

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Viktor Orbán: Europe is at stake today

Speaking at the Saturday event of the 26th Bálványos Open University and Summer Camp in Transylvania, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán declared that what we have at stake today is Europe, the European way of life, the survival or disappearance of European values and nations, or their transformation beyond recognition. The Prime Minister highlighted in his evaluation of the phenomenon of modern-day mass migration that the question now is not merely what kind of Europe we, Hungarians would like to live in, but whether that which we call Europe today will at all survive. Mr. Orbán added that our answer is clear: we would like Europe to be preserved for the Europeans.

Concerning the issue of immigration, Mr. Orbán said that the Hungarians have decided; they do not want illegal migrants, and do not share the intellectual frenzy of the European left. The Prime Minister informed his audience of the results of the national consultation. He pointed out that 1,000,254 questionnaires were completed and sent back, and according to the results, 95 per cent take the view that we must support Hungarian families and the children to be born, instead of immigration. The Prime Minister believes: these results indicate that Hungary is a safe and stable country, and the Hungarians want to remain a united and balanced nation in the uncertain world that surrounds them.

Regarding Romanian-Hungarian relations, Mr. Orbán said that there is not much positive to report. In his evaluation, this was not always the case; up until 2012, there was practical and successful cooperation between the governments of the two countries which was based on trust. This started to change as of 2012. Regarding the use of Hungarian symbols, the Prime Minister pointed out: perseverance is the key word. Mr. Orbán expressed his hope that there is enough perseverance in the Hungarians in Hungary and beyond the borders not to allow their symbols to be removed from the scenes of public life, in particular, with an ever strengthening motherland behind them. Concerning the situation in Transcarpathia, the Prime Minister said that Hungary will not give up on supporting the aspirations of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia, including their language rights and autonomy.

Hungarian communities abroad are in the “mainstream of the Hungarian Government’s thinking”

Taking part in a round-table discussion at the 26th Bálványos Open University and Summer Camp, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that the policy for Hungarian communities abroad has always been in the “mainstream of the Hungarian Government’s thinking.” Referring to the demographic problems of the Hungarian nation at the round-table discussion attended by the leaders of Hungarian organizations abroad, Mr. Potápi said that the aim is to realize that more children are born and children growing up in mixed marriages also have Hungarian identity. Mr. Potápi added that in order to achieve the prosperity of Hungarians in their homeland, communities should also be strengthened



economically. He added that the Hungarian Government pays much attention to this field, striving to realize that Hungarian people are employed and are able to ensure themselves a future.

Will Hungarian be prohibited in Komárom's town council?

Slovakia's Ministry of Culture has issued a resolution ordering the mayor of Komárom/Komárno László Stubendek to keep the state language law. Journalist Martin Daňo made an accusation at the Ministry of Culture because both Hungarian and Slovakian languages were used at a recent meeting of Komárom's town council. According to the resolution, the officials of the ministry held an inspection at the town's municipal office and found that the representatives of the town violated Slovakia's state language law. As a result, the ministry called on Mr. Stubendek to keep the language law of Slovakia.

In connection with the issue, an associate of the Legal Aid operating under the Roundtable of Hungarians in Slovakia Klaudia Szekeres said that Slovakia's law on minority language use allows the members of the town council to use the Hungarian language, while the other participants of the meetings can also use Hungarian, depending on approval. Ms. Szekeres added that the law also allows the Hungarian language to be the general language of town council meetings.

Hungarian Government support worth 850 million HUF to be allocated for Vojvodina Hungarians

At a joint press conference held with the president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor at the 26th Bálványos Open University and Summer Camp in Transylvania, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi announced that the Hungarian government has decided to support projects that aim to preserve and strengthen Hungarian communities abroad, adding that an amount of 2.3 billion HUF (EUR 7.5 million) has been set aside in the central budget for such projects. The state secretary said that a total of 1.4 billion HUF (EUR 4.4 million) will be provided for investment projects in Transylvania, mostly for facilities of the established Hungarian churches, and 50 million HUF (EUR 160,000) for a cultural project to develop the camp at Martos/Martovce in south-western Slovakia. Concerning support for Vojvodina, the head of the VMSZ István Pásztor announced that this year, four projects will be supported with 850 million HUF (EUR 2.7 million) in Vojvodina and expressed his gratitude to the Hungarian Government for the support. Informing the audience about the details of the government support for Vojvodina Hungarians, Mr. Pásztor said that for the following four months, 65 million HUF (EUR 208,000) will be allocated for the Europe College scheduled to open in the fall, and further 200 million HUF (EUR 640,000) per year during the following



years. Mr. Pásztor added that the establishment of a “social care system at farms and in suburbs” in Vojvodina will be supported with 100 million HUF (EUR 320,000). The head of the VMSZ explained that in the territory of several municipalities in Vojvodina motor vehicles are needed for social workers to help elderly people living alone. Mr. Pásztor added that further 150 million HUF (EUR 480,000) will be spent on the purchase and renovation of the building of a convent returned to the nuns of Nagybecskerek/Zrenjanin, and 60 million HUF (EUR 192,000) for the Pannon Radio and Television.



Military call-ups are delivered at Transcarpathia’s street checkpoints

According to the press office of Transcarpathia’s county police, military call-ups are delivered to men liable to military service at street checkpoints set up recently in Transcarpathia. Transcarpathia’ Command responsible for military mobilization has denied to have any information about the measure. The statement of the police points out that the deliverance of military call-ups to the drives of cars stopped at street checkpoints is a new method to improve the statistics about the number of mobilized people in Ukraine. In connection with the issue, the president of the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) László Brenzovics said that the methods and circumstances of the deliverance of military call-ups are laid down clearly in Ukraine’s laws. The head of the KMKSZ stressed that policemen are not entitled to deliver military call-ups, it is the task of the command responsible for mobilization the representatives of which can deliver them in the homes or workplaces of men liable to military service. Mr. Brenzovics added that the KMKSZ will officially protest against this measure.

