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Viktor Orbán: If freedom is lost, we are lost

Speaking at the central 23 October commemoration in Budapest marking the 61st anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Fight, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán stressed that “if freedom and national independence are lost, we are lost”. The prime minister said that “national remembrance” was the “strongest weapon” that could prevent a repeat of the physical and intellectual terror Hungary was subjected to under Soviet rule. Mr. Orbán highlighted that in the 20th century, trouble came in the form of “militant empires”, but today empires are rising in the shadow of globalization. He added that these empires “have no borders, but have a global media network, as they also have tens of thousands of people paid to serve them; they act fast, they are strong and brutal.” The Prime Minister stressed that only “open and straight talk” can help us protect our borders, stop migration and preserve our national identity. Mr. Orbán said that all elections in Europe were now of “crucial” importance, and insisted that now was the time for Europe’s peoples to decide “if they take political control back over their national causes from European bureaucrats closely linked to business elites”. He added that “Many may still think that it is impossible, but in 1956, in 1988 and before 2010 people did not believe in the possibility of change, either.”

Committee of the Hungarian Standing Conference (MÁÉRT) on Economic Development and Municipalities holds meeting in Budapest

On Friday, the Committee of the Hungarian Standing Conference (MÁÉRT) on Economic Development and Municipalities held a meeting in Budapest. Addressing the meeting, the chairman of the committee, State Secretary for Economic Development and Regulation István Lepsényi said that in the recent period the Hungarian Government has started to think in terms of a unified Carpathian Basin economic space. Mr. Lepsényi announced that in the near future a “Carpathian Basin Capital Fund” will be established the aim of which will be to promote the expansion of companies registered in Hungary in the Carpathian Basin. Speaking about the main goals of the kin-state concerning Hungarian communities living abroad, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi stressed that more children should be born in the Carpathian Basin, more Hungarian children should be born in mixed marriages and more children should attend Hungarian-language schools in neighboring countries. Mr. Potápi also spoke about the results of the “2016 – Year of young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad” and that of the “2017 – Year of Hungarian family businesses abroad”, adding that within the two programs, three calls for applications were announced in June in order to help Hungarian businessmen living and working in the Carpathian Basin.



Statues of Károly Kós and Miklós Bartha are unveiled in Kolozsvár

On Friday, a statue of architect, author and publisher, former general superintendent of the Transylvanian Reformed Church District Károly Kós and 18th century author, politician and founder of the Transylvanian Hungarian Public Education Association Miklós Bartha were unveiled in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca. Speaking at the ceremony, government commissioner at the Prime Minister's Office István Grezsa stressed that "we believe that only the cooperation of Central European nations can create an environment which is able to enrich the Carpathian Basin spiritually and physically." The government commissioner added that Hungary is ready to "unite forces" for a successful and strong Central Europe."



Official foundation stone ceremony for a new bridge over the Danube is held in Komárom

Speaking at the official foundation stone ceremony for a new bridge over the Danube at Komárom/Komárno, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said that "Let this new Danube bridge at Komárom be a symbol of the fact that we are protecting Europe's external borders and enabling the internal borders to remain open". He added that "the construction of this bridge is proof that the Hungarians and Slovaks believe in a Europe that is open and freely accessible to European citizens". Mr. Orbán stressed that "Visegrád Group cooperation is based on strong foundations, because the countries of Central Europe have leaders who think not only of their own countries, but also in terms of Central Europe". The Prime Minister said that "It is our firm belief that those who think and act in terms of Central Europe are doing something good for all four countries of the V4, and are also doing something good for all of Europe". He added that "It is also thanks to this that Slovakia and Hungary have recently found common ground, both in politics and the economy". Mr. Orbán declared that the two nations can be even more successful if they establish further links along their borders.



Péter Szijjártó: Hungary has the best relationship with Serbia from among its neighbors

Following a session of the Hungarian-Serbian Joint Economic Committee, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said that "From among the neighboring countries, Hungary has the best diplomatic and economic relationship with Serbia, and economic cooperation with Belgrade is also the most significant from among the countries of the Western Balkans". The Committee discussed the development of the Budapest-Belgrade railway line, the establishment of the Szeged-Szabadka-Baja



railway line, the opening of new border crossing stations, the expansion of trade and economic relations, and the development and interconnection of the Hungarian and Serbian natural gas networks. Mr. Szijjártó said that “Bilateral trade flow was given further impetus by the Hungarian Government’s Vojvodina Economic Development Program, within the framework of which the Hungarian Government signed funding agreements with applicants at a total value of EUR 90 million with relation to 23 large, job-creating investment projects just a few days ago”. The minister highlighted the fact that Hungary is extremely appreciative of the way Serbia is treating the Hungarian community living in the country, and stressed that Vojvodina Hungarians don’t separate the two countries, but instead link them.

