

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
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STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Répás: minority issues must be kept on the agenda

At a meeting entitled “After the elections: the representation of Hungarian interests in the European Parliament”, held in the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsuzsanna Répás said that the Hungarian government would like to keep questions affecting Hungarians abroad on the agenda both in Europe and in the European Parliament. The Deputy State Secretary added that “We should show the world that there are questions which are a continuous burden on these communities and we would like to find solutions to these problems with collective thinking and collective European legislation.” MEPs elected on Hungary’s Fidesz-KDNP party list – György Schöpflin representing Hungarian communities in diaspora, Andrea Bocskor representing Hungarians in Transcarpathia, Andor Deli from Vojvodina and László Gubik from Slovakia – also participated in the meeting. As previously reported, the Fidesz-KDNP alliance prepared a “national” list for the EP election on 25 May 2015, in which members of Hungarian communities abroad were also represented.

Kövér: policy for Hungarian Communities Abroad to enter new era

At the ceremonial opening session of the Committee of National Cohesion held on Wednesday in the Parliament, the Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament László Kövér said that the policy for Hungarian Communities Abroad has entered a new era, and symbolic steps taken in the field must be followed by “less spectacular” practical work demanding innovation and considerable resources. The presenters of the opening session were the head of the Research Institute for National Strategy Jenő Szász and the head of the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zoltán Kántor. In his presentation, Zoltán Kántor said that the building of the nation is equal to the building of society and the strengthening of identity. In this context autonomy is a key concept, which is both an aim and a tool; if there is no autonomy it means that the community must become stronger, since only a strong and cohesive community can achieve autonomy.

EP election: RMDSZ has two mandates

According to the final results of the European Parliament election published on Thursday, the Romanian Social Democratic Party (PSD) won the highest number of seats – 16 mandates – in the European Parliament, while the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) will have only two representatives (Gyula Winkler and Csaba Sógor) instead of the expected three. The number of votes polled for the RMDSZ was highest in Hargita megye/Județul Harghita (80,708), followed by Maros megye/ Județul Mureș (57,082) and Kovászna megye/ Județul Covasna (39,700).



László Tőkés honored by the Hungarian American Coalition

The late Congressman Tom Lantos, the Hungarian Communion of Friends and Bishop László Tőkés, Member of the European Parliament, have been honored by the Hungarian American Coalition (HAC) in Washington, D.C. At the tenth annual Gala Dinner of the Hungarian American Coalition, the president of the Coalition Max Teleki reminded the audience that this year we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the fall of the communist system in Central Europe, the 15th anniversary of Hungary's accession to NATO and the 10th anniversary of its accession to the European Union. The President added that the first "crack" in the communist system was caused by the 1956 Revolution in Hungary, and he also quoted the German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who said it was Hungarians who had "knocked the first stone out from the Berlin Wall." Bishop László Tőkés, Member of the European Parliament from Hungary's Fidesz party, was honored for the courageous protection of human rights and the collective rights of Hungarians living in the Carpathian Basin, for his commitment to the preservation of Hungarian identity and for his long-standing cooperation with the Coalition.



President-Elect Kiska meets victims of attack

President-elect Andrej Kiska has met the two women who were reportedly attacked last Monday by the head of President Ivan Gašparovič's PR department, Dárius Rusnák. As previously reported, Mr. Rusnák insulted two Hungarian women who were speaking Hungarian to each other in a bar in Bratislava/Pozsony; he shouted at them, called them names, and ordered them to stop speaking Hungarian, because it was irritating him. Mr. Kiska also invited the two Slovak men who were beaten by Mr. Rusnák and his friend for trying to protect the women. The President-elect thanked the two young men for standing up for the women and trying to protect them. One of the women said that "It was an extremely kind gesture from him that during our conversation he apologized to us three times for the incident, and for the fact that such a thing could happen at all."

The Slovak government adopts the report on minorities

On Wednesday Robert Fico's cabinet adopted the report on the situation of minorities in Slovakia, which had been strongly criticized – even in its preliminary form – by several Hungarian civil organizations and members of local Hungarian political advocacy groups. According to the Roundtable of Hungarians in Slovakia, the failing of the report is that it does not give a true picture of minorities living in the country and does not offer solutions to the existing problems. The head of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Berényi has said that the report of the Slovak government lacks much important data and suggestions, and gives a misleading picture of the Hungarian community in Slovakia. The Most-Híd party also reacted to the report in a statement, calling it an unacceptable "superficial summarizing description".



Serbia expresses thanks to Hungary for its help during the floods

On Wednesday the head of the Prime Minister's Press Office Bertalan Havasi informed the Hungarian news agency MTI that the Prime Minister of Serbia Aleksandar Vučić had sent a letter to the Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, expressing his gratitude for Hungary's help in defending against floods in Serbia. Mr. Vučić wrote that "We would like to express our sincere gratitude for the help the Hungarian government extended to Serbia in this extremely difficult period." The Prime Minister of Serbia wrote that the floods in Serbia caused serious damage and claimed the lives of several people, but that without Hungary's help the number of victims and the extent of material damage would have been even higher.

Andor Deli: MEP from Vojvodina must play the role of a bridge in the EP

On Sunday 25 May, Provincial Secretary for Education, Administration and National Communities and member of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) Andor Deli was elected Member of the European Parliament on the party list of the Fidesz-KDNP alliance. He had been nominated as an EP candidate by the leader of the VMSZ István Pásztor. Mr. Deli has given an interview to the Hungarian broadcaster Újvidéki Rádió about his special situation – he has become an MEP on Hungary's party list as a Hungarian living in Vojvodina – and also about his tasks as a Member of the European Parliament. He said that "It is in the interest of both Hungary and Serbia – but especially the Hungarian community in Vojvodina – that Serbia becomes a full member of the EU. We must also use this monitoring opportunity to highlight the difficulties the Hungarian community in Vojvodina faces every day in the field of enforcing its rights."



Hungarian voice from Transcarpathia in Brussels

Andrea Bocskor, who has been elected Member of the European Parliament on the party list of the Fidesz-KDNP alliance, has said that since the change of government in Hungary in 2010 measures have been enacted in the field of policy for Hungarian communities abroad that are not only symbolic, but also practical; one such measure was the adoption of the simplified naturalization procedure, and another was that of the "national list". Mrs. Bocskor added that in the EP she would like to deal with the protection of Hungarian national interests, the cultural and linguistic self-determination of Hungarians living in Transcarpathia, with their efforts to achieve legal equality, as well as with the securing of language rights for national minorities. The Ukrainian press has also recognized and welcomed Andrea Bocskor's election as an MEP. Almost all Ukrainian outlets quoted word-for-word Mrs. Bocskor's statement, in which she said that as a representative of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia she considers it important to present the issues and efforts of



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Transcarpathian Hungarians to European politicians, with particular attention to the current difficult situation in Ukraine.

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