

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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## EP election: Fidesz-KDNP wins landslide

Welcoming the victory of the Fidesz-KDNP alliance in the European Parliament election, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said that “Three is the Hungarian truth, and we have the second one.” The Fidesz-KDNP alliance won 12 seats in the European Parliament; the far-right party Jobbik won 3 seats; the Hungarian Socialist Party and the Democratic Coalition won 2 seats each; and Együtt-PM (Together – Dialogue for Hungary) and the LMP (Politics can be Different) each won 1 seat each. According to preliminary results, in Transylvania the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) won two seats, but this may rise to three, since the results have not yet been finalized. In Slovakia, the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) won one mandate in the European Parliament.

Referring to the results, Prime Minister Victor Orbán said that the whole Hungarian nation is a winner, since Hungarians living outside the borders as well as those in the kin-state will have representatives in Brussels.

Deputy Prime Minister for Hungarian communities abroad Zsolt Semjén said that it is of crucial importance that Transcarpathia and Vojvodina will also have representatives in the European Parliament, thereby also giving these regions advocates in Brussels. The Deputy Prime Minister added that every region where Hungarians live should formulate its own concept of autonomy and Hungary will support it with all its strength. In the European Union autonomy is a common practice and not an exceptional issue.

## The Hungarian government congratulates the Hungarian communities in Transylvania and in Slovakia

Deputy Prime Minister for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén and Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsuzsanna Répás congratulated the Hungarian community in Transylvania and the EP candidates of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), Gyula Winkler and Csaba Sógor in a statement on their results in the European Parliament election. In their statement sent to the Hungarian news agency MTI, the politicians highlighted that this result is especially important with regard to the fact that, in the current tense domestic political situation in Romania, the “Hungarian card” has often been on the agenda, and the national aspirations of the Hungarian community in Transylvania have often encountered obstacles.

On behalf of the Hungarian government, Zsolt Semjén and Zsuzsanna Répás also welcomed the final results of the EP election in Slovakia. They added that, in spite of the low turnout, the fact that the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) won a seat in the European Parliament can be considered a success for Hungarian advocacy in Slovakia. The politicians emphasized that the results of the election show that the MKP is the political force in Slovakia which enjoys the confidence of the majority within the Hungarian community.



## Prime Minister Victor Orbán encourages Hungarians in Transylvania to vote in the EP elections

Prime Minister Victor Orbán encouraged Hungarians in Satu Mare/Szatmárnémeti in north-western Romania to participate in the EP elections. After talks with the leader of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen at the Roman Catholic Bishopric, the two politicians held a press conference. Mr. Orbán said that the main reason for the meeting was the EP election, since on this question it is in the interest of both the Fidesz-KDNP alliance and the RMDSZ that Europe's future over the next five years is determined by the policy of the European People's Party.

## RMDSZ might have three seats in the European Parliament

After processing 93.54% of the votes, the share of the vote for the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) came to 6.48%, therefore the party will have 3 seats in the European Parliament, if this percentage does not change. According to preliminary results, the Social Democratic Party led by Victor Ponta (together with its two small government allies) won 37.25% of the vote, instead of the 41-42% predicted by the exit polls on Sunday: this represents 15 mandates. In addition, there will be 10 representatives from the People's Party (including the RMDSZ), 6 liberals and one independent Romanian MEP in the European Parliament. In a press release half an hour after the polls closed, the leader of the RMDSZ Hunor Kelemen said that "It has been proven that the RMDSZ is a trustworthy representative of the Hungarian community, not only in local governments and in the Romanian Parliament, but also in the European legislative process." The leader of the RMDSZ expressed his gratitude to his party's campaign staff, to local and county organizations, to mayors and members of municipalities and Members of Parliament for their efforts during the campaign; he also expressed his special gratitude to Hungary's Prime Minister Victor Orbán, because some days before the election the Prime Minister encouraged Hungarians in Romania to vote in the election.



