

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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House Speaker László Kövér encourages Hungarians in Transylvania to vote for the RMDSZ-MPP list

In a letter written to the Szekler National Council (SZNT), the Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér asked the members of the Szekler National Council to vote for the joint list of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) and the Hungarian Civic Party (MPP) in the approaching Romanian parliamentary elections. The letter of the house speaker was read out at a general assembly of the SZNT held in Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureș. In the letter, Mr. Kövér expressed again his support for the autonomy endeavors of the Szeklers and said that these demands are legitimate at a European level as well. He also asked the SZNT to mobilize Hungarians in Szeklerland to participate in the Romanian parliamentary elections in December and vote for the joint list of the RMDSZ and the MPP which is based on cooperation.

As is known, on 11 December 2016 parliamentary elections will be held in Romania. At the beginning of October, the Transylvanian Hungarian People's Party (EMNP) announced that it would not take part in the elections with own candidates, therefore, the Hungarian community in Transylvania will be represented by the joint list of the RMDSZ and the MPP.

Watch fires for the autonomy of Szeklerland

On Sunday, thousands of watch fires were lit in border-areas of Szeklerland on the Day of the Szekler autonomy, organized by the Szekler National Council (SZNT), in order to demand the area's right to self-governance. The movement was joined by a lot of people throughout Transylvania and the Carpathian-Basin, including Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca and Budapest. As part of the event, on Sunday morning people prayed together in churches for the autonomy of Szeklerland. The proclamation of the SZNT was read out at every venue, in which the Szekler community drew the attention of the Romanian Government and the entire world to the fact that "Szeklerland exists."

At the end of September, the SZNT declared the last Sunday of October the Day of Szekler autonomy. The call was joined by several towns in Szeklerland and in the Carpathian Basin.



Hungarians remembers the victims of the 1944-45 massacre in Csúrog

On Sunday, a commemoration was held in Vojvodina's Csúrog/Čurug remembering the innocent Hungarian victims of the 1944-56 massacre. Speaking at the event, the head of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) and the president of the Provincial House of Representatives István Pásztor said that "it is important that today we can speak openly and clearly about the events which happened in the 1940s, at the same time, it is important to facilitate the work of the joint committee of historians in the field." The memorial of the victims in Csúrog was erected three years



ago, when President of Hungary János János Áder and Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic paid tribute to the memory of people executed during and after World War II. Júlia Teleki, a survivor of the events and main organizer of the commemoration, said that 72 years ago Hungarian men in Csúrog were collected and executed. Their only sin was their Hungarian nationality. She added that for a long time commemorations were prohibited, but for three years survivors have an opportunity to pay tribute to the memory of innocent Hungarians at a decent memorial.

Serbian Minority Action Plan presented in Strasbourg

The Minority Action Plan of Serbia was presented in Strasbourg. Speaking at the event, the Vice-Chair of the Minority Intergroup of the European Parliament Kinga Gál said that in the recent years the Serbian Government made several efforts in order to raise the issue of minority right enforcement to a European Level. Ms. Gál held talks with the Serbian delegation in Strasbourg. Serbia's Minister of State Administration and Local Self-Government Ana Brnabić said at the meeting that Belgrade will make every effort in order to promote the adoption of the new laws which can lead to the improvement of the situation of national minorities. She added that this is why the new action plan is extremely important. Hungarian member of the EP (representing Vojvodina) Andor Deli stressed at the talks that the presented action plan is a very important document which offers a detailed schedule about the necessary amendments to the concerned laws on minority issues and practical measures connected with them. Mr. Deli also expressed hope that these laws will contribute to the further amelioration of the situation of national minorities in Serbia.



Péter Szijjártó: Delaying EU visa waiver for Ukraine is unacceptable

Speaking at a press conference after talks with the Foreign Minister of Ukraine Pavlo Klimkin, Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said that Hungary remains committed to supporting Ukraine's European integration and considers it "unacceptable" that the European Union still has not granted the country visa free status. Mr. Szijjártó stressed that Ukraine has fulfilled all requirements for receiving a visa waiver. He added that Ukraine is a very important economic, trade and political partner of Hungary. He emphasized that it is in Hungary's and Transcarpathia's interest to have strong neighbors. Speaking about the situation of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia, the Hungarian minister said that Hungary had launched a HUF 2 billion (EUR 6.5 million) economic development program in the Transcarpathian region. The Hungarian government is accepting bids for tourism, agricultural and urban development projects.





Commemorations marking the 60th anniversary of the 1956 revolution continue in the diaspora

Last week, commemorations marking the 60th anniversary of the 1956 revolution continued in the diaspora. Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén celebrated the event in Sao Paulo, among the 100,000-strong Hungarian community living in the region. The commemoration was held at one of the most famous schools of the city, the Saint Emeritus (Santo Américo) High School which was founded by Hungarians. The event was attended by more than 300 participants. Speaking at the commemoration, Mr. Semjén said that the Hungarian nation can remain only if Hungarian communities in Hungary, in the Carpathian Basin and the diaspora remain as well. As part of the event, 23 people took the oath of the Hungarian citizenship and several diaspora Hungarians receive state decorations.

State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi took part in commemorations in the Hague, London and Rome. Speaking at a wreath laying ceremony at the 195 memorial plaque in Rome, the state secretary stressed that Hungarian refugees of '56 were for decades denied and kept in silence. Mr. Potápi said that the fate of Hungarian communities around the world changed in 2010: since then the members of Hungarian communities – wherever they may live around the world – have been equally important. The state secretary spoke about the concept of the Hungarian nation, stressing that beyond the common culture, traditions and history, being a Hungarian also means a common mentality, as well as the common commemoration of our national holidays and the passing on of these to the generations to come.

Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi attended several commemorations in Canada. Addressing an event at the Hungarian House in Vancouver, he said that Hungary is grateful to Canada because it accepted the students and the teachers of the Sopron Forest Engineering College after the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Fight. Mr. Szilágyi stressed that Hungarian living in the diaspora are useful members of the Hungarian nation, therefore, supporting them is an issue of strategic importance. That is why the Hungarian Government allocated HUF 5 million (EUR 16,000) for the infrastructural development of the two Hungarian schools of Vancouver.