

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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HR Minister receives interns for the ReConnect Hungary program

In Budapest, Minister of Human Resources Zoltán Balog has received fifteen young Hungarians from the United States and Canada who are participating in the ReConnect Hungary program. Mr. Balog said his guests were third or fourth generation Hungarians who do not speak Hungarian, but for whom there is “still space in their hearts for the country”. The Minister of Human Resources said that “We would like to expand this space,” adding that the 15 program participants could become “ambassadors” of Hungary in the US and Canada.

KMKSZ has talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Tibor Navracsics has had talks with the president of the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) László Brenzovics; after their meeting the Minister said that Hungary’s foreign policy supports an independent and democratic Ukraine, in which the rule of law is upheld and the Council of Europe’s directives on ethnic rights are observed. At the press conference held after the talks the Minister said that stabilization and consolidation can only be expected from Ukraine’s president, Petro Poroshenko, adding that there is no alternative to Mr. Poroshenko and that Budapest supports him. Mr. Brenzovics said that Ukraine is in a serious crisis, but he voiced the hope that the country would move closer towards Europe and democracy.

On Wednesday State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi received the leaders of the KMKSZ in his office. During the talks the parties discussed important and topical questions concerning the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia, on which there was agreement between the State Secretariat and the KMKSZ, its strategic partner. Mr. Potápi emphasized that the security of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia is the Government’s most important aim; therefore it supports all efforts which contribute to the restoration of peace in Ukraine.



Hunor Kelemen to be the presidential candidate of the RMDSZ

According to the decision of the Permanent Council of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), the alliance will participate in Romania’s presidential election with its own candidate, the party’s president Hunor Kelemen. Mr. Kelemen has said that it is important to have a presidential candidate again in 2014, since this is a good opportunity to present the party’s standpoints and ideas. He said that “We have to show that there are Hungarian politicians who have ideas about the future of the country. It is an honor for me to have been nominated a presidential candidate. My program will be based on the program of the RMDSZ. The RMDSZ is the legitimate representative of the Hungarian community’s interests in Romania.” Mr. Kelemen added



that he is under no illusions about qualifying for the second round of the election, but he wants to ensure an opportunity for the party to present its aims to the general public. Mr. Kelemen has also announced that he has proposed Senator Rozália Biró for the offices of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture. Mr. Kelemen said that he finds it important that – through Ms. Biró – Romania will have its first female deputy prime minister.

The name of Kolozsvár to be indicated in Hungarian on place-name signs

On Monday the members of a Hungarian foundation in the Netherlands which had launched a lawsuit against the City Hall of Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca announced that, according to the first instance decision of the court of Kolozs County/Județul Cluj, the Hungarian name of Kolozsvár must be indicated alongside its Romanian name on place-name signs. This acknowledges the fact that it is recommended (although not compulsory) to make a minority language official in a region where the given minority forms less than 20 % of the population; and according to the Framework Convention for the Protection of Minorities adopted in Strasbourg, a scheme exists which justifies the lawsuit, and Gábor Landman – the president of the European Committee Human Rights Hungarians Central Europe Foundation – has tried to enforce this. According to the aforementioned scheme, if the number of a given minority is significant in a certain area, the traces of its indigenous existence and culture are evident and it wants to use its own language, the local government must take this into account.

Reacting to the court judgment, the mayor of Kolozsvár Emil Boc announced that the Mayor's Office will submit an appeal against the decision. He also announced that indicating the Hungarian name of the city on place-name signs would mean violating Romania's law, since the number of people belonging to the Hungarian national minority does not reach 20 % of the city's population.



Policy for Hungarian communities abroad roundtable discussion in Gombaszög

State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi, Deputy State Secretary for EU bilateral relations at the Ministry of Human Resources Gergely Próhle and the spokesman of the Roundtable of Hungarians in Slovakia Géza Tokár held a roundtable discussion at the Summer Camp in Slovakia's Gombaszög/Gombasek. Mr. Próhle said that without the policy for Hungarian communities abroad there is no foreign policy, adding that this policy is a consistent enforcement of rights in accordance with the principles of the EU. Mr. Potápi said that the framework for the policy for Hungarian communities abroad had been laid down over the past four years, and in the next period the government must continue its work in the "less spectacular" fields. He added that these fields include the establishment and development of economic relations and announcement of the year of Hungarian vocational training.



Andrea Bocskor: Stability in Ukraine is in the interest of the country and its Hungarian community

At a plenary session of the European Parliament (EP) on Ukraine held in Strasbourg, Member of the European Parliament Andrea Bocskor said that “We must take all necessary measures to secure peace, stability and democracy in Ukraine.” In her first speech in the EP, Ms. Bocskor said that as a Transcarpathian Hungarian she considers it her duty to support the securing of peace, stability and democracy in Ukraine, to preserve its sovereignty, to enhance its Euro-Atlantic integration and to realize its citizens’ visa-free entry to the EU.
