

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Government and Scout Association share the same values

In Nagykovácsi in Pest County on Sunday, at the opening event of National Scouting Day, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán stressed that the Government and the Hungarian Scout Association share the same values. He was speaking at the inauguration of the refurbished Teleki-Tisza mansion. He said that the tradition, the world view and way of thinking which the Hungarian Scout Association and the Hungarian government profess stem from the same roots. The Prime Minister expressed the hope that in the future they may be allies in furthering good causes. A joint goal of the Government and the Association is raising young people who believe in the values that have helped the Hungarian people to survive for a thousand years, “even against the odds”. He highlighted that “For us it is natural to think in terms of country, family and a comradely alliance in which each stands up for the other. We believe in the unity of the Hungarian people across borders”.

State Secretary: families will receive special attention in the new government term

Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI after a three-day conference held in Sarajevo, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi said that in the next four years families will receive special attention, since negative demographic tendencies must be reversed. The conference was entitled “Building communication bridges between Hungarian communities of the former Yugoslavia” and was attended by the leaders of Hungarian institutions in Vojvodina and the Balkans. Mr. Potápi stressed that “if we do not have descendants, we will have neither a policy for Hungarian communities abroad, nor a nation.” The State Secretary added that these communities are characterized by a shared historical past, adding that Hungarian communities living in the territories of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Montenegro are mainly from the territory of today’s Vojvodina and South Hungary. He added that they form the “core” of Hungarian communities living in this area.



The Romanian Senate discusses the draft law on Szeklerland’s territorial autonomy

After the Romanian House of Representatives the Romanian Senate also discussed the draft law on the territorial autonomy prepared by the Szekler National Council (SZNT) which proposes the realization of territorial autonomy in “historic Szeklerland”: Hargita/Hargitha, Kovászna/Kovasna and Maros/Mures County. The draft law – which was submitted by MP József Kulcsár-Terza – was categorized as unconstitutional by the spokesmen of Romanian parties, some of them even saying it was “insulting.” Mr. Kulcsár-Terza stressed that Europe supports autonomy, and it was also pledged in the 1918 Gyulafehérvár/Alba Iulia declaration that autonomy will be guaranteed for national communities in Transylvania, and Szeklers also expressed



this need in a census. He emphasized that the statute proposes territorial autonomy and not autonomy based on ethnicity, it does not mean separation from Romania and it is based on European rules which were also adopted by Romania.

The MKP lodges complaint on the issue of Hungarian-language media in Slovakia

Speaking at a press conference, the head of the national council of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) Péter Óry said that the MKP has sent a complaint to Slovakian authorities because the program time ensured for the TV and radio programs of national minorities living in Slovakia – laid down by law – has been violated. The Slovakian law on public media declares that national minorities living in the country must be ensured TV and radio program time which is proportional to the total population of the country. Although the law has been in force for several years, it is regularly violated. Two years ago the MKP initiated the settling of this situation at the Ministry of Culture, but no progress has been made – indeed the program time for nationalities has even been reduced.

Árpád János Potápi: the strengthening of Hungarian communities in Vojvodina will continue

Speaking to Pannon RTV (Hungarian television of Vojvodina), State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that the Hungarian Government will continue the strengthening of Hungarian enterprises in Vojvodina in the field of agriculture, food processing industry, local economies, tourism and other fields. Mr. Potápi – who was appointed State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad for the next government term – stressed that there are several ongoing projects in Vojvodina which will continue in the following years. He added that the main goal is to have a strong and successful Hungarian nation in the Carpathian Basin in four years. The state secretary added that the support of Hungarian families will continue to be a priority field in the future as well. He added that with regard to the fact that the majority of Hungarians in Vojvodina live in villages, a great part of the Hungarian Government's programs will focus on agriculture, processing industry, local economies, tourism and the strengthening of Hungarian-Hungarian relations.

The renovated Reformed church of Beregszász is inaugurated

Within the framework of a ceremonial church service, the Reformed church of Beregszász/Berehove- which has received considerable financial support from the



Hungarian Government – was officially inaugurated. The church plays a central role in the life of the Transcarpathian Hungarian community. Addressing the event, prime ministerial commissioner Katalin Szili said that “today we are celebrating the creative force of a community: the Reformed congregation of Beregszász has managed to realize its goal. Ms. Szili added that the renewal of the church praises not only the community but also pays tribute to the 500 year-old Reformation. The prime ministerial commissioner expressed her gratitude to historic churches for having “saved” Hungarian communities in the most difficult times of history, and preserving the Hungarian language, culture and identity. Ms. Szili also read out the letter of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán sent to the Hungarian congregation of Beregszász.

[Hungary is calling for NATO to introduce a new policy in relation to Ukraine in the interests of protecting the Hungarian minority in Transcarpathia](#)

In the interests of protecting the Hungarian minority in Transcarpathia, the Hungarian Government is submitting a memorandum to NATO, calling for the introduction of a new policy with relation to Ukraine. According to the document, despite an unprecedented level of political and financial support from NATO, the EU, the IMF, the World Bank and a large number of states, the Ukrainian Government lacks the political will and capacity to realize the fundamental reform programs aimed at reorganizing the country’s economic political and social systems that are required by international donors. In the Government’s view, the lack of progress within reform areas of key importance and the continuous attacks in relation to minority rights on the part of the state have resulted in a dangerous level of instability. The failure to introduce a credible modernization plan in harmony with the international commitments and criteria that Ukraine has previously accepted, means that “the already fragile country is becoming increasingly vulnerable under both domestic and external pressure”.