

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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Hunor Kelemen: Institutional dialogue between Hungary and Romania must be improved

Speaking in Bucharest on Wednesday, the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen said that institutional dialogue between Hungary and Romania must be improved since the relations between the two countries have an impact on the life of the Hungarian community in Transylvania. Mr. Kelemen added that "Hungarians in Transylvania feel when Hungarian-Romanian relations are not good": the number of anti-Hungarian manifestations and administrative measures has grown noticeably. The head of the RMDSZ added that relations must be improved at least at the level of economic and cross-border cooperation, in order to have "institutional dialogue, even if not at the highest level." Mr. Kelemen added that the president of Romania will make a visit to Budapest soon, which – according to the expectations of the RMDSZ – will contribute to the strengthening of dialogue between the two countries at the level of heads of state.

The representatives of Transylvanian Hungarian parties and political organizations hold a confidence-building meeting

On the initiative of Prime-ministerial Commissioner Katalin Szili, the leaders of Transylvanian Hungarian parties and political organizations held a confidence-building meeting at the Consulate General of Hungary in Kolozsvár/Cluj-Napoca on Thursday. The meeting was attended by the executive chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Péter Kovács, the vice-president of the Transylvanian Hungarian People's Party (EMNP) Zoltán Zakariás, the head of the consultative forum for county organizations of the Hungarian Civic Party (MPP) József Kulcsár Terza, the executive chairman of the Transylvanian Hungarian National Council (EMNT) Krisztina Sándor and the president of the Szekler National Council (SZNT) Balázs Izsák. Informing the Hungarian news agency MTI after the meeting, Prime-ministerial Commissioner Katalin Szili said the meeting might become the beginning of a "new era" in the cooperation of Transylvanian Hungarian parties and political organizations. Ms. Szili added that after the first confidence-building meeting, every party agreed that the continuation of the dialogue is necessary, since the representatives of Transylvanian political parties also feel that relations between them became "cold", and this situation must be changed.



The National Council of the Csemadok holds meetings in Lakitelek

On the invitation of the Deputy Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly Sándor Lezsák, the National Council of the Csemadok held meetings in Hungary's Lakitelek on Saturday and Sunday. Informing the Hungarian news agency MTI, the president of the Csemadok Gyula Bárdos said that without the support of the Hungarian Government, the largest social association of the Hungarian community in Slovakia would not be able to operate, since it does not receive any financial support from Slovakia. Mr.



Bárdos said that “Hungarians in Slovakia are not in a good intellectual condition” compared with other Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin. He added that – as a result – there is a strong need for the civil community to take an active part in public life both at a local and a national level. Mr. Bárdos also said that an important aim of the association is to ensure a more effective representation for the Hungarian community in the Slovakian Parliament during the following elections.

The week of Hungarian-Slovakian cooperation to be held in Kassa in October

The Consulate General of Hungary in Kassa/Košice will organize the week of Hungarian culture and Hungarian-Slovakian cooperation between 23 and 29 October in Kassa. Speaking about the event at a press conference held in Budapest on Wednesday, Consul General of Hungary in Kassa Ádám Szesztay said that the program series is connected with Hungary’s national holiday and the anniversary of the reburial of prince Ferenc Rákóczi II. Mr. Szesztay added that the event named Rákóczi Express Week is planned to create a tradition in order to prove (not only on the jubilees of the prince’s reburial but on each of its anniversaries) that the spirit of Ferenc Rákóczi II. is still in the focus of interest in Hungary, and his memory does not separate but connects the two countries.



Nativity of Mary patronal feast in Doroszló

The traditional Nativity of Mary patronal feast in Doroszló/Doroslovo, the largest central patronal feast of the Roman Catholic Hungarian community in Vojvodina was held on Tuesday. The holy mass of the patronal feast focused on the importance of preserving catholic values and the cult of the Virgin Mary, as well as the sacrament of nativity. The mass was attended by several public figures from both the kin-state and Vojvodina. In his speech, the president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) and head of the Provincial House of Representatives István Pásztor stressed that the development of the shrine in Doroszló must be continued. Speaking at the event, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that Hungary is ready to protect Christian values both in Hungary and beyond its borders. The state secretary added that this is a reason why Hungary strives to stop the wave of migrants arriving from the Middle East and Africa.



The safety of Hungarians in Transcarpathia must be guaranteed

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó received the Governor of Transcarpathia and the President of the Transcarpathia County State Office for Administration Hennadiy Moskal in Budapest. At a press conference held after the meeting, the minister said that “although there have been news raising concern



regarding the security of Transcarpathia recently, by appointing a governor, the Ukrainian Government clearly indicates that it is serious about keeping public order intact in the region.” Mr. Szijjártó added that Hungary was glad to hear about the measures taken by the governor and appreciates the results he has achieved so far regarding the security of Transcarpathia. The Minister expressed the Hungarian Government’s full support for his measures taken to ensure safe and calm life that is highly important to the local Hungarian community.

Hungarian schools in Transcarpathia hold joint academic year opening ceremony

Speaking at the central academic year opening ceremony of Hungarian-language schools in Transcarpathia held in Nagypalád/Velyka Palad', the president of the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Transcarpathia (KMPSZ) Ildikó Orosz said that “when the Hungarian nation and state becomes more energetic in the Carpathian Basin and in Europe, the number of children enrolled in Hungarian-language schools in Transcarpathia grows; this is the situation this year as well.” The president of the KMPSZ stressed that the number of children enrolled in Hungarian-language schools in Transcarpathia grew significantly over the 2015/2016 academic year (almost 400 more children were enrolled in Hungarian schools). Ms. Orosz added that a similar growth was seen only at the beginning of the 1990s. State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád at the Prime Minister’s Office János Potápi welcomed the event in a letter, emphasizing that the Hungarian Government pays particular attention to the support of Hungarian-language institutions in Transcarpathia, and will continue the financing of the running assistance programs.

