

# **YEARBOOK**

## **OF FOREIGN POLICY**

## **OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

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# Contents

Preface .....	
<b>1. Evaluation of Foreign Policy of Slovakia for the Year 2002 from the Perspective of the Supreme Constitutional Officials and Political Parties</b>	
Presentation of the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic Mikuláš Dzurinda .....	
Presentation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic Eduard Kukan .....	
Presentation of the Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic Ivan Šimko .....	
Presentation of the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Council of the SR Ján Figel' .....	
Presentation of the Chairperson of the Committee for European Integration of the National Council of the Slovak Republic Monika Beňová .....	
Presentation of the Chairman of the Committee for Human Rights, Minorities and the Position of Women of the National Council of the SR László A. Nagy .....	
<b>2. Slovak Foreign Policy – Analyses of the Representatives of Academic and Scientific Circles, of the Third Sector, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic</b>	
Domestic Development as a Prerequisite of Successful Integration <i>Grigorij Mesežnikov</i> .....	
Slovak Foreign Policy towards the Western Balkans – a Need for Continuity, Differentiated View and Flexibility <i>Pavol Lukáč</i> .....	
A Year of the End of a Historical Journey <i>Peter Weiss</i> .....	

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Common Features and Differences in Foreign Policy of the Government and  
Opposition of the Slovak Republic in 2002

*Oľga Keltošová*.....

New challenges of bilateral co-operation after the accession of the Slovak  
Republic to the European Union and NATO

*Maroš Šefčovič*.....

Security and Multilateral Dimension of Foreign Policy of the Slovak  
Republic

*Juraj Macháč*.....

Negotiation Results and Expected Consequences of the Accession of the  
Slovak Republic to the European Union

*Juraj Nociar*.....

### **3. Documents and Annexes**

Prague Summit Declaration Issued by the Heads of State and Government  
Participating in the Meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Prague on  
21 November 2002 .....

Statement by the Heads of State and Government of Albania, Bulgaria,  
Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia  
and Slovenia on the Occasion of NATO Summit in Prague .....

The Main Activities of the Slovak Republic in Foreign Policy .....

The List of Treaties and Agreements Concluded between the Slovak  
Republic and Other Countries in 2002 .....

Structure of State Administration Authorities Acting in International  
Affairs and European Integration field .....

The List of Embassies of the EU, NATO Countries and Some Other  
Countries .....

The List of Consulates in the Slovak Republic .....

The List of Embassies of the Slovak Republic, Permanent Missions,  
Consulates General, Slovak Institutes Abroad.....

The List of Consulates of the Slovak Republic Headed by the Honorary  
Consuls .....

Editorial Commentary .....

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## Preface

In 2003, the fourth volume of the *Yearbook of Foreign Policy of the Slovak Republic* has been published. This fact confirms that this publication presenting the state and development of Slovak foreign policy from the point of view of its prime actors, experts and analysts has found its readers and the position among the book products concerning the issue of foreign policy. Its fundamental aim, to become the contemporary source of information, to register the development in the field of foreign policy in the periods of crucial importance for Slovakia, as well as in the consequential period characterised by the effort to set the tradition of regular evaluation of the Slovak foreign policy through the presentations and specification of its tasks in its whole complexity, has obviously been fulfilled. It is confirmed above all by an interest rendered to the previous volumes of the Yearbook.

Our ambition is to continue in publishing of this publication and thus widen the information resources in the field of foreign policy of the Slovak Republic. The presented Yearbook consists of the contributions read at the 4<sup>th</sup> Evaluation Conference, held on March 28, 2003 entitled Achievements of the Foreign Policy of the Slovak Republic in 2002 and offers evaluation of the very important period – the last year of M. Dzurinda's government, the election year, the year of evident achievements in Euro Atlantic integration. The well-known structure of this publication is, in these intentions, widened to include the documents concerning the Prague NATO Summit, in respect to its historic significance for the Slovak Republic.