## EP election: Smer wins but is weaker, the MKP comes ahead of Most-Híd

In Slovakia the governing Smer party won in the EP election with a showing of 24%, which translates into four seats out of the total of 13. The Christian Democratic Movement (KDH) and the Slovak Democratic and Christian Union (SDKÚ) won 2 mandates each, and a further 5 parties won 1 seat each. The Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) earned 6.53% of the vote, and will be represented by Pál Csáky, while Most-Híd received 5.83%. Most-Híd will be represented by József Nagy who – due to preference votes – came above Zsolt Simon, who was at the head of the party list.



### Slovak President's assistant insults Hungarians

Dárius Rusnák, former ice hockey star and head of the office of the Slovak President Ivan Gašparovič, insulted two Hungarian women in a bar in Bratislava/Pozsony, saying: "F...ing Hungarians, speak Slovakian! Hungarian is irritating me!" One of the women told the Hungarian newspaper Új Szó that they were talking in Hungarian in a bar when one of the two men sitting at the neighboring table started to provoke them, shouting at them in Slovakian, calling them names, and ordering them to stop speaking Hungarian because it was irritating him. Two other Slovak men stood up for the women, and the incident turned into a fight. The police have brought charges of affray. The President's spokesman Marek Trubač told Új Szó that his office would investigate the matter.



### The Parliament of Vojvodina announces the charter of Vojvodina

On Thursday the Parliament of Vojvodina adopted the charter of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina by a majority vote and without debate, after it was approved by the Serbian Parliament on 20 May. Head of the province's House of Representatives István Pásztor said that the preparation of the charter had been a complex procedure, in which they "often had to reconcile fire and water," adding that in his opinion it was a process which represented "a new experience in the sphere of politics for everybody who took part in it." Out of the 113 representatives present, 91 voted in favor of the new charter, 7 representatives voted against it, and the remaining members did not vote. In the provincial parliament of 120 members, a two-thirds majority was needed for adoption of the charter.

### Temerin: new surveillance cameras inaugurated

Thanks to support from the Hungarian government, the system of surveillance cameras in Temerin has been augmented with a further 23 new cameras. As a result, coverage is almost complete in locations where public safety is questionable. In recent years, several ethnically-motivated attacks between Serbian and Hungarian youngsters were reported in the village of Temerin, a Hungarian enclave near Novi Sad. The cameras were inaugurated by Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsuzsanna Répás on Wednesday. The Deputy State Secretary said that this was the result of a successful cooperation. Ms. Répás added that "The Hungarian government, the municipality and every party which is now present took part in this program and supported it. I am glad that several similar programs within Hungarian-Serbian relations have been realized recently."





## Hungarian organizations and historical churches in Transcarpathia urge a peaceful resolution of the conflict

In a statement issued on Thursday in Uzhhorod/Ungvár, Hungarian organizations and historical churches in Transcarpathia have expressed their concern over the situation in Ukraine and have stated that they find it unfortunate that there was a major army recruitment drive on the eve of the presidential election. They wrote in their statement that it is not possible to resolve the conflict through force. They added that “The leaders of the country must find solutions based on compromise which are acceptable both for the state and for the regions, since only this solution can lead to lasting social peace.”

## Presidential election in Ukraine – the KMKSZ congratulates Poroshenko on his election success

On Monday morning, after counting 33.2% of the votes, the Central Election Commission announced that Petro Poroshenko, the candidate of Vitali Klitschko’s party Udar, had won 54.1% of the vote, giving him a landslide victory. Yulia Tymoshenko, the candidate of the party Batkivschyna (Fatherland) and former Prime Minister of Ukraine, came second, far behind the winner with 13.1% of the vote.

On Sunday evening the presidency of the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) congratulated Mr. Poroshenko in a statement on his election success. On 2 May the KMKSZ concluded an election agreement with Mr. Poroshenko, who was the leading candidate in the run-up to Ukraine’s presidential election. In exchange for the KMKSZ’s support in the election, Mr. Poroshenko promised that if elected President of Ukraine, his government will ensure language rights for the Hungarian community living in Transcarpathia, will create suitable conditions for the development of the Hungarian-language education system, during the planned administrative reform will pay attention to the interests of the Hungarian community living within its unified enclave, and will give the community the opportunity to have representatives in the Ukrainian parliament.

