

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

13/2017



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



The Forum of Hungarian Representatives in the Carpathian Basin holds session in Budapest

On Thursday and Friday, the Forum of Hungarian Representatives in the Carpathian Basin (KMKF) held session in Budapest. The main purpose of the KMKF is to make cooperation regular and fruitful between Hungarian parliamentary parties and Hungarian communities abroad at the level of legislation.

Addressing the plenary session of the meeting, House Speaker László Kövér said that the nation states of the 21st century must defend and strengthen the national identity of not only their ethnic majority, but also their national minorities, since this is the only possible way of effective cooperation and the enforcement of citizens' rights. The house speaker stressed that "We, Hungarians have the same wishes for our neighbors and for ourselves: a sovereign nation state which is able to cooperate, which does not oppress anyone and does not restrict anyone's identity but defends and strengthens its residents."

Speaking at the session, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó highlighted the importance of trust between neighboring countries to resolve issues. He stressed that the Hungarian Government is striving to work together with its neighbors for shared success in order to ensure an opportunity for resolving issues that have an impact on the life of Hungarian communities living abroad.

In the closing statement of the session, the members of the KMKF welcomed the increasing number of election alliances which have been formed by local Hungarian parties in neighboring countries over the past few years. At the same time, the representatives expressed concern over continuous discriminatory acts against the Hungarian community in Romania, emphasizing that under the cover of "anti-corruption fight", baseless and regular proceedings are launched against the members of the Hungarian community.

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and Hunor Kelemen on promoting political aspirations in Transylvania

At the Fidesz headquarters in Budapest on Thursday, Prime Minister and President of Fidesz Viktor Orbán met the President of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen. At their talks, the party leaders agreed to continue the implementation of programs designed to preserve the identity of Hungarians in Romania and the development of Hungarian-language education. Mr. Kelemen informed Mr. Orbán of the situation of the Roman Catholic Theological High School in Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureș. The parties also discussed what assistance Hungary could provide to resolve the matter of the Marosvásárhely school satisfactorily. Mr. Orbán and Mr. Kelemen talked about opportunities for normalizing Hungarian-Romanian bilateral relations and the planned economic development program in Transylvania which – after Vojvodina and Transcarpathia – will be launched in Romania as well.



Zsolt Semjén: The simplified naturalization procedure is the most effective tool against assimilation

Speaking in an interview to the Hungarian daily Magyar Idők, Deputy Prime Minister for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén said that the simplified naturalization procedure is the most effective tool against the assimilation of Hungarian communities abroad. The Deputy Prime Minister said that the system of the procedure is operating excellently. He added that due to the simplified naturalization procedure, the number of Hungarian citizens living abroad had increased to 940,000. The majority of these people live in the Carpathian Basin, while about 110,000 Hungarians or people of Hungarian descent living in the diaspora were declared Hungarian citizens. Mr. Semjén stressed that from the point of view of neighboring states, the simplified naturalization procedure is the greatest danger to Hungarians' assimilation, since those who acquire Hungarian citizenship will become part of the Hungarian nation under common law and – consequently – will have stronger Hungarian identity.



Hungarian Government encourages Heineken and Csíki Sör Manufaktúra to engage in talks

Speaking at a press conference in Csíkszentsimon/ after visiting the site of Igazi Csíki Sör, Minister of the Prime Minister's Office János Lázár said that the Hungarian Government encourages Heineken and Csíki Sör Manufaktúra to engage in talks in their trade mark usage dispute. The Minister expressed the hope that a satisfactory agreement may be reached "in the struggle between David and Goliath" within a month. He remarked: Hungarian businesses which find themselves in trouble may rely on the assistance of the Hungarian Government, while multinational corporations which abuse their power at the expense of Hungarian businesses may expect to see the Hungarian Government take action against them.

In its judgment dated 27 January, the Marosvásárhely court banned the production and distribution of Csíki Sör. The manufacturer of Igazi Csíki Sör was sued by Heineken Romania because it claimed that the maker of the beer misappropriated its intellectual property. The lawsuit of Romanian beer manufacturers has linguistic implications. The Dutch multinational company has had in its portfolio the beer brand Ciuc premium made in Csíkszereda – which the Hungarians in Transylvania refer to as "csíki sör" – since 2003. In November 2014, however, the product of Csíki Sör Manufaktúra, Igazi Csíki Sör, emerged on the market, for the purposes of which the manufacturer Lixid Project Kft. obtained legal protection in Romania and Europe.