The Konrad Adenauer Foundation financially supported the Conference, as in previous years. We most of all thank to Mr. Frank Spengler, the director of its office and his deputy Ms. Agáta Pešková. It would not be possible to organise the Conference without concentrated work of the SIIS employees and the students of the various Universities. Publishing of the Yearbook of Foreign Policy of the Slovak Republic 2002 was financially supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. It would not be possible to publish the Yearbook without responsible work of Ms. Katarína Žáková and Mr. Peter Brezáni. Special thanks belong to the consultant of this publication Mr. Štefan Šebesta.



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# Presentation of the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic Mikuláš Dzurinda

I am pleased that the Foreign Policy Evaluation Conference is a symbolic closure of a week so important for Slovakia, when in the Brussels NATO Headquarters the Accession Protocols were signed establishing formal legal confirmation of invitation of Slovakia to become a member of the Alliance. This confirmation means a lot for all of us who dreamed about it, who strived for it. If we are saying today the NATO membership is our message to our children and children of their children, we shall not forget the Slovak NATO membership is a great satisfaction of destiny for those who do not live to see it. Their message of freedom, democracy, security and a place of Slovakia as a proud member of the Trans Atlantic family was our inspiration during hard moments.

If landing on the Moon was one small step for a man but one giant leap for the mankind, then signature of the Accession Protocols might be the joint little step of today's Slovakia and the Alliance in a giant leap of future Europe. Europe united, free, living in peace.

Today it may seem that a look to the future – in a time when in connection with the Iraqi crisis one can hear again an open talk about divided Europe – cannot be optimistic. Paradoxically, today East Europe is more united than the western part of the continent. Even though a course of the countries of Central and East Europe could be interpreted differently its message was unequivocal. And Slovakia wants to enter NATO and the EU with this message, as well. We will do our best to keep and strengthen unity of Europe and strength of the Trans Atlantic alliance.

We want united Europe which will be a partner to the USA. We do not want to build Europe that would be defined as a geopolitical rival of the USA. And contrary the United States of America shall not resign from the alliance with Europe, however noisy the inciting impulses would be.

The European Union built on a “hard core” basis in a sense of a principle “take it or leave it” cannot be an interest of Slovakia and neither in a vision of united Europe. Such an approach would lead to creation of new dividing lines within the EU. Today

we cannot say unequivocally whether Europe leaves current crisis again strengthened, but we will try our best. To keep European and Trans Atlantic unity we want to contribute to reform endeavours in the EU, as well as in NATO. We are often asked about the stake the Central and East European countries will bring to the integration groupings. I presume that here one can see an input not only of Slovakia but of whole Central and East Europe. In a wider sense we bring our experience, that what can look like obvious might not be obvious. It may be rare and can be lost. And vice versa, that one shall not slacken in an effort to support others so also they can experience that obvious. I am talking about freedom, democracy, respect of human rights, rule of law, security for the country, the region...

The Central and East European countries have gone through a dozen of years of transformation. We also today continue in the key reforms. Concerning reforms Central and East Europe may bring to the EU the needed impulse that could help to remove its often criticised ossification. It is not only the institutional and legal order reform within the discussion of the Convention on Drafting the Future Design of the EU and the following intergovernmental conference. Constitutional change will make only a framework of future European architecture. Only then a discussion about a level of the state intervention into functioning of the society – i.e. about the size of deregulation and decentralisation of decision making at the European level – will be opened.

Slovakia and countries of Central and East Europe in general may bring an impulse directed to the needed deregulation and decentralisation of the EU. Within Europe we undoubtedly have the freshest experience. It involves also the possibility to speak a language not accenting only unavoidable technical conditions of our common existence – i.e. a language of norms, objective ways, regulatory mechanisms, but the language marking our common European identity and helping us search for the common will even in uneasy moments.

