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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
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Hungarians commemorate the Day of National Cohesion

On 4 June, Hungarians commemorate the Day of National Cohesion, an annual event created eight years ago to mark the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Trianon. Speaking at a commemoration and conference organized by the House of Hungarians and the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad (NPKI) in Budapest, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi stressed that "the thing that preserved Hungarians – who lost their homeland – throughout centuries was their faith in cohesion." Mr. Potápi added that this faith continues to be the "engine of Hungarians' permanence". The state secretary emphasized that the most "hopeful" message of the Day of National Cohesion is that despite oppression, Hungarian communities still live beyond the borders of Hungary. Mr. Potápi stressed that "there is Hungarian word in Brassó/Braşov, Kassa/ Košice, Újvidék/Novi Sad and Munkács/Mukachevo, moreover, there are strong Hungarian communities in New York and Melbourne as well who have preserved their language, culture and loyalty to their nation." The state secretary highlighted that with regard to all these facts, in 2010 the Hungarian National Assembly decided to declare 4 June – the date of the signing of the Treaty of Trianon – the Day of National Cohesion. As a result of this decision, this day Hungarians living in different parts of the world remember not only the painful events of Hungarian history, but also "celebrate" their cohesion, the fact that the Hungarian nation still exist.

On 4 June, several commemorations were held in the kin-state and abroad. Speaking in Toronto, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi said that "although our territories, compatriots and dreams were taken in 1920, we are still here." Mr. Szilágyi stressed that 4 June is the day of not only remembrance, but the day of faith, hope and cohesion. He stressed that the Hungarian Government continues to bear responsibility for every Hungarian living abroad.



Extended building of the Apáczai High School is inaugurated

On Saturday – within the framework of a thanksgiving service – the renovated and extended building of the Apáczai Csere János High School in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca was inaugurated. The renovation and extension – due to which all classes of the popular school can operate in the same building in the future – was supported by the Hungarian Government. Addressing the event, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad and head of the Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP) Zsolt Semjén said that "Hungarians must recognize what are the things they can never give up", adding that the "future of children is such a thing." The Deputy Prime Minister recalled the main "milestones" of the school, including the years after the First World War and the era of Communism. Mr. Semjén expressed his thanks to Hungarians living in Kolozsvár that they have not lost their faith in permanence.



Fifth Danube Day is held in Torockó

Marking the Day of National Cohesion, the so-called Danube Day (Duna Day) was organized by the Duna Media Service Non-Profit Ltd. in Transylvania's Torockó/Rimetea for the fifth time. Speaking at the event, director general of the Duna Media Service Non-Profit Ltd. said that "Hungarians have been living in the Carpathian Basin for 1100 years, therefore, the aim of the Danube Day is to strengthen this cohesion and Hungarian culture abroad. Speaking about an exhibition which was presented as part of the event, Mr. Dobos stressed that it is important to show that Hungarian artists, poets and writers living abroad – including Transylvanian Hungarians – contributed to the cultural prosperity of the Hungarian nation. Speaking at the event, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi expressed his pleasure that almost every part of the nation is represented at the event: Hungarians living in the Carpathian Basin as well as Hungarians from the diaspora who came together to celebrate the Day of National Cohesion at the picturesque village of Torockó.

The Romanian Senate rejects the draft law on Szeklerland's territorial autonomy

After the house of representatives of the Romanian Parliament, the Romanian Senate also rejected the draft law submitted by MP József Kulcsár-Terza which proposed territorial autonomy for Szeklerland. The draft law was also criticized by the specialized committees of the senate, practically every spokesman of Romanian parties argued against it. According to the spokesmen of Romanian parties, the draft law is unconstitutional, while some of the spokesmen highlighted that it is "offensive" to submit such a draft law in the year of the Romanian Centenary (in 2018, Romanians celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Romanian state).



Prime Ministerial Commissioner attends commemoration in Slovakia

Speaking at a commemoration in Slovakia's Kisgéres/ Malý Horeš on the Day of National Cohesion, Prime Ministerial Commissioner Katalin Szili stressed that we have to "ally with each other and our neighboring countries in order to help Hungarians live and experience their identity regardless where they live in Europe." Ms. Szili recalled that the Hungarian Government has made several efforts in order to "revive" the nation parts which have been ceased from the kin-state. She said that in addition to the "spiritual circulation" of Hungarians, Hungary also helps the "economic circulation" of Hungarians living abroad in order to support their prosperity at the place where they live.



Economic development program in Vojvodina exceeds all expectations

Speaking in Vojvodina's Magyarkanizsa/ Kanjiža at the inauguration of a new factory, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Levente Magyar said that the Hungarian Government's economic development program in Vojvodina exceeded all expectations and the results reached in this region can serve as examples for every other Hungarian community. Mr. Magyar expressed his pleasure that the Hungarian Government could provide such opportunities for Vojvodina Hungarians which had not been seen before. He stressed that "in less than 2 years, a huge amount of developments have been realized the total sum of which is more than HUF 45 billion (EUR 140 million), among them, there are several developments which can bring a new type of agriculture to the region."



Hungary proposes establishment of intergovernmental working group

Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said that "Hungary is proposing the establishment of an intergovernmental working group tasked with monitoring the implementation of the Venice Commission's opinion regarding Ukraine". Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó held talks with his Ukrainian counterpart Pavlo Klimkin in New York. Prior to the meeting, Mr. Szijjártó told the press that "By violating the rights of the Hungarian national minority, Ukraine has given rise to a situation that is bad for everyone". He stressed that "It is bad for Ukraine, it is bad for Hungary, and it is primarily bad for the minorities living on the territory of Ukraine, including Transcarpathian Hungarians." Mr. Szijjártó added that "our goal is for Transcarpathian Hungarians to be given back the rights that they were previously afforded and guaranteed". He added that "our goal is also to enable us to return to our policy, which in Ukraine's case was built on supporting our neighbors' European and Euro-Atlantic integration processes".