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Balázs Hidvéghi: one hundred thousand Hungarians living abroad have registered for the Hungarian parliamentary elections so far

In Sepsiszentgyörgy/ Sfântu Gheorghe, Balázs Hidvéghi, vice-president of the Hungarian Parliament's National Cohesion Committee, said that the number of those outside Hungary who have already registered to vote in the parliamentary elections taking place in Hungary this spring has reached one hundred thousand. Mr. Hidvéghi emphasized that, through the electoral participation of Hungarians living abroad, the new Hungarian parliament will become a real national assembly, and will also reflect national cohesion and responsibility for each other.

Meanwhile, head of the National Election Office Ilona Pálffy has announced that the number of Hungarian citizens living abroad who will register to vote in the 2014 elections will be twice the number indicated in previous estimates. This means that around two hundred thousand Hungarians living abroad may cast their votes in spring 2014.



László Kövér: Hungary will never be disloyal to Szeklers

At the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Massacre of Madéfalva/ Siculeni, Speaker of the National Assembly László Kövér said that Hungary will never be disloyal to Szeklers, and will never turn against its own nation again. "We cannot let others decide our fates," the Speaker added. According to Árpád Pótápi, head of the Hungarian Parliament's National Cohesion Committee, the commemoration served as a good occasion to express Hungarian support for Szekler autonomy aspirations. Mr. Kövér argued that in order to achieve territorial autonomy for Szeklers, Romanian society's interest must be engaged. The massacre of 7 January 1764 – when the Austrian imperial army killed hundreds of Szeklers rebelling against Vienna's decision to set up regiments to guard the borders – was commemorated in Madéfalva/ Siculeni with a cannon salute.

Romanian law on decentralization ruled unconstitutional

The Romanian constitutional court has ruled the law on decentralization to be unconstitutional. The law would place numerous centralized institutions under the authority of local governments. According to the law, which was also supported by the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), public health institutions, agricultural authorities, employment institutions, sports establishments and cultural directorates would have come within the remit of local governments. When the law was adopted, RMDSZ leaders made it clear that the party supports the Government's efforts for decentralization, and all initiatives that strengthen local autonomy and enable Hungarian communities to decide on issues that concern them. RMDSZ leader Hunor Kelemen said that "The unanimous decision of the Romanian constitutional court implies that the centralized state model cannot be altered, and the power of decision-making cannot be referred to local communities."



László Tőkés: “Hungarophobia” still prevails in today’s Romania

László Tőkés said that the Court of Honour for the Order of the Star of Romania’s decision to strip him of the state award he received for the role he played in the Romanian revolution of 1989 is not only an indictment against him, but can be considered as an anti-Hungarian proclamation. According to the Transylvanian MEP, Hungarophobia still prevails in today’s Romania, and it is also debatable whether the anti-Hungarian unit of the former Communist secret service (the Securitate) has been abolished.

Hunor Kelemen: RMDSZ to support electoral registration in every Transylvanian county

Hunor Kelemen, leader of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), has said that the RMDSZ supports Hungarians living in Romania acquiring Hungarian citizenship, and at the same time registering for the elections taking place this spring in Hungary. Mr. Kelemen emphasized that the party’s offices will help with the filling in of registration forms in every Transylvanian county.



Support for Gyula Bárdos’ presidential candidacy is beyond expectations

Gyula Bárdos, a member of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) is the first ethnic Hungarian presidential candidate in Slovakia’s history. He has been able to collect forty-seven thousand signatures supporting his candidacy. Running as the sole Hungarian representative, he received three times as many signatures as were necessary to stand in the Slovak presidential election taking place on 15 March. Mr. Bárdos expressed gratitude for the support, which he said was a great success that exceeded expectations. “Although we were expecting signatures mainly from Southern Slovakia, my candidacy was supported not only by Hungarians, but also by members of other minorities, and by Slovaks from other parts of the country,” Mr. Bárdos said.



New Vojvodina charter to be adopted by March

In an interview on Serbian public television, leader of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor said that he expects the proposal for the new Vojvodina charter to be submitted to the Vojvodina Chamber of Deputies by March. He repeated his belief that, rather than harmonizing Vojvodina’s current charter with the Serbian constitution, a new charter should be adopted. As previously reported, the Serbian constitutional court has ruled that two-thirds of the Serbian province’s charter is either partly or wholly inconsistent with the Serbian constitution.