A relation between European and Trans Atlantic security will be also important. Also here a formula is valid: united Europe as a strong partner for the Trans Atlantic co-operation. The EU member countries must improve their defence capacities. It is an interest of both pillars of the Trans Atlantic link. Again, not as a military counterweight of the USA. Having in mind Slovakia's capacities there is an inspiring idea of specialisation of the armed forces. The most recent experience but also the previous ones relating to participation of engineering and chemical units in the world prove that not only a number of units is important, but mainly their quality, mobility and high specialisation.

The EU and NATO accession will also change a character of foreign policy of the SR as such. Whole Slovak foreign policy was until today focused on reaching the integration priorities. Bilateral and multilateral relations were influenced. In the bilateral level, our foreign policy was primarily oriented to the member states of the integration groupings. In the multilateral level we endeavoured to harmonise our positions with positions of these groupings. After the EU and NATO accession these priorities become



a tool of our foreign policy, a space where Slovakia can realise its opinion, standpoints and foreign policy priorities and through them defend its interests in the world.

We may here presume that the bilateral level will naturally concentrate on neighbouring and near countries and regions with a specific accent in different time perspective on the Balkans, Ukraine, Russia, Trans Caucasian and Central Asian regions. Certainly a special place in Slovak foreign policy will be given to its economic priorities – a trade balance improvement and energy policy.

So, what is the quintessence of my view of future of Slovak foreign policy? New challenges expect us and will confront us, we will have to answer them, foresee them, be ready for them. This is what we will attempt. Today for me the much more important is that with new challenges there expect us also new possibilities. To co-decide the face of Europe, formulate our own interest and win support for it. We will make mistakes and it will be natural that we will make them. The mistakes will be bitter but we will accept them with pride to be able to learn from them. But – and I do not have a slightest doubt about it – we will be successful. And we will meet our success with pleasure but also with submission natural for today adult and self conscious Slovakia and its input to our common European future.

It is said that smaller countries must always first look around themselves before they decide, before they speak and this is also an advice of many politicians to Slovakia. Other politicians say that it is not important whether the country is small or big. A big heart of people is important. And if it is said that foreign policy is a penetration of values and interests I think that foreign policy without values is like a man without a heart. Thus, shall blood of our interest circulate in the body of our foreign policy it must have a heart. If we have one, our interest will be clearer, stronger and more openly formulated.

Let me in the end focus some words on the Slovak Institute for International Studies. When nearly a dozen years ago under auspices of the then minister P. Demeš the first Slovak Institute for International Studies was established, it was a child of S. Bombík and other enthusiasts convinced about a need of honest reflection over Slovak foreign policy. Convinced about a need of search for critical, wider answers to questions about a place of Slovakia in international relations, about a need of feedback for foreign policy of the Government, about necessity of new impulses.

During the whole time of its existence the Slovak Institute for International Studies was in good and bad connected by an umbilical cord with the Slovak scene, with development of Slovakia since its first steps and expectations, through failures to the new comeback to the foreign policy scene. The Slovak Institute for International Studies will soon undergo a transformation and I am sure that in its end we will find an institution, that will maintain our common, but here on this territory the "Bombík's", heritage of honesty, persuasion and enthusiasm and that will be our critical partner in foreign policy.



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# Presentation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic Eduard Kukan

Let me right in the beginning thank the Slovak Institute for International Studies for organising, and I am not afraid to say now of a traditional evaluation conference of foreign policy of the Slovak Republic. And it has to be added it is traditionally prepared in co-operation with the Conrad Adenauer Foundation. The evaluation conferences where politicians meet policy scientists and non-governmental organisations are a proof that our foreign policy is going the right direction, as it is usual in developed democracies. We realise that without a good partner – a thin-tank – it would be hardly imaginable. The Slovak Institute for International Studies, as you know, is undergoing a transformation to a non-profit organisation. I believe that in the end of this transformation there will be an institution which will continue the good traditions of the Slovak Institute for International Studies and will be a critical partner to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the SR. We expect it will with its analyses, studies, seminars and conferences contribute to further improvement of our foreign policy.

