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Viktor Orbán: What is at stake in next year's general election: the potential implementation of the Soros plan and the dismantling of the border fence

Speaking at the 28th Bálványos Summer Open University and Student Camp in Romania's Tusnádfürdő/ Băile Tușnad, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán stressed that Europe also has a stake in next year's Hungarian general election, because the result will determine whether the Soros plan can be implemented and the border fence can be dismantled. With regard to the past year, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said that the most important event has been the strengthening of the Visegrad Four (V4). The Prime Minister emphasized that the sole purpose of patriotic governance must be to strengthen the nation and the country and he went on to list a number of characteristics of a strong nation. Among those he mentioned were economic growth, lower levels of debt, strategic sectors with majority national ownership, and the opportunity of employment for everyone who wants to work. A further characteristic of a strong state mentioned by Mr. Orbán is public security, which includes defense of the borders and prevention of terrorist attacks. He noted that it is equally important to preserve cultural identity and to organize the future Hungarian nation into a single community. Speaking about the future of Europe, the Prime Minister said that over the next few decades the main question will be whether Europe can remain the Europeans' continent – and, within this, whether Hungary will remain the Hungarians' country. He added that there is a Soros plan which comprises four points: every year one million migrants should be brought into Europe; every one of them should be given a sum in euros equivalent to HUF 4.5 million; immigrants should be distributed among EU countries; and a European immigration agency should be set up, which would deprive nation states of their decision-making powers on issues related to migrants.

Romanian President Klaus Iohannis pays working visit to Szeklerland

Romanian President Klaus Iohannis has paid a working visit to Szeklerland. On Tuesday, he held talks with the leaders of three counties – Hargita/Harghita, Kovászna/Covasna and Vrancea/Vrancea – and the mayors of county seats. After the talks, the president called on Romanians and Hungarians to work together since this is “the only expedient” way for everyone. Speaking after the talks, the mayor of Csíkszereda/Miercurea Ciuc, Róbert Ráduly said that the meeting with the President was “sportsmanlike”. The mayor of Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorghe, Árpád Antal said that the dialogue between the parties was “sincere and constructive.” Mr. Antal added that the territorial autonomy of Szeklerland cannot be based on ethnicity since a considerable number of Romanians, Romas and people of other nationality live in almost every towns and villages of the region. He added that, however, during the designation of the borders of the autonomous territory, historic and cultural peculiarities must be taken into account.



Zsolt Semjén: Romanian President's visit to Szeklerland is correct

Speaking at a roundtable-discussion at the 28th Bálványos Summer Open University and Student Camp in Tusnádfürdő, Deputy Prime Minister for Hungarian communities abroad Zsolt Semjén said that the visit of Romanian President Klaus Iohannis to Szeklerland was correct and positive. The Deputy Prime Minister stressed that the Hungarian community had never asked for any form of autonomy that is unprecedented in Europe. Mr. Semjén also spoke about the success of the simplified naturalization procedure adding that the number of people who applied for Hungarian citizenship has reached one million, therefore, by November – the scheduled date of the Hungarian Standing Conference (MÁÉRT) – the number of new Hungarian citizens might reach one million. The Deputy Prime Minister also stressed that the Hungarian Government has increased the funding for the policy for Hungarian communities abroad since 2010, with a current level of funding of HUF 90 billion/EUR 295 million.

Árpád János Potápi: application period for Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad is prolonged

Speaking at the 28th Bálványos Summer Open University and Student Camp, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that the application period for Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad – who can apply for financial assistance between HUF 3 and 6 million as part of the program “2017 – year of Hungarian family businesses abroad” – has been prolonged: the new deadline is 31 July. Speaking about the details of the program, Mr. Potápi said that the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad has three running calls for applications the aim of which is to strengthen Hungarian economic life abroad. The first one is for Hungarian family businesses abroad (HUF 600 million/EUR 1.9 million), the second one is for start-ups owned by young Hungarians living abroad (HUF 120 million/EUR 393,000) and the third one is for cooperation projects between young Hungarian entrepreneurs living abroad (HUF 110 million/EUR 360,000). The total amount of funding for the three target groups is HUF 830 million/EUR 2.7 million).



József Menyhárt: linguistic rights of national minorities are regularly restricted in neighboring countries

On the third day of the 28th Bálványos Summer Open University and Student Camp, a roundtable discussion was held with the participation of the leaders of Hungarian parties abroad who presented the situation and current problems of Hungarian communities living in neighboring countries. Speaking at the discussion, the chairman of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Menyhárt said that a negative phenomenon in neighboring countries is that the linguistic rights of Hungarian communities are regularly restricted. Mr. Menyhárt also spoke about the recently



established Hungarian Cultural Fund in Slovakia which will be responsible for the distribution of state funding allocated for national minorities, including Hungarians. With regard to the Minority SafePack European Citizens' Initiative which was prepared by the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) and submitted by the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN), Mr. Menyhárt said it was an extremely important and promising step forward in the field of the protection of national minorities.



István Pásztor: decisions on the financing of Vojvodina might be made this year

The head of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) and president of the Provincial House of Representatives István Pásztor announced that laws on the financing of the province of Vojvodina might be on the agenda this year. Mr. Pásztor added that decision on these questions is a constitutional obligation which has been delayed for years. Mr. Pásztor added that it is not important whether the law on the financing of Vojvodina is initiated by the government of the Republic of Serbia or the provincial parliament, however, it is important that both "parties" take part in the development of the law.