

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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Péter Szijjártó summons Ukraine's ambassador to Budapest to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó has summoned the ambassador of Ukraine to Budapest to the Ministry on Monday in order to inform him personally that he regards the amendment of the new Ukrainian Education Act as “shameful and outrageous”. The Minister has issued an order according to which the Hungarian diplomacy may not support any Ukrainian initiative in any international organization and Hungary will not support any decision important to Ukraine. Mr. Szijjártó added that Hungary will put forward the issue of the Ukrainian law amendment at every UN, OSCE and EU forum, and will prevent the realization of issues important to Ukraine. The new education law of Ukraine was adopted by the Ukrainian Parliament on 5 September. According to the law, the language of secondary and higher education is hereafter the Ukrainian, and education in the mother tongue will be allowed only in kindergartens and elementary schools.

The Government of Hungary protests against the new Ukrainian Education Act

In a statement issued on Wednesday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi announced that the Government of Hungary expresses protest in the strongest possible terms against the new education legislation adopted by the Supreme Council of Ukraine on 5 September which deprives national minorities living in the country of the possibility of studying in their mother tongues, thereby jeopardizing their survival in their native land in its very foundations. The Act - according to which the language of secondary and higher education would be Ukrainian, and education in minority languages would be allowed only in kindergartens and elementary schools- violates the right of national minorities living in the country, including the rights of 150,000 Hungarians, to an unprecedented degree, and is completely contrary to Ukraine's Constitution. Mr. Potápi emphasized: the Government of Hungary definitely stands up for the Hungarian minority in Transcarpathia. Mr. Potápi added that the Government of Hungary expects Ukraine to reconsider the entry into force of the law and to amend it in a way that ensures that the rights of the national minorities living in the country, including those of the Hungarian community, are not curtailed.

Fidesz and Minister of Human Capacities Zoltán Balog also expressed their protest against the new law. In her statement published on Sunday, Prime Minister's Commissioner Katalin Szili also stressed that the new Ukrainian Education Act means the deprivation of rights of the country's national minorities, herewith Ukraine has violated the Association Agreement concluded with the European Union which entered into force only a few days ago.





Zoltán Balogh: Hungary and Romania mutually depend on each other

Speaking at the joint school year opening ceremony of Hungarian schools in Romania in Brassó/Braşov, Minister of Human Capacities Zoltán Balog said that “a common solution must be found to the situation of Hungarian communities and Hungarian schools because Romania and Hungary will mutually depend on each other in the future”. The minister pointed out that Transylvania and the communities of nations living there are not a kind of “soil”, nations who live here must build a common viable future together. Referring to the case of the Marosvásárhely Theological High School, the minister said that the aim of the Hungarian Government’s protest is not to show its strength since the past hundred years of Transylvania taught Hungarians that “when the church and the school are in danger, the entire existence of the community is in danger.” Mr. Balogh said that the Hungarian Government is increasing the support ensured for Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin year by year. As an example, he mentioned the Makovecz scholarship program referred to as “Hungarian Erasmus” which provides an opportunity for the students of 9 Hungarian higher education institutions abroad and 19 education institutions in the kin-state to visit each other’s colleges and universities.

Speaking at the ceremony, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi stressed that Hungary will protect the Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely, Hungarian schools in Transylvania, Transcarpathia and everywhere in the world where they are in danger.

The Roman Catholic Theological High School of Marosvásárhely starts the new school year “under the umbrella” of the Bolyai Farkas High School

According to the decision of the the Management Board of the education inspectorate of Maros county, the Roman Catholic Theological High School of Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş will start the new school year under the umbrella of the Farkas Bolyai High School. Ion Macarie, the Chief Superintendent of Maros county told to Agerpres news agency that the students of the Roman Catholic High School will continue their studies in the same building as before, only the administrative issues of the school are going to be transferred to the Farkas Bolyai High School as long as the legal proceedings connected to the establishment of the school are terminated. The spokesman of the Civilians for the Catholic School movement Csengele Csíky said that in the current situation they find this solution satisfactory. She added that this decision provides an opportunity for the competent institutions to re-establish the school.

The president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen said that the RMDSZ – as soon as the legal situation enables it – will initiate the re-start of the Roman Catholic Theological High School. He added that the RMDSZ – together with the church – will start the re-establishment process of the school”.



Árpád János Potápi: dispersed Hungarian communities are an example for all of us

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 7th Hungarian Days in Brassó/Braşov, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that the real message of Hungarian Days in Brassó is that there is a living, working Hungarian community in this region which insists to its identity and universal cultural treasures. The state secretary stressed that in order to be able to preserve our Hungarian communities, we need such a brave attitude which can only be learned from dispersed Hungarian communities. He added that for many years the Hungarian Government has been working for the aim that dispersed Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin can experience they can count on the support of the kin-state in their everyday struggles. Mr. Potápi emphasized that the government of Hungary supports the maintenance of Hungarian schools and dormitories abroad and due to a new program, several kindergartens will be built and renovated in dispersed Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin.



Péter Szilágyi: the forced deployment of migrants invokes the spirit of population exchange after the war

Speaking at a commemoration in Slovakia's Deáki/Diakovce, remembering those who were deported from the town 70 years ago, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi said that "the forced deployment of masses of migrants to Central Europe invokes the spirit of the 1947 population exchange and bears the risk of the complete alteration of our homeland." Péter Szilágyi – recalling the forceful relocation of Hungarian population from Czechoslovakia after the Second World War – stressed the importance of the preservation of identity, and drew parallels between the acts of past powers and the present situation when European leaders want to deploy migrant masses to the territory of Central Europe by regulation despite the will of both migrants and the inhabitants of the target countries.



Ethnic members of the Ukrainian Parliament ask the President to veto the Act on Education

Three ethnic members of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, among them László Brenzovics, the president of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia, has asked the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko in a petition to veto the recently adopted Act on Education which is absolutely contrary to the interests of national minorities. The MPs have asked the president to veto the education law because it harshly violates the constitutional and freedom rights of national minorities to mother-tongue education. According to the document signed by the representative of



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the Romanian community Hrihorij Timis and the representatives of the Bulgarian community Anton Kissze, the Act on Educaion which was signed by the Supreme Council on 5 September, substantially changes the process of education in Ukraine and fundamentally modifies the usage of languages in education.

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