Though last year we evaluated here the year 2001, a majority of us was in our thoughts already more in 2002. The year that made us to face several decisive milestones and important question marks concerning not only development of our foreign policy as such but also the overall direction of the society and the country. So, what was the last year 2002 like, how did we cope with challenges brought by it and how did we go through them?

The year 2002 and mainly its end showed to be a really breaking one for the Slovak Republic. It was the last year of the Government of the Prime Minister M. Dzurinda, a year characterised by intensive finalising of fulfilment of tasks of the Programme of the Government, mainly in the sphere of foreign policy. Results of the September elections allowed creation of the second Government of the Prime Minister M. Dzurinda and confirmed thus continuity of the foreign policy orientation of the SR. This helped

Slovakia in co-operation with legislative, economic and technical measures to get to the top of integrational processes.

Euro Atlantic integrational effort of the Slovak Republic finally culminated in receiving an invitation to the NATO membership in the Prague November Summit and closing accession negotiations with the European Union in the EU December Summit in Copenhagen. Right in the start of my presentation I can say with satisfaction that the basic priorities of Slovak foreign policy for 2002 were successfully completed. After becoming the full-fledged OECD member in the end of 2000 Slovakia made expressive steps towards final reach of further integration goals in 2002 – full membership in the North Atlantic Alliance and the European Union.

Let's look to the priorities and key moments of our foreign policy in 2002 in more detail:

Concerning the European integration I will start untraditionally from the end. Our integrational effort lasting several years in law harmonization and negotiations about individual chapters, in which all decisive central bodies of the state administration of the Slovak Republic were involved, culminated in the end of 2002 in the December Summit of the European Council in Copenhagen. Here we managed – as we resolved – definitively to close the negotiations about our European Union accession. Closure of these negotiations opened the way to the second phase of integrational activities – a signature of the Accession Treaty. The Slovak membership in the EU got closer again and got more real outlines.

Negotiations preceding this outcome covered the whole spectrum of the state functioning. I see the reached result as a compromise, as well from the SR's perspective as from the EU members' one. I believe, and many of you will agree with me, that a resulting compromise is balanced, justificatory and acceptable for all parties involved. Based on it the SR will have a chance to co-create rules of life in the EU and in the same time use this rules and mechanisms and possibilities offered by integrated Europe for more effective reach of own goals and interests.

Status of the SR's preparation for the EU accession was fully reflected in the October *Regular Report of the European Commission*. The Report was positive and said that the SR fulfils political and economic criteria, has functioning and opened market economy and recently made sufficient progress in macroeconomic stabilisation and economic reform. So I dare to say that keeping on current reforms would allow the SR to face and effectively manage competitive environment of the EU which is, of course, a source of many fears and concerns in entrepreneur as well as in political circles.

The SR reached also a high level of law harmonisation and made a big progress in guaranteeing adequate administrative and judge capacities. The Report further says that the SR is one of two candidate countries which fulfil their obligations without delays – an appraisal we all may be proud of. What we are reproached for, made aware of and recommended is mainly to make bigger effort in law enforcement, anti-corruption fight and administrative capacities growth – the spheres in which we all

know there is what to keep catching up. The deficits have internal political character as well and to overcome them a co-operation of a whole society is needed. Here on this specific example we may all see how success or failure in foreign policy depends on results of home political development.

The year 2002 was important also for the start of external communication strategy of the Government of the Slovak Republic to increase information in the member countries about Slovakia as a future member of the Union ready for the membership in policy, economy and society. There was a goal to effectively act in response to fears and doubts connected with the SR's accession to the EU and to prepare situation for smooth approval of our membership in the EU with awareness of its profitability for the Union.

After two starting meetings in 2001 and 2002 work of the National Convent on Drafting the Future Design of the EU has fully started aiming to stimulate an all-nation discussion and find answers to basic questions about future of Europe, reforms of institutional and legal framework of the EU after enlargement. During the last year we organised three regular meetings and three so called mini-convents at a working level what fully demonstrates increasing importance and intensity of work of this discussion platform. Through the representatives of the Government of the SR and the National Council of the SR the Slovak Republic started an active participation on discussion about future of the European Union within the Convent on Drafting the Future Design of the EU which has regularly met in Brussels since the end of February 2002. A proposal of the Constitutional Treaty of the European Union is expected to be a result of the work of the European Convent. From this point of view work of both Convents – the national one and the European one – is for Slovakia very important, because through them we can participate on forming the future shape and character of the EU.