The Hungarian Government will continue to support institutions which enhance cooperation

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of a new chamber theater in Vojvodina’s Zenta, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi said that the Hungarian Government will continue to support all those institutions in which Hungarians living in Vojvodina can meet, preserve their culture and experience their cohesion, all the institutions which can serve as a home for them.” The building of the Zenta theatre was supported by the Hungarian Government. Mr. Potápi stressed that “We must take joint steps in order to make our homeland a better place where it is good to live and plan a future.” He added that that all the initiatives and programs which have been launched by the Hungarian Government in recent years are serving this goal.



Ukraine will not change Hungarian nationality education until decision of Venice Commission

Speaking after talks with Ukrainian Education Minister Liliya Hrynevych and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin in Kiev, Hungarian Minister of Human Capacities Zoltán Balog said that Hungary has been given a promise that no changes of any kind will be introduced in Ukraine in the education of the Hungarian minority until a decision is adopted by the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe with respect to the relevant part of the Ukrainian education legislation. At the press conference held jointly, Mr. Balog described the atmosphere of the talks in Kiev as constructive. He stressed that the Hungarian Government primarily focuses on the interests of the Hungarians in Transcarpathia. He added that “What is good for Hungarian-speaking Ukrainian citizens is also good for Budapest”. The minister said that the Hungarian Government wishes to continue talks with the Kiev leadership in agreement with them also in the future. In his words, the Ukrainian Government expects everyone in Ukraine to speak the state language well, including people in Transcarpathia where it is important to reinforce the education of the Ukrainian language. He remarked that the Hungarian Teachers’ Association in Transcarpathia



has a number of professional proposals as to how the teaching of Ukrainian to the Hungarian minority can be made more effective.

Árpád János Potápi: It is Hungary's basic aim to support the Transcarpathian Hungarian community

Speaking at the foundation-stone laying ceremony of a Boarding School of the future Ortutay Elemér Greek Catholic Center planned to be built in Beregszász/Berehove, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi stressed that it is a basic aim of the Hungarian Government to preserve the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia and support it with all possible means. He added that in the current "critical" situation in Ukraine, "this aim is more important than ever." The Hungarian Government has ensured HUF 600 million (EUR 19 million) for the building of the Greek Catholic center and its boarding school. Mr. Potápi emphasized that this event is indicative: its message is that the availability of mother tongue education is the only possible and acceptable future for not only the Greek Catholic community but the entire Hungarian community in Transcarpathia. Mr. Potápi added that the kin-state will Transcarpathian Hungarians in all their efforts.



Hungarian communities in the diaspora commemorate 23 October 1956

On the 61st anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, several events and commemorations were held in the diaspora. Minister without Portfolio Lajos Kósa, who celebrated the 1956 revolution and freedom fight together with Hungarians living in California, highlighted in Los Angeles: Hungarians, wherever they may live, are tied together by their love of freedom and the fight in its pursuit. Mr. Kósa laid a wreath at the 1956 memorial at Mindszenty Square in Los Angeles on Sunday together with representatives of the Consulate and Hungarian organizations. After the wreath-laying ceremony, celebrations continued with poetry recitation, a folk dance presentation and music, as part of which the Minister without Portfolio delivered a speech. Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Péter Szilágyi commemorated 23 October with Hungarian communities living in the United States of America. Speaking at a commemoration in Washington D.C., the Deputy State Secretary stressed that "the Hungarian Government relies on Hungarians living in the diaspora." Mr. Szilágyi also expressed "Hungary's deepest gratitude to Americans for enabling tens of thousands of Hungarians to make the US their home." The deputy state secretary stressed that "Hungarians today do not want more than they did in 1956: they want to decide about their future freely and independently." Prime Ministerial Commissioner Katalin Szili spent the anniversary of the revolution among Hungarian communities in Canada, taking part in commemorations in Edmonton and Vancouver, while government spokesperson Zoltán Kovács visited Hungarians living in London.