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Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén inaugurates a statue of Béla Bartók in Nagyszentmiklós

On Friday, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén inaugurated a statue of the famous Hungarian composer, pianist and folk music collector Béla Bartók in Romania's Nagyszentmiklós/Sânnicolau Mare. The statue was made by sculptor Aurel Gheorghe. Speaking at the event, the Deputy Prime Minister said that considering the life of composer Béla Bartók, we can declare that we are the heirs of an extraordinary wealth both in a mental and intellectual sense. Mr. Semjén stressed that the activity and legacy of Béla Bartók is a good example of understanding each other and accepting each other's mentality. He added that the joint language of music is a good tool for understating each other.

The statue was erected on the 70th anniversary of the composer's death, having been initiated by the municipality of Nagyszentmiklós and the Pro Bartók Association. The statue stands in front of the former Nákó castle.

The foundation of the RMDSZ aimed at supporting the simplified naturalization procedure starts its work

The Euortrans Foundation which was established by the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) and the task of which will be to help Hungarians living in Romanian in arranging administrative issues concerning the simplified naturalization procedure, will start its work in September. Following the administrative and logistic preparations, 70 employees in 19 county offices will help Transylvanian Hungarians who are interested in acquiring Hungarian citizenship. In February the Eurotrans Foundation signed an agreement with the representatives of the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary in Budapest with an aim to make the simplified naturalization procedure easier for Transylvanian Hungarians who apply for it. In practice, the agreement institutionalized the relations between the parties since the territorial organizations of the RMDSZ have already taken an active role in the implementation of the simplified naturalization procedure.

MP Bogdan Diaconu submits an anti-Hungarian draft law to the Romanian Parliament

Independent member of the Romanian Parliament Bogdan Diaconu would prohibit the use of national minority languages in Romanian public institutions. Mr. Diaconu, who is known for his extremist and anti-Hungarian manifestations, submitted a draft law to the Romanian Parliament on Monday, the day of Romanian language, initiating the use of the Romanian language in public insitutions, state authorities and municipalities as the only language for communication, both orally and in writing. Mr. Diaconu who is the head of the United Romania Party (PRU) said that he had recently noticed that beside the Romanian language, the name of the institution is also



indicated in Hungarian on the official cars of the local police in Székelyudvarhely/Odorhei Secuiesc which belongs to the town's municipality. He added that his aim was to express his respect towards the Romanian language with submitting his draft law on the day of the Romanian language. If the Parliament adopted the law – although there is little chance of it – it would annul the Law on Public Administration which has been in force in Romania since 2001 and allows the use of bilingual signs and the use of mother tongue in the field of public administrations in towns where the rate of a certain minority constitutes twenty percent of the population.



Hungarian schools in Slovakia to face serious problems during the next academic year

The 2015/2015 academic year which started on 2 September in Slovakia, will not bring too much good for Hungarian-language schools in the country. The president of the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Slovakia (SZMPSZ) Tibor Jókai has said that the Law on Public Education which was amended in June 2015, makes the operation of Hungarian schools difficult, adding that the new law on school councils is a „mockery of democracy.” Mr. Jókai said that the most serious problem is that the number of lessons given for the education of mother tongue is 9 in Slovakian elementary schools, while this number is only 5 in Hungarian-language schools. The head of the SZMPSZ stressed that this can be considered discrimination. Mr. Jókai added that dialogue between the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP), the Most-Híd party and other organizations concerned will continue in the fall in order to discuss further joint steps to be taken to solve problems in the field of education.



The VMSZ becomes an associate member of the EPP

According to the unanimous decision of the European People's Party (EPP), the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) has become an associate member of the EPP, in recognition of its many years of work. The Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians has been a member of Europe's largest party, the EPP as an observer since 2007. On 1 and 2 September 2015, the EPP's working group and its Political Assembly discussed and adopted the petition of the VMSZ aimed at becoming an associate member of the EPP. This is a membership of the highest level which can be given to a party operating in a country outside the European Union.





The KMKSZ and the UMDSZ enter into an agreement for the approaching municipal elections

The two most important Hungarian organizations in Ukraine, the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) and the Hungarian Democratic Union in Ukraine (UMDSZ), have entered into an agreement for cooperation in the approaching municipal elections in Ukraine, which are scheduled to take place on 25 October 2015. The agreement was signed by the two organizations in Transcarpathia's Beregszász/Berehove on Saturday. According to the agreement, the two organizations and their parties (the KMSZ –Hungarian Party of Ukraine and the Hungarian Democratic Party of Ukraine) will launch joint lists in the municipal elections at town, district and county levels.

Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén welcomed the agreement between the two organizations in a statement, declaring that “Unity among Hungarians is the condition for the representation of Hungarian interests in Transcarpathia.” The Deputy Prime Minister stressed that constructive cooperation and exemplary agreement between the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) and the Hungarian Democratic Union in Ukraine (UMDSZ) is in the interest of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia, since “unity among Hungarians is the condition for the representation of Hungarian interests in Transcarpathia.”



“Every Hungarian child counts”

As at the beginning of the previous two academic years, the Forum of Hungarian Teachers in Croatia has granted support to children enrolled in Hungarian-language schools in Croatia. This year 59 children received packages consisting of teaching materials which were handed over by State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi. Speaking at the event, the state secretary stressed the importance of studying in one's mother tongue, saying that parents who enroll their children in Hungarian-language schools and this way strengthen the identity of their ancestors, make a good decision. Mr. Potápi added that the Hungarian Government will continue to support these parents and children either with educational packages or different forms of educational aids.