Concerning integration to the Euro Atlantic security structures during the whole 2002 the Slovak Republic made maximal effort to receive an invitation to the North Atlantic Alliance in the November Summit in Prague and thus start accession negotiations to the organisation. By receiving the invitation we joined seven successful candidates of the biggest and the most ambitious enlargement in the NATO history and opened thus a way to the Trans Atlantic security space. Along the European Union membership the Slovak Republic gains another platform for presentation of its opinions and pursuance of interests in issues of global policy.

Here I would like to stress that the first and the second government of the Prime Minister M. Dzurinda did not have and does not have any doubt about the fact that concerning effectiveness and character of given guarantees NATO is the most suitable organisation for securing stability of the continent and security of our country. This clear and unequivocal position finally played a key role. It directed our practical steps to be the most effective and decisive and in the same time to persuade definitively our foreign partners about our trustworthiness, loyalty and future contribution.

In a practical level consistent keeping up reforms of our Army played a role in our extraordinary success of Slovak foreign policy. Those were mainly reforms in political,

economic and legislative field, as well as in the sphere of security and sources formation. To increase public support for the SR's NATO accession through co-operation of the governmental sector with the non-governmental organisations and mass media in intensification of information was one of equally important requirements positively worked on.

An important qualitative move in the recent time came about in a political dialogue between the SR and NATO. As a proof one can use continuity and deepening of contacts not only at the highest level but mainly enlargement of co-operation at lower political and expert level. Along intensification of the bilateral relation of the SR with NATO and its member countries we actively participated on joined activities in the V10 format. Co-operation within the V10 signified for the SR a possibility for presentation of the SR's experiences from the NATO membership preparation process and activity towards the Alliance in pursuance of common interests of the candidate countries.

Within the preparation for the membership in September the Slovak Republic handed over to NATO the fourth *Annual National Plan of Preparation for the NATO Membership for 2003* which was by the NATO representatives marked the best one up to now. By signing of the *Status of the Permanent Delegation of the Slovak Republic to NATO* which I had the honour together with the Minister of Defence of the SR to sign, conditions for full-fledged functioning of the representation to NATO were created.

From spheres where we gained positive results I would like to mention mainly co-operation within the Euro Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and Partnership for Peace (PfP). We reached them mostly thanks to involvement in issues of security of the Euro Atlantic space and ability to contribute to NATO EAPC countries' activities. Specific activities of the EAPC/PfP within all existing partnership mechanisms represented for the Slovak Republic suitable tools of preparation for the NATO membership. Building up the unity of the Euro Atlantic community through joint activities and co-operation is the best answer to newly developed security challenges and risks. Concerning importance of the Parliamentary Assembly of the NATO in the NATO enlargement process I would like to put emphasis on and appraise co-operation strengthening at the parliamentary level between the SR and NATO.

In the real end of the last year finally accession negotiations with NATO took place confirming political, legal, budget and military-defence obligations of the Slovak Republic towards NATO. These we successfully concluded few days ago by signing the accession protocol, which is now given to parliaments of the NATO member countries for ratification.

To put the whole last year into twenty minutes is a task not only difficult but essentially ungrateful. There always will be themes I will not be able to cover as properly as they deserve or I personally would like to, due to time or space reasons, and some themes I will have to even omit. Remaining minutes of my presentation I thus want to dedicate to a brief review mainly of multilateral and bilateral agenda,

to its key points and moments. I do this aware of the fact that the examination would not be complete.