Hungarian House Speaker marks Rákóczi Anniversary in Borsi

House Speaker László Kövér attended a ceremony to mark the birth anniversary of Ferenc Rákóczi II, leader of Hungary's anti-Habsburg freedom fight between 1703-1711. The event was held at Rákóczi's birthplace in Slovakia's Borsi /Borša. Speaking at the ceremony organized by the Ferenc Rákóczi II Civic Association and the local municipality, László Kövér stressed that "without Ferenc Rákóczi II, the ideal of the Hungarian state would not have been strong enough to serve as a guideline for the Hungarian nation throughout centuries." Mr. Kövér said that "in our everyday struggles for the permanence and development of our nation, the ideals of Ferenc Rákóczi II are leading us and his example and greatness as a statesman give us support."

The name of Ferenc Rákóczi II – who was Prince of Transylvania and Hungary – is closely connected with the Rákóczi freedom fight which started in 1703 with the aim to achieve independence for Hungary from the Habsburg Empire.



Hungarian family businesses abroad must be strengthened

Speaking at the first stop of the Carpathian Basin tour of the thematic year "2017 – year of Hungarian family businesses abroad" held in Vojvodina's Szabadka/Subotica, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that the aim of Hungary's economic development programs and that of the year of Hungarian family businesses abroad is to strengthen enterprises in the Carpathian Basin, especially those in which families – spouses, siblings or several generations – are working together. The state secretary stressed that Hungary intends to support those who wish to live and prosper in their homeland and wants to help them find work, be able to raise children and educate their sons and daughters in Hungarian-language schools. Mr. Potápi said that with respect to the Hungarian Government's aim of strengthening Hungarian economic life in the Carpathian Basin, Hungary supports Hungarian-language vocational education, young Hungarian entrepreneurs and Hungarian family businesses abroad. He added that the main purpose is to strengthen Hungarian institutional system and enterprises in the Carpathian Basin.



State Secretary Levente Magyar on official visit in Transcarpathia

State Secretary for economic diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Levente Magyar made a two-day official visit to dispersed Hungarian communities in Transcarpathia with the aim to provide information about the 2017 phase of the Ede Egán Economic Development Program launched by the Hungarian Government to



foster economic development in Transcarpathia. On Thursday – after a presentation held in Técső/Tiachiv – Mr. Magyar said that the Hungarian Government’s main objective is to address Hungarian people in Transcarpathia, who – against the difficult economic situation in the country – remain in their homeland and try to live and work there. He recalled that the program started in 2016 as part of which more than 1,000 Transcarpathian Hungarian entrepreneurs received financial support the total sum of which was HUF 2 billion (EUR 6.4 million). On 15 March, Mr. Magyar announced in Beregszász/Berehove that the Hungarian Government will continue its program in 2017, providing further HUF 20 billion (EUR 64 million) of financial support for Hungarian entrepreneurs living in the region in the form of non-refundable grants and preferential loan.



Saint Ladislaus exhibition opens in Piotrków Trybunalski

A three-day series of celebrations started in Piotrków Trybunalski in Poland to mark the Day of Polish-Hungarian Friendship, as part of which a fresco exhibition was opened dedicated to Hungarian King St. Ladislaus. The exhibition is part of the Saint Ladislaus Memorial Year launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. The exhibition was opened by Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi on Thursday. Addressing the event, Mr. Szilágyi said that “King Ladislaus embodies the distinguished features of the Hungarian and Polish nations, among them, pure faith and unfaltering courage.” He recalled that the Saint Ladislaus Year was launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad to mark the 940th anniversary of St. Ladislaus becoming a king and the 825th anniversary of his canonization.

Deputy State Secretary Péter Szilágyi visits Hungarian communities in Stuttgart

Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi made an official visit to Hungarian communities living in Stuttgart. During his stay in Germany, he met with the leaders and students of the Hungarian school in Stuttgart and the consular school in Baden-Württemberg and took part in the 30th anniversary of the Germany Group of the Transylvanian World Federation. Mr. Szilágyi stressed that the main purpose of his visit is to emphasize that Hungarians living in the diaspora are no longer “external spokesmen” of the Hungarian nation but its full members. The Hungarian schools in Stuttgart and Baden-Württemberg are supported by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad.

