

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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President Áder receives Friends of Hungary Delegates at 5th Annual Conference

This past weekend, Friends of Hungary Foundation hosted its annual three day conference in Budapest. President János Áder received the delegates of the Foundation at the Sándor Palace in Budapest on Sunday. Speaking at the meeting, the President said that the thoughts, actions and achievements of excellent Hungarians “span the world”, adding that the The Friends of Hungary Foundation today is more than friendship. Mr. Áder added that it is a strong alliance of interests and values of Hungarians in the homeland and abroad. The President thanked the foundation’s members for “using their professions and expertise to protect and elevate the reputation of Hungarians worldwide.” He said that “to achieve our goals, even in the face of attacks or misrepresentations, is a noble endeavor.”

Árpád Potápi: we should draw young people home from Western Europe

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Association of Hungarian Organizations of Western Europe (NYEOMSZSZ), State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi said that one the most important aims of the Hungarian Government is to draw home those Hungarian young people who live or work temporarily in Western Europe. This year the annual meeting of the NYEOMSZSZ – which was founded in 2001 – was held in Fatima (Portugal). At the meeting, the 15 member organizations of the umbrella organization held presentations on their recent activity. Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI, State Secretary Árpád János Potápi said that the preservation of Hungarian identity in Western Europe is extremely important for his state secretariat. He added that there are 213 Hungarian weekend schools outside the Carpathian Basin which receive considerable support from the Hungarian Government. Mr. Potápi stressed that one of the greatest tasks is to persuade young Hungarians living, working or studying in Western Europe to return home, to the Hungarian higher education and labor market and start family life in their homeland.

Péter Szilágyi: the network of Hungarians is “living and operating”

Speaking at an event held in Stuttgart remembering Transylvanian Hungarian writer and poet Albert Wass (who was born 110 years ago and died 20 years ago), Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi stressed that Hungarians living in different parts of the world have a living and operating network, and it is due to the past years’ efforts as a result of which Hungary has become a stable and independent kin-state on which Hungarian communities living abroad can rely on. The event was organized by the Transylvanian World Association. Mr. Szilágyi stressed that the heritage of Albert Wass consists not only of memoirs, moving poems and writings but it is the “purest wording of the mission of Hungarians living in diaspora:” to be a spokesman of one’s homeland. The Deputy State Secretary



stressed that the Hungarian Government is bearing responsibility for every Hungarian regardless where they live in the world. He recalled that due to the different programs and measures launched by the Hungarian Government – like the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program or calls for applications for diaspora organizations – Hungarians living in the diaspora can really experience the caring of the kin-state. Mr. Szilágyi also emphasized the importance of the unification of the nation as a result of which the number of new Hungarian citizens exceeded 1 million.

The Romanian Senate's committee on minority affairs rejects the draft law on Szeklerland's autonomy

On Thursday, the committee of the Romanian Senate on human rights, churches and minority affairs has provided a rejecting opinion on the draft law on Szeklerland's autonomy submitted by the member of Hungarian Civic Party (MPP) József Kulcsár-Terza in December 2017. Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI after the meeting, József Kulcsár-Terza said that the members of the committee showed interest in the draft law, however, only Ákos Derzsi, senator of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) voted in favor of the draft law. Mr. Kulcsár-Terza said: in spite of all of this, it was useful to submit the draft law on autonomy since it provided a good opportunity to speak openly about autonomy.

A new Hungarian weekly will start in Slovakia

A new Hungarian weekly entitled Hungarian7 (Magyar7) will start soon in Slovakia which will be the first completely new and independent national Hungarian weekly in the Slovakian media market. The Magyar7 will be the second pillar of a comprehensive media project named ma7 (today7). The first pillar of the media family, the ma7.sk website started at the beginning of April, the third pillar will be an internet channel which will start in some months. Considering its contents and image, the Magyar7 is a gap-filling medium in the Hungarian media market in Slovakia.

Hungary will defend the Transcarpathian Hungarians

“Ukrainian state propaganda is conducting a campaign of lies against Hungary”, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó declared at a press conference in Budapest on Monday. “It is a blatant and abject lie that when Hungary is protecting Transcarpathian Hungarians it is acting in accordance with Russia’s expectations”, the politician said, adding: “Hungary is protecting the 150 thousand Hungarians who live in Transcarpathia, but we have no need of third parties or guidance to do so”. “While the Ukrainians are suggesting to the international community in a deceitful manner



that Hungary's policy with relation to Transcarpathian Hungarians is being determined by a third party, Hungarians who have been conscripted from Transcarpathia have also fought and continue to fight in the interests of Ukraine's territorial integrity in the eastern part of the country", Mr. Szijjártó stressed. With relation to the events of recent days, the Hungarian Foreign Minister explained: The Ukrainian President has put before Parliament legislative proposals that would strip people with Hungarian citizenship of their Ukrainian citizenship. "This is not only at odds with EU values and practice, it also contravenes international law", he added.