Along its integrational effort the Slovak Republic in multilateral sphere realised its interests and goals also in other important forums. The permanent priority here remains activity of the Slovak Republic in the United Nations Organisation. Also the last year's work of our foreign policy on this prestigious all-nation forum was based on key political documents agreed on the UN Millennium Summit and following conferences about financing in Monterrey and about sustainable development in Johannesburg.

As a diplomat with a direct experience with the work in the UN now I can from the position of a Minister of Foreign Affairs state that during the last year the Slovak Republic performed in the UN and other international organisations actively and successfully in accordance with given priorities of foreign policy of the Slovak Republic and in specific cases its activity stemmed from direction approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic. The upper mentioned coordination with the European Union was an important factor of motion of our diplomacy in multilateral forums. We put stress on two priority spheres of activity – issues of international peace and security including the issue of fight against terrorism and issues of international law.

During the last year the Slovak Republic belonged to important contributors to the UN peace forces. This is a field where we have already built a respectful tradition. I give you only few naked numbers to elucidate this important fact: in the end of 2002 there were 614 soldiers in seven peace operations: in Cyprus (where the SR is responsible for one of three sectors), in Ethiopia – Eritrea, in East Timor, in Syria in Golan Heights, in Iraq, in Jerusalem, and in Sierra Leone. End of 2002 was marked by the crisis in Iraq. The Slovak Republic expressed its support to the unequivocally approved Security Council Resolution No. 1441. Since the beginning we together with the international community supported notion that the best how to solve the Iraqi problem would be a peaceful way of political and diplomatic means. But it depended on Iraq how it used many opportunities given by the UN and international society. As we all know now it did not happen and the Iraqi regime today has to face serious consequences of its decision and doings. In evaluating the situation we are in an accord with many of our Euro Atlantic partners that the Iraqi regime represents a major global security threat that has to be solved even with a use of power.

In 2002 also thanks to the Slovak diplomacy a representation of the Slovak Republic in international organisations was intensified. The SR gained several important positions and executive functions in bodies of international organisations. Among all let me mention at least these three: in February 2002 the UN Secretary General appointed Ms. B. Schmögnerová to the post of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe. In the following enlargement she became a member of a 28-membered Senior Management Group of the UN Secretary General. In October 2002 the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council elected a Slovak expert Mr. P. Tomka as a judge, a one of fifteen of the UN main judiciary body – the International Court of Justice. And finally in November 2002 the Director General of the Food and



Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) appointed Ms. M. Kadlečíková a representative of FAO for Central and Eastern Europe.

Within Europe namely the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) played the main role in the Slovak multilateral diplomacy. Together with NATO and the EU they create a political and security framework of European order.

As negotiations of the Slovak Republic and the European Union about accession culminated and economic outcomes influenced results of negotiations economic dimension of diplomacy played an important role also in 2002. The 2002 was also the second year of the SR's membership in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The Slovak Republic managed to get involved in work of this prestigious organisation and in a time of two years to prove that it is a full-fledged partner of the most developed countries of the world.

In the sphere of international law the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the SR within its competences focused on pursuance and defence of rights and interests of the Slovak Republic. The Slovak Republic got actively involved in a process of establishment of the permanent International Criminal Court of Justice.

Within implementation of the verdict of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in a dispute about the system of water works Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros in 2002 joint meetings of the Working Group for Legal Issues continued, whose goal it was to in a first phase start drafting a text of international agreement setting basic rules of realisations of the ICJ verdict. Due to diametrically different positions to mandates and different interpretation of the ICJ verdict from 25 September 1997 we did not manage to achieve a progress in the agreement wording.

Let me now turn your attention to the Visegrad co-operation. The V4 as a non-institutionalised co-operation of the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary, which belongs to the important building stones of the SR's foreign policy, also in the last year proved its relevance, importance and input. It showed up that through a dialogue it is able to solve existing opened issues and to near standpoints of related Central European countries. This reinforced stability and security of the whole region. One cannot omit here that development of mutual co-operation of the V4 member countries is assisted also by the International Visegrad Fund with its Secretariat in Bratislava. A discussion about the V4 future in a context of the participating countries' future EU membership is led currently, as you know. Because co-operation of small and medium sized countries is a reality in pursuance of their interests there is a motivation to continue in co-operation also after accession of these countries to the EU, at what our foreign policy will work.

