

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

16/2018



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



The National Election Office has completed the counting of votes

At the April 8 parliamentary elections Hungarian citizens who do not have permanent residence in Hungary, could vote on party lists by post. By the deadline, 378,000 Hungarians living outside Hungary registered for the elections and – in the end – 266,000 of them (70%) exercised their voting rights and took part in the election. According to the information of the National Elections Office (NVI), 41,000 votes were invalid and 224,564 were valid. According to the final results, 96,24 of Hungarian citizens voting by post, voted for the Fidesz-KDNP alliance. The LMP (Politics Can be Different) received 0.93%, the Jobbik – 0.91%, the MSZP-Párbeszéd – 0.55 %, and the rest of the parties much less. All in all, 15.4 % of postal votes were invalid – this is a better result than four years ago, when every fifth vote was invalid.



The Romanian Parliament rejects the draft law on the territorial autonomy of Szeklerland

On Wednesday, the Romanian Parliament rejected the draft law on the territorial autonomy of Szeklerland prepared by the Szekler National Council (SZNT). At the plenum, 238 MPs were present and 218 of them voted against the statute on the territorial autonomy of Szeklerland. Only 20 MPs voted in favor of the adoption of the draft law (presumably the members of the parliamentary group of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ). At the debate held before the voting, the parliamentary group leader of the RMDSZ Attila Korodi stressed that Szeklers' demands for autonomy cannot be ignored and Romania – sooner or later – will have to deal with this issue. Mr. Korodi stressed that the centenary of the Gyulafehérvár/Alba Iulia declaration would be an excellent opportunity to speak about the real needs of Transylvanian Hungarians, including territorial autonomy.

Hunor Kelemen: the Minority SafePack Initiative strengthens the EU

On Wednesday, the signatures collected in Romania within the framework of the Minority SafePack European Citizens' Initiative – the aim of which was to oblige the EU to adopt laws improving the situation of national minorities in Europe – were officially registered in Romania. Speaking at the event, the chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen stressed that in the 2019-2024 period, the EU must change its "attitude" towards the issue of national minorities. The head of the RMDSZ added that "50 million people are affected by this issue. If they (minorities) are solid with other communities – who live in majority – the whole community will be stronger, more confident and more successful. Mr. Kelemen stressed that it is a joint European interest that the Minority SafePack initiative was successful.



The Party of the Hungarian Community holds consultations with Slovakian opposition parties

The Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) has started round-table discussions with three Slovakian opposition parties in order to build long-term cooperation with them. The first meeting was held on Friday at the headquarters of the MKP in Pozsony/Bratislava and was attended by the two strongest opposition parties of the Slovakian Parliament, the liberal Liberty and Solidarity (SaS) and the Ordinary People and Independent Personalities (OLaNO) and two parties which have a great past but currently have no seats in the Parliament: the Christian Democratic Movement (KDH) and the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP). The head of the MKP, József Menyhárt said that “We believe that a platform should be formed within the framework of which the MKP, the SaS, the OLaNO and the KDH – as the future parties of government coalition – can discuss basic political and social issues.” Mr. Menyhárt said that the meeting was of historic importance since its aim is to offer an opportunity for right wing parties in Slovakia to appear as an “alternative.”

Hungarian people deported from Slovakia are remembered in Komárom

Hungarians deported from Czechoslovakia after the second world war were remembered at a special meeting of the municipal council of Komárom/Komárno, in northern Hungary, on Saturday. In a letter addressed to the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén said that “The post-WWII deportations were tragic and senseless episodes of our history while Czechoslovak policy makers failed to attain their goal of creating a homogeneous nation-state.” The Benes decrees passed immediately after the WW2 deprived Czechoslovakia’s ethnic Hungarians and Germans of their citizenship and property on the basis of collective guilt. The close to 170,000 ethnic Hungarians deported have never received compensation.



Péter Szilágyi: The Hungarian Government’s aim is to help Hungarians prosper in their homeland

Speaking at a ceremony in Vojvodina’s Kúla/Kula celebrating the 150th jubilee of the Népkör Hungarian Cultural Center, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Péter Szilágyi stressed that during the past 8 years, the Hungarian Government’s main aim was to provide the necessary conditions for every Hungarian to live and prosper in their homeland, and expressed the hope that with the help of Hungarians living in Vojvodina, the Hungarian Government will be able to remain as successful as in the recent period. The deputy prime minister also expressed his gratitude to Hungarians living in Vojvodina for



their active participation in the 8 April election, at which they supported the current Hungarian government parties. He stressed that “this victory was achieved together” and Hungarians living in Vojvodina played an active part in it. Mr. Szilágyi added that the Hungarian Government will continue to “think in a nation instead of borders”



László Brenzovics: Hungarians in Transcarpathia are ready to continue dialogue with Kiev on the education law

Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI, the chairman of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) László Brenzovics said that Hungarians in Transcarpathia are ready to continue dialogue with the Ukrainian Ministry of Education on the new act on education. The head of the KMKSZ reacted to news according to which Ukraine’s minister of education Liliya Hrinevics said at a forum in Kiev that Hungarians in Transcarpathia are not willing to continue talks on the issue until the decision of the Constitutional Court. László Brenzovics added that the Hungarian community supports the initiative of the Ukrainian government according to which the problematic 7th article of the law will not enter into force until 2023.

