strong Hungarian



minority. The delegation, comprised of party chairman and former Deputy Prime Minister of Romania Hunor Kelemen, Senate member Barna Tánczos and the party's secretary for foreign affairs Loránt Vincze – met the influential Republican congressman Joseph Pitts, who chairs the human rights committee named after the late Tom Lantos on the second day of their visit. Mr. Pitts promised the delegation to identify the most effective methods to pressure Romania not to go astray from the path of democratic consolidation. Following the meeting, the party delegation held discussions with Democratic members of the Tom Lantos human rights committee and informed them of the worrying developments to the situation of the Hungarians in Romania. The conversation was also joined by Hungarian Ambassador to the United States Réka Szemerkenyi.

The Hungarian party, which has formed part of several Romanian governments, is calling on the United States to speed up the process of handing back property unlawfully confiscated under Communism to their rightful owners, which is currently stagnating in Romania and there have been signs of covert efforts of nationalization. The delegation was invited to the United States by the Hungarian Human Rights Foundation (HHRF).



Only 44 people have applied for the restoration of Slovak citizenship

The Slovak Ministry of Interior has announced that so far only 44 people have applied for the restoration of their Slovak citizenship out of the 1,084 people who have been deprived of it. The ministerial decree on the restoration of citizenship entered into force on 1 February 2015 and states that the Slovak citizenship can be restored to those who lost it as a result of the 2010 law. The citizenship can be restored to those who had a permanent residence status in the country of which they became the citizens of.

Due to the amendment to the Act on Citizenship which entered into force on 17 July 2010, more than 1000 people have been deprived of their Slovak citizenship as a result of acquiring the citizenship of another country.



Eight lorries of aid arrive in Transcarpathia

Eight lorries of aid consisting of medicines, medical equipment and long shelf-life food worth HUF 100 million (EUR 323,000), collected by NGOs, charities, churches, municipalities and the Government left Budapest and arrived in Transcarpathia on Tuesday. Speaking at an international press conference held after the arrival of the aid at Ukraine's border crossing point Chop (Csap), State Secretary for Churches, National Minorities and Civil Affairs at the Ministry of Human Capacities Miklós Soltész said that "this humanitarian aid sent to Ukraine is a kind of dress rehearsal, and if it proves successful, it will be followed by an aid operation of a greater volume before winter." The state secretary added that the Hungarian Government would also



provide an opportunity for 700 Ukrainian children in need living in the Eastern part of the country to take part in summer camps in Hungary.

Hungarians in Croatia elect minority representatives

Executive chair of the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Croatia (HMDK) Róbert Jankovics has informed the Hungarian news agency MTI that the Hungarian community in Croatia elected 226 Hungarian representatives during the election of local minority councils held on Sunday. In the counties of Croatia, two Hungarian umbrella organizations – the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Croatia (HMDK) and the Union of Hungarian Associations (MESZ) – were competing for the votes. Mr. Jankovics said that in four counties local minority councils were formed consisting of 25 members, while in seven counties only representatives were elected. He added that the HMDK won in five counties of the country.
