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Viktor Orbán: Europe's current political leadership has failed

"We were, we are and we shall be at home in Europe" – this was the motto of the 27th Bálványos Summer Open University and Student Camp held in Transylvania's Tusnádfürdő/Băile Tușnad between 19 and 23 July. Similarly to the previous years, on the closing day of the event, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán delivered a speech. Speaking to the several thousand-strong crowd gathered in front of the open-air stage, the Prime Minister declared that "Europe's current political leadership has failed; fundamental changes are required to re-establish European security." The Prime Minister explained that "amid the immigration crisis, the terrorist attacks and the British withdrawal from the European Union, day by day in Europe fear is growing and citizens have the overwhelming feeling that the future is uncertain". Mr. Orbán added that "there is a crisis of the elite and of democracy in Europe and in the Western world." The Prime Minister stressed that every idea, political act and initiative in the European Union which seeks to take spheres of competence from nation states should be blocked. Mr. Orbán said that the restriction of national sovereignty in the interests of expanding European spheres of competence is one of the greatest dangers in Europe today. The Prime Minister added that false self-evaluation must be ended. He said that "The British withdrawal from the EU certainly means the end of an era, which was about the organization playing an active part in global politics. Today the EU is a regional player, and at best is only capable of influencing events in its immediate vicinity – or perhaps not even there." Referring to the terror attack which took place in Munich on Friday, Mr. Orbán said that we must pay increasing attention to the issue of security in Hungary as well. At the end of his speech the Prime Minister declared that everything which his Government started in Hungary in 2010 – the new Constitution based on Christian values, its policy of national reunification and its family policies – have all served the realization of a single goal, the relevance of which has been proven by the events of recent years. The Prime Minister said that "We want Hungary to remain a point of certainty in a world of uncertainty".

Thousands of people participate in the 27th Bálványos Summer Open University and Student Camp

The 27th Bálványos Summer Open University and Student Camp held in Tusnádfürdő was attended by thousands of people. Participants arrived from every corner of the Carpathian Basin and – for the first time – from the diaspora as well. The representatives of Hungarian communities took part in roundtable discussions focusing on various topics and discussed current issues affecting their communities. Speaking on the opening day of the event series, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that the Bálványos Summer Open University – which is commonly referred to as Tusványos – is one of the most important workshops in the Carpathian Basin focusing on the policy for Hungarian communities abroad where a number of ideas were conceived –



from the status law, all the way to dual citizenship – which later became law or were incorporated into the Fundamental Law. Mr. Potápi stressed that since 2014, the issue of permanence and prosperity in the homeland has become more and more emphatic. He added that this goal has been served by programs like the year of Hungarian vocational education abroad and the thematic year of young Hungarian entrepreneurs launched by the state secretariat for Hungarian communities abroad. The state secretary highlighted that “Hungarian communities and Hungarian families must be strengthened economically so that Hungarian children should have a future and should find jobs in their native lands, and to this end Hungarian people should be employed.”

Speaking at the event, the president of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian National Assembly, one of the founders of the Bálványos Summer Open University Zsolt Németh detailed the meaning of this year’s motto: “We were, we are and we shall be at home in Europe.” He pointed out that we were at home because the Hungarian identity is a European identity, and forms part of the continent’s common culture. Mr. Németh added that the part “we shall be at home in Europe” indicates that Hungary and Hungarian communities living beyond the borders have a vision of Central-European unity and of a Christian Europe which they wish to implement.

On Friday, a roundtable discussion was held on the policy for Hungarian communities abroad. Beside State Secretary Árpád János Potápi and expert of the field Zsuzsanna Répás, the roundtable discussion was attended by eight leaders of Hungarian parties abroad: the president of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia László Brenzovics, the president of the Hungarian National Self-governing Community of Muravidék Ferenc Horváth, the vice-president of the Democratic Community of Hungarians in Croatia Róbert Jankovics, the president of the Party of the Hungarian Community József Menyhárt, the president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians István Pásztor, the president of the Transylvanian Hungarian People’s Party Zsolt Szilágyi, the president of the Hungarian Civic Party Zsolt Biró and the chairman of the political group of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania Barna Tánczos. The party leaders summarized the past year’s results of their organizations and communities, and outlined their future plans. Speaking at the roundtable discussion, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi said that after the downs of the previous years, since 2010 radical changes have taken place in the field of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad which have brought significant results. The main purpose of these changes was to enhance Hungarians’ prosperity in their homeland, to decrease the number of Hungarians leaving their native land and to improve the negative demographic situation. Before the roundtable discussion, the leaders of Hungarian parties abroad signed a joint statement, condemning the “failed immigration policy of the European Union and the quota system” and encouraging Hungarians to unite their forces and take part in the approaching quota referendum.



The SZNT calls on municipalities to adopt its pro-autonomy resolutions

The permanent committee of the Szekler National Council (SNZT) has called on Szeklerland's new municipalities – which were elected during municipal elections in June 2016 – to adopt the SZNT's resolutions supporting Szeklerland's autonomy. After the previous call of the SZNT, only 62 out of the 153 municipalities of Szeklerland adopted the resolutions. These municipalities declared in special statements their communities' demand for autonomy. They also declared that they wish to belong to a single, but independent administrative unit which bears the name "Szeklerland", in the territory of which autonomy is guaranteed by law and – along with the Romanian language – Hungarian is also an official language.



Vojvodina regional organization of the Consultative Forum of Hungarian Farmers in the Carpathian Basin is established in Vojvodina

On Saturday, the Vojvodina regional organization of the Consultative Forum of Hungarian Farmers in the Carpathian Basin was officially established in Vojvodina's Zenta. The establishment of the forum was initiated by farmers' organizations in the 1990's in order to unite Hungarian advocacy organizations of the Carpathian Basin dealing with agricultural issues. The forum was established in 2013 and since then it has had significant results. The Vojvodina regional organization was the first one in the Carpathian Basin, and – according to the plans – it will be followed by other regional organizations in the near future.

