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National Election Office: Hungarian citizens living abroad may post their ballots for free

On 30 January, head of the National Election Office Ilona Pálffy announced that Hungarian citizens living abroad who do not have a Hungarian address may post their ballots for free. She added that election offices will be opened at all Hungarian foreign missions. This means that the officials working at Hungarian embassies and consulates will also provide assistance with electoral tasks. On 6 April, the day of the Hungarian parliamentary election, they will coordinate voting at foreign representations. Mrs. Pálffy also presented the necessary technical information concerning voter registration and postal voting. She stressed that voters may register up until 22 March – fifteen days before the election. They will receive the package required for voting between 15 and 25 March.

The National Election Office also announced that the number of Hungarian citizens living abroad who have been entered on the electoral register for the 6 April Hungarian parliamentary election has reached 110,000.



American congressmen protest against the withdrawal of László Tóké's Romanian state award

American congressmen Frank R. Wolf (Republican) and James P. McGovern (Democrat) have written to Romanian President Traian Băsescu, protesting at the withdrawal of Transylvanian MEP László Tóké's Romanian state award. They recalled that Mr. Tóké played a heroic and leading role in overthrowing the communist dictatorship in Romania in 1989.



The Slovak constitutional court postpones decision on citizenship law for an undefined period of time

On 29 January, the Slovak constitutional court's spokesperson Anna Pancúrová announced that the court has – for an undefined period of time – postponed decision-making on the Slovak citizenship law and its conformity with the country's constitution. The Kassa/ Košice-based body held a hearing on the subject last week, when it 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.





István Pásztor: there will be no early elections in Vojvodina

According to the President of the Vojvodina Chamber of Deputies István Pásztor, the conditions for an early provincial election in Vojvodina have still not been fulfilled; therefore he will not initiate an election in the province. Mr. Pásztor said if the conditions change he might alter his decision, but he does not think this would be realistic in the near future. The leader of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) reacted to the statements of Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) vice-president Nikola Selaković, who said that his party suggested holding a provincial election in Vojvodina at the same time as the general election in Serbia, because the Vojvodina government has lost its legitimacy.



KMKSZ opposes antidemocratic Ukrainian laws and condemns violence

In a communiqué, the committee of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) has objected to the laws adopted by the Ukrainian parliament on 16 January, which the association deems antidemocratic; at the same time it has condemned the violence in Ukraine. According to the statement, some of the legislative amendments threaten the Hungarian community of Transcarpathia directly, because from now on Hungarian newspapers expressing criticism of the governing powers or civil society organizations receiving financial support from the kin-state will be defenceless against the autocracy of the authorities.



The Beneš Decrees should remain valid, according to half of the Czech population

An opinion poll conducted in the Czech Republic in December 2013 revealed that half of the Czech population think that the Beneš Decrees should remain in force. Only fourteen per cent of those interviewed said that the decrees commanding the relocation of Sudeten Germans and Hungarians from Czechoslovakia should be abolished, while more than one-third could not or did not want to give an answer. Czechoslovakian President Edvard Beneš adopted the decrees after the Second World War, in accordance with which Germans and Hungarians in Czechoslovakia lost their citizenship and were deprived of their property.

