

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Zsolt Semjén: the Greek Catholic Church always remained faithful to its faith and the Hungarian nation

Speaking at the opening ceremony of an exhibition in Budapest entitled “25 years of freedom – The courage and testimony of the Transcarpathian Greek Catholic Church”, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad and president of the Christian Democratic People’s Party (KDNP) Zsolt Semjén highlighted that the Greek Catholic church remained faithful to its faith and the Hungarian nation even under the most difficult circumstances and the most cruel persecution. On behalf of the Hungarian Government, the Deputy Prime Minister expressed his gratitude and deep appreciation to the Greek Catholic church and ensured its members that whatever happens, they can always rely on Hungary, the Hungarian nation and the Hungarian Government. Mr. Semjén added that the past 25 years proved that the victims were not in vain. Today, the church district of Munkács/Mukachevo has 100 new churches, 420 manses, 320 priests and about 320,000 followers. The head of the KDNP added that the 59 seminarists (among them, 7 Hungarians) of the Ungvár/Uzhhorod theology are “the pledge of the future.”



## Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta resigns

Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta has resigned after almost 25,000 people took to the streets to protest over a nightclub fire that killed 32 people on Friday. The protesters demanded the resignation of leaders responsible for the tragedy and the political leaders “responsible for the corruption in the country”. On Wednesday, Prime Minister Victor Ponta announced that he would resign together with his government. He added that “the fury of the people is legitimate”, and “it would not be correct to pass the responsibility on mayors or state secretaries.” Mr. Ponta also expressed his hope that his resignation would satisfy the demonstrators.

Commenting on the events, political scientist Gergely Illyés said that the nightclub tragedy was an excellent opportunity for the Prime Minister to resign, since now it seems that he “fulfilled the will of people”, and acted as it is required in a developed democracy. Mr. Illyés added that by this step, Victor Ponta diverted attention from the fact that “he has been a political corpse” and pretends that his resignation was caused not by the criminal proceedings against him.

Summing up the results of the consultations held with the Romanian parliamentary parties after the resignation of Mr. Ponta, the President of Romania Klaus Iohannis said on Friday that the parties suggested the holding of preliminary elections or the establishment of a technocratic government, but each of them would like to avoid the establishment of a government consisting of politicians, and none of them has suggested a candidate for the Prime Minister’s post. The President added that the leaders of the political parties understood that the current situation is more than a simple change of government, since the people protesting in the streets want more, they want much deeper reforms and the renewal of the whole political society. Mr.



Iohannis added that the consultations will continue next week in order to outline a government program which is acceptable for everyone.

In connection with events, the head of the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad (NPKI) Zoltán Kántor said that the Prime Minister's resignation might strengthen the role of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) both in its role in the government or in the field of ensuring parliamentary support. Mr. Kántor added that since every Romanian parliamentary party had already had some anti-Hungarian manifestations, and their attitude towards the issue of autonomy in Szeklerland is generally negative, he does not expect major changes in this field, but still there might be some steps forward.



### Tibor Navracsics and Pál Csáky address a conference at the Selye János University

On 5 November, Commissioner of the European Commission (EC) for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Tibor Navracsics and MEP Pály Csáky (representing the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP)) gave presentations at Slovakia's Selye János University as part of the program series entitled "The Week of Science 2015". Speaking at the event, Mr. Navracsics said that "The European Union has a future only if it is able to become the community of national communities." He added that "the ability of the EU to remain resistant in the current period of crisis largely depends on the extent of the European community's ability to become strong and able to develop." Addressing the event, MEP Pál Csáky said that the current state of the community of Hungarian intellectuals in Slovakia is not appropriate. Mr. Csáky added that the intellectuals are the pledge of the future, therefore, the basis of the Hungarian future in Slovakia should be established at the Selye János University.



### István Pásztor: More than 30 towns in Vojvodina are allowed to commemorate the victims of the Second World War

Speaking at a commemoration in Serbia's Szabadka/Subotica in honor to the innocent victims who were executed between 1944-1945, the president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor said that "the Hungarian community in Vojvodina has come a long way during the past 25 years, since today it is allowed to commemorate the victims executed during and after the Second World War." Mr. Pásztor added that there are almost 30 towns throughout Vojvodina which are allowed to organize commemorations. The head of the VMSZ added that the most important event in the process of Hungarian-Serbian reconciliation will take place in December 2015, when the Hungarian-Serbian joint academic committee of historians will introduce the results of its research work.



## Ministerial Commissioner Dr. István Grezsa visits Ukrainian school teaching Hungarian as a second foreign language

On Thursday, Ministerial Commissioner responsible for the supervision of cross-border investments at the Prime Minister's Office Dr. István Grezsa made a visit to a Ukrainian-language school in Transcarpathia's Ungvár/Uzhhorod which educates Hungarian as a second foreign language. The ministerial commissioner handed over toy packets aimed at developing skills to the leaders of the school. Afterwards, the ministerial commissioner laid a wreath at the memorial of the Hungarian victims of the 1944 Stalinist terror in Szolyva/Svaljava. Speaking at a press conference held after his visit to the Secondary School № 2 in Ungvár, MR. Grezsa said that "this school was the first Ukrainian-language educational institution in Transcarpathia which started to teach Hungarian as a second foreign language to 58 pupils". Mr. Grezsa stressed that the Hungarian Government will continue to support this initiative, indicating that besides the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia, it also supports the Ukrainian community of the region." Mr. Grezsa also handed over toy packets in the school № 10 in Szolyva and the school of Rákócziszállás/Zavadka, where he also inaugurated the cultural hall of the town renovated as part of the the EU's Eastern Partnership Program, supported by the Hungarian Government.



## Prime Minister Viktor Orbán participates in the jubilee event of the Muravidék Hungarian National Autonomous Community

On Friday a ceremony was held in Lendva in Muravidék/Prekmurje on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Muravidék Hungarian National Autonomous Community. The event was attended by the Hungarian and Slovenian Prime Ministers. Speaking at the event, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán stressed that Muravidék "was for centuries one of Christian Europe's guard regions". Here people born of different nations belong together, and preserve the common values together. The Prime Minister added that "people living in Muravidék teach Europe today that there are far more things which tie us together than things which set us apart." This fact is also recognized in Slovenia's Constitution when it mentions and protects the Hungarians as an indigenous nationality, and the same principle is also laid down in Hungary's Fundamental Law when it stipulates that it looks upon the national minorities living here with us as a constituent part of the Hungarian political community and the State.

