

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

10/2015



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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The leaders of Hungarian organizations abroad hold talks in Brussels

On 3 March 2015, at the invitation of MEP Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz (Group of the European People's Party, Fidesz-KDNP alliance), the leaders of Hungarian organizations and parties abroad made a visit to Brussels and took part in the session of the Fidesz-KDNP alliance where they discussed the current situation of the Hungarian community living in the Carpathian Basin. Among the leaders were the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) and Minister of Culture and Deputy Prime Minister of Victor Ponta's third government Hunor Kelemen, the head of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Berényi, the president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor, the head of the Hungarian National Self-governing Community of Muravidék Ferenc Horváth, Hungarian politician in Slovakia László Gubik and the chairperson of the Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute Ildikó Orosz. The head of the delegation András Gyürk welcomed the guests, emphasizing that the Hungarian EPP Group is the first community which represents the whole Hungarian community of the Carpathian Basin by its "national list". Mr. Gyürk stressed the importance of the maintenance and strengthening of cooperation with Hungarian organizations and institutions abroad.



Hungarian Government officials receive the EMNP in Budapest

Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad and president of the Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP) Zsolt Semjén, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi and Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Tamás Wetzels received the president of the Hungarian People's Party of Transylvania (EMNP) Zsolt Szilágyi and the party's vice-presidents Gyula Zatykó and Zoltán Zakariás in Budapest. Among other issues, the parties discussed the current situation at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş (MOGYE), the case of the Székely Mikó High School and the prohibition of the organization of the Day of Szekler Freedom. The head of the Hungarian People's Party of Transylvania Zsolt Szilágyi said that the strategic partnership between his party and the Hungarian Government – existing for several years – was further strengthened by this meeting.

RMDSZ proposes to declare the Day of Hungarian Language a public holiday in Romania

The parliamentary faction of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) has prepared a law initiative aimed at making the Day of Hungarian Language (13 November) a public holiday in Romania. The draft law declares 13 November the Day of Hungarian Language in Romania, and promotes the organization of several Hungarian cultural events and programs on this day. Parliamentary group leader of the party's Chamber of Deputies András Levente Máté



said that 13 November is celebrated as the Day of Hungarian Language everywhere in the Carpathian Basin, adding that “it is a legitimate expectation of the Hungarian minority of Transylvania to make this day a public holiday in Romania as well, since there have already been cases when the Romanian Parliament has made the days of some minority languages (for example the Czech and Tartar languages) public holidays in Romania in order to recognize and celebrate these languages .”



Hungarian lawmaker János Eszterházy is commemorated in Budapest

János Esterházy, a Hungarian lawmaker who had lived in Slovakia was commemorated in Budapest at an event organized by the Rákóczi Association. Addressing the commemoration, State Secretary for religious, ethnic and civil relations at the Ministry of Human Capacities Miklós Soltész said that János Eszterházy had lived a life of martyrdom. The state secretary drew a comparison between the lives of János Esterházy and Transylvanian Roman Catholic Bishop Áron Márton, saying that both strived for the same things and shared the same faith, measured through their suffering. Both were determined not to allow Hungarians to be turfed out of the Slovak or Romanian territory and both stood up for the interests of Hungarians who had become a minority.

Count János Eszterházy was a prominent ethnic Hungarian politician in mid-war Czechoslovakia and later in the First Slovak Republic, member of the Czechoslovak parliament and the sole deputy in the Slovak Assembly representing the Hungarian minority. His speeches were focused mainly on problems of Hungarian minority rights and Slovak-Hungarian relationships. After the war, he was illegally deported to the Soviet Union, sentenced in trumped-up trial and imprisoned.

The János Eszterházy commemoration is organized every year since 1991 by the Rákóczi Association and the János Eszterházy Memorial Committee.



Tamás Wetzel: the Hungarian Government is behind the Hungarian community of Transcarpathia

Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Tamás Wetzel made a two-day visit to Transcarpathia on 2 and 3 March. During his stay in the region, the deputy state secretary held talks with the representatives of Hungary’s foreign missions in Transcarpathia and the leaders of local Hungarian organizations and political parties. With the leaders of the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute Mr. Wetzel discussed the further opportunities of cooperation between the institute and the Hungarian Government. During the talks, Mr. Wetzel emphasized that Hungary pays particular attention to the Hungarian community living in Transcarpathia. He stressed that the Hungarian Government strives to everything in order to help this community live and prosper in its homeland. The deputy state



secretary added that Hungary continues to urge a peaceful settling of the Ukrainian conflict and is always behind the Hungarian community of Transcarpathia.

Hungarian to be taught as a second language in Ukrainian schools of Transcarpathia

A Ukrainian secondary school in Ungvár/Uzhhorod will start to teach Hungarian as an optional second language, and further eight Ukrainian-language educational institutions of Transcarpathia have also announced to launch Hungarian-language courses.

Last year the Ministry of Education of Ukraine approved the curriculum which declares that Hungarian can be taught as a second language for students of the 5-9 grades.
