

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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

Speaking at the plenary session of the Forum of Hungarian Representatives in the Carpathian Basin (KMKF), the Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér said that relations among Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin have been better and more successful over the past four years than at any other point in the last century. Mr. Kövér stressed that during the last four years, central and eastern European countries also gradually formed a new kind of cooperation. The house speaker added that "the novelty of this new relationship is rooted in the psychological and political recognition that we, the peoples of this region will not be anyone's servants - of either our western or eastern friends." Addressing the event, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said that it was not the government's job to say what is good for Hungarian communities abroad but it was for the communities to tell the government what is in their interests. According to the foreign minister, Hungarian communities beyond the borders should be seen as a resource, adding that if they need protection, the government should resort to mobilizing international pressure.

László Kövér opens the fifth Székely Ball in Budapest

Addressing the 5th Székely Ball in Budapest, the main patron of the event House Speaker László Kövér stressed that "Hungarians and Szeklers both paid heavy prices for identity and unity, therefore, they must protect these values." Mr. Kövér stressed that "today the heart of Székelyudvarhely/Odorheiu Secuiesc – the capital of Szeklerland – and Budapest – the capital of Hungary – are beating together." Speaking at the ball, the mayor of Budapest István Tarlós stressed that it is symbolic that the Szekler flag is hoisted on the two main buildings of Budapest: the Hungarian Parliament Building and the City Hall, showing the unity of Hungarians and Szeklers. Mr. Tarlos stressed that the Székely Ball is more than a large-scale event, its main message is national cohesion.

Potápi: Transcarpathia is a priority field of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad

Opening an exhibition of Transcarpathian Hungarian artists in Bonyhád (Hungary), State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that Transcarpathia is a priority field of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad. Mr. Potápi added that during recent years, the Hungarian Government has launched a number of programs to help Hungarians living there. The state secretary added that Hungary supports every Hungarian living in Transcarpathia – from nursery school children to people working in the field of health care – in order to help them remain and prosper in their homeland.



Hungarian Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely can be re-established according to the decision of the Senate

On Wednesday, the Senate of the Romanian Parliament adopted a law according to which the Roman Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely/Targu Mures can be re-established. The law – which was adopted by the house of representatives in December 2017 – received 71 votes in favor, 20 votes against and 4 abstentions in the Senate. The aim of the law is to settle the legal statues of the school the final step of which will be the official announcement of the President of Romania. Speaking about the decision of the Senate, the chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen said that the decision is very good news for the Hungarian community in Romania and it the result of the parliamentary cooperation with Romanian government parties.”

Katalin Novák makes official visit to Transylvania

Speaking at a press conference in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca, State Secretary for youth and family affairs at the Ministry of Human Capacities Katalin Novák said that maternity support and baby bonds – which have been made available for Hungarian communities abroad by the Hungarian Government – are extremely popular in Transylvania. Ms. Novák stressed that only one month has passed since these kinds of support were announced and they have become extremely popular. She added that in Transylvania 423 people have applied for the maternity support and 200 people for the baby bonds. The state secretary said that the aim of these kinds of support is to show that every Hungarian child – regardless where they are born in the world – are equally important for the kin-state.



Péter Szijjártó: Hungary’s economic development program is extremely successful in Slovakia

After talks with the leaders of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) in Pozsony/Bratislava, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó announced that as part of Hungary’s economic development program, 1,500 Hungarian entrepreneurs living in Slovakia will receive financial support worth HUF 5.4 billion (EUR 17 million). Before the talks, the minister inaugurated the new headquarters of Hungary’s diplomatic mission in Bratislava which – in addition to Hungary’s Embassy to Pozsony/Bratislava – will host the Hungarian Institute, Hungary’s Consulate General and its economic representation. Speaking at a joint press conference with the head of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Menyhárt, Mr. Szijjártó spoke about the good Slovakian-Hungarian relations and joint opportunities, as well as the Hungarian economic development program. Mr. Szijjártó stressed that



as part of the program, this year 1,521 entrepreneurs received financial assistance worth HUF 5.4 billion (EUR 17 million).

Serbia and Hungary must act together to defend their borders

In a press statement issued in the company of Serbian prime minister Ana Brnabić, following a joint session of the Hungarian and Serbian cabinets, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán declared that Serbia and Hungary must act together to defend their borders, the security of their citizens and their cultural identities. Prime Minister Orbán expressed his thanks to Serbia for helping to stop migration at Hungary's southern borders. He also reiterated that, if needed, Serbia can also count on technical assistance or personnel from Hungary to help protect its southern borders. The Prime Minister said that the countries of the Visegrád Group are calling for Serbia to be granted European Union membership as soon as possible. The Serbian Prime Minister stressed that her country considered Hungary as a friend and expressed her wish that Hungary "should not only have a strong presence in Vojvodina province but in other parts of Serbia, too." She added that Hungary-Serbia ties are "at a historical high" and the Serbian government will do everything in its capacity to further develop that cooperation.

There is a realistic chance of normalizing Hungarian-Ukrainian relations

"There has been a significant step forward toward normalizing Hungarian-Ukrainian relations and restoring the friendly cooperation between the two countries", the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Parliamentary State Secretary, Levente Magyar said on Wednesday in Ungvár/Uzhhorod, where he and Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Vasyl Bodnar reviewed issues relating to the implementation of the new Ukrainian Education Act, cross-border cooperation and the development of border infrastructure. At the press conference following the three-hour meeting, Mr. Levente emphasized: based on the negotiations he believes there is a realistic chance of normalizing Hungarian-Ukrainian relations in view of the fact that the Ukrainian party has confirmed that despite the coming into force of the Education Act, which has made relations between the two countries difficult, no changes will be made to the minority education system without the prior approval of minority representatives. "A series of negotiations will begin with Ukraine's Ministry of Education and representatives of the Transcarpathian Hungarian community, and a meeting will be held with Minister of Education Liliya Hrinevics on 14 February", he added, noting that in view of the Ukrainian party's undertaking during their meeting in Uzhhorod he feels there is an excellent chance of coming to a rapid agreement, which would mean that the current status quo will not be changing until the Ukrainian Government and the Hungarian minority in Transcarpathia come to an agreement, which is approved by the latter.