

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
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Friends of Hungary Conference in Budapest

“Hungary should not be afraid of learning new things, because the era of innovation has not come to an end yet,” said Prime Minister Viktor Orbán in his address to the Friends of Hungary Conference in Budapest. The Prime Minister emphasized that “We should not be provincial in outlook: we must look out not only beyond the borders of Hungary, but also of Europe, which is still trying to combat the challenges of the crisis.” He added that “The Western world’s economic crisis can only be countered with modern approaches and bold initiatives.” Mr. Orbán said that in the last few years public agreement had been reached on a range of issues, including Hungarian communities abroad – which means that they are now regarded as full members of the Hungarian nation. “We can only be a well-functioning world-nation if we can organize our diaspora communities as a functioning network,” he added. The Prime Minister asked the Hungarian scientists, artists and businessmen gathered at the conference to take a stand for Hungary in the unjust campaign being waged against it abroad. He added that it would be best if they could help by introducing their country’s innovative solutions of proven value to a wider Hungarian public. “Hungary can be proud of such friends,” said President János Áder, welcoming the Foundation’s guests. Mr. Áder said that the friends of Hungary are bound together by love for their country, respect and honor for the nation. “There are people we can count on when in trouble,” he said. Academic Szilveszter E. Vizi is the head of the Friends of Hungary Foundation board, while members include Nobel laureate chemist György Oláh, economist Sándor Lámfalussy and opera singer Éva Marton.

Zsolt Németh: Hungary’s foreign mission network has been almost completely rebuilt

Parliamentary State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Zsolt Németh has said that the network of Hungary’s diplomatic missions has been almost completely rebuilt. He emphasized the following measures intended to strengthen policy for Hungarian communities abroad: promoting the simplified naturalization procedure and relationships with the diaspora, providing support for electoral preparations and voting at foreign missions.



European Parliamentary elections – the EMNP considers running independently

In the European Parliament elections in May 2014, the Transylvanian Hungarian People’s Party (EMNP) is considering calling for an independent candidate list, or entering László Tóké, President of the Transylvanian Hungarian People’s Council (EMNT) as an independent candidate. The presidencies of the EMNP and EMNT held a joint meeting in Torockó/ Rimetea this week, where the options for participation in the EP elections were discussed.



The Slovak constitutional court postpones decision on citizenship law

The Slovak constitutional court has not yet made a decision on the Slovak citizenship law, and its conformity with the country's constitution. The court held a hearing on the subject on 22 January, but postponed a decision until 26 February. The Slovak legislature's thirty opposition representatives initiated a review of the law in September 2011, proposing that the Slovak constitution guarantees that no one can be deprived of their Slovak citizenship against their will, and that therefore the citizenship law cannot declare the opposite.

Slovak attorney general's office closes investigation into Hedvig Malina's case

The Slovak attorney general's office has closed its investigation into the case of Hedvig Malina, who was charged with perjury. The body will probably initiate court prosecution in the case, Slovak liberal daily "Sme" reported on 23 January. Hedvig Malina's case started in 2006, when the then student was beaten up by two men in Nyitra/ Nitra, because she was talking in Hungarian. The police closed investigation of the case in the same year, concluding that the event did not occur – or at least not in the way the woman described. In May 2007, the Slovak attorney general's office started proceedings against Ms. Malina on the grounds of perjury. This investigation has now been closed after nearly seven years.

New Hungarian school in Szepesi/ Moldava, Slovakia

Preparations for the construction of the Hungarian school in Szepesi/ Moldava, Slovakia will start this year. The school building will be financed through church and governmental contributions. According to plans, lessons will begin in September 2015, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Zsuzsanna Répás announced on the Day of Hungarian Culture.



Deputy State Secretariat for Hungarian communities abroad expresses concern over Serbian constitutional court ruling

The Deputy State Secretariat for Hungarian communities abroad has expressed concern over a ruling by the Serbian constitutional court which would limit the powers of the Hungarian National Council of Vojvodina and narrow the scope of rights acquired by the Hungarian minority. In its statement, the State Secretariat emphasized that it is shocking that the decision came to light one day after the European Parliament adopted a resolution on Serbia which enabled launch of its EU accession talks. They added that it is also alarming that the limitations of the national minority councils' powers mainly



concern the issue of education, which is of crucial importance for the preservation of national identity.

Early elections in Serbia

Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) vice-president Zorana Mihajlović said in Belgrade that extraordinary parliamentary elections will be held in Serbia on 16 March. Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) leader István Pásztor reacted to the announcement by saying that his party will participate in the elections independently.



Ukraine protests – Szabolcs Takács: the fear is that the Hungarian minority will become a target

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Deputy State Secretary for Security Policy Szabolcs Takács has raised concerns over the alleged march of ultra-radical groups from several Western-Ukrainian counties into Transcarpathia. "The Hungarian community is not yet threatened by direct aggression, but we believe that if the events in Transcarpathia take a violent turn, there is a chance that the Hungarian minority living there will also become a target," said Mr. Takács. In front of the County Office, nearly five hundred people have been protesting against the current Ukrainian regime, with around 150 in favor of the government. County governor Oleksandr Ledida called on the Transcarpathian population to stay calm and maintain stability.

