

## **Hungary Threatens 'Pain' For Ukraine Over Controversial Language Law**

### **Culture**

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**Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto (left) has said that the consequences for Kyiv would be painful after Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko (right) signed the measure making Ukrainian the required language of study in state schools from fifth grade.**

From RFE/RL, Sep 27, 2017 Hungary has pledged to block Ukraine's further integration with Europe after Kyiv enacted a controversial education law that critics say will restrict the study of minority languages in schools. Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto said on September 26 that the consequences for Kyiv would be painful after Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko signed the measure making Ukrainian the required language of study in state schools from the fifth grade on. Hungary will block all steps within the European Union that would represent a step forward in Ukraine's European integration process, Szijarto said in comments to the Hungarian news agency MTI that were also posted on the Hungarian government's website. We can guarantee that all this will be painful for Ukraine in future, Szijarto added. His comments come two months ahead of the Eastern Partnership summit in Brussels. A draft statement seen by RFERL last week suggests the summit will be dominated by the issue of the EU's ties to Ukraine and two other ex-Soviet states, Georgia, and Moldova. The new Ukrainian law does not outlaw instruction in other languages; students can still learn their native languages as a separate subject. Poroshenko said it raises the role of Ukrainian as a state language in the education process and ensures equal opportunities for all. [hellip;] [https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-hungar ... law-eu-pain/28758760.html](https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-hungar...law-eu-pain/28758760.html)