

Press release - Új Szó

Waiting for the signature

Hungarian geographical names in the Slovakian school-books

After the newest Hungarian-language school-books in Slovakia appeared with geographical names only in Slovakian, the MKP (the party of the Hungarian minority) proposed a bill regarding the use of these names in school-books: they should be used in Hungarian-language books only in Hungarian, as it was before in many school-books.

The Slovak politicians will have none of it. Finally, the Parliament has adopted a law which is a compromise: geographical names should be written in both languages, first in Hungarian. Unfortunately, the law is ambiguous in many ways. The president didn't sign it until now, and there are some inside information that he will send back the law to the Parliament. The reason for that could be the ambiguity of some clauses. The president can also make some proposals regarding the law, therefore are small odds that he will make changes that could harm the Hungarian minority's rights even if recently, when he met with the Hungarian president, he appeared to agree with the two-language writing.

The law has to be signed or returned till December 19th.

It's also interesting that lessons in the foreign-language books will be changed, because they don't contain enough themes concerning Slovakia.

In another order of opinion, the Slovakian budget earmarks for the support of minorities cultural activities almost 30% less than in 2006.