In 2002 development of bilateral relations of the Slovak Republic was determined by priorities in European and Trans Atlantic integration. In this period of time bilateral relations were directed mainly to gaining support of relevant states for our accession into the European Union and NATO. Along this the bilateral dimension of the Slovak diplomacy was led by an effort of further development of relations with neighbouring



countries. In economic sphere there dominated an attempt to diversify and further deepen economic and trade relations.

During the last year in relations to neighbouring countries a special place was given to relations with the Czech Republic. An intensive political dialogue continued characterised by contact and co-operation practically in all fields and at all levels starting at a working expertise one and finishing at a high political one. We managed to reach some coordination and co-operation in the European Union accession process. Unequivocal support for the Slovak membership in NATO was characteristic.

Co-operation with the Republic of Poland was also intensified. We coordinated our positions in the integration process. Poland actively supported accession of the Slovak Republic to NATO. Visits at the highest level were realised contributing to intensification of economic co-operation. The cross border co-operation was intensified.

Foreign policy in relation to the Republic of Hungary was based on necessity to keep positive relations gained at bilateral and multilateral level. During the reviewing time our relations were denoted by opening the issue of the so called Beneš's Decrees and the issue of the Act on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries. The Slovak diplomacy continued in its efforts to find a solution of the issue that would reflect our essential comments to this legal norm. Our bilateral relations with Hungary were positively influenced by support of Slovak accession to NATO from Hungarian side and exchange of experiences from preparation for the membership in the European Union.

Concerning the two probably the most important "players" of the current world, the United States of America and the Russian Federation, in June 2002 culminated bilateral relations with the USA by a visit of the President R. Schuster in the White House. Together with the January visit of the Chairman of the National Council of the SR thus for the first time in a history of independent Slovakia there were all supreme representatives of the Slovak Republic received by their American partners within one year. Immediately after the closure of the Prague NATO Summit the American Defence Secretary arrived to the Slovak Republic and confirmed inclusion of Slovakia into USA allies.

In 2002 a Slovak foreign policy was characteristic by activated contacts at the supreme level towards the Russian Federation. Their culmination we see in two visits of the President of the SR in the Russian Federation and a visit of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the SR in Moscow. These contacts were an important impulse for further development of pragmatic relations with an emphasis on economic dimension of co-operation. During the given time economic co-operation was revived and a solution of RF's debt towards the SR was neared by reaching an agreement about regulation of redeems of a remarkable part of the debt by a direct financial compensation.

The most important role of foreign policy of the SR in consular field along practical defence of interests of our citizens in abroad laid in harmonisation of visa practise of the SR with the visa practise of the EU countries. We also enlarged our career consular

network. In 2002 Consulate General in Krakow was opened. The net of consular offices of the SR led by honorary consuls was also distended.

Priorities of human resources management of the MFA SR were in 2002 determined by foreign policy priorities – EU and NATO accession. The process of application of the law about state and public service in the department continued, as well as did the process of further building up personal representation in our Embassies and Missions, which were strengthened by 9 new diplomats, European integration and security issues experts. For your information, in 2002 the SR had in abroad 61 embassies, 8 permanent missions and missions, 7 consulates general, and 8 Slovak Institutes at the Embassies – a number adequate to possibilities and capacities of our country.

The 2002 closed one important stage of modern history of our foreign policy. The stage I would call a preparatory one. With 2003 the Slovak Republic enters the second, a so called transition stage. We managed to close accession negotiations within NATO and now we focus on reaching the fastest possible approval of membership of the Slovak Republic in the NATO member countries national parliaments. Equally, we are still facing ratification process in the EU countries and the May referendum in which our citizens will present their notion about the SR's membership in the European Union.

This stage will be filled with our real membership in NATO and EU which we expect in the middle of 2004, when we become legal and full-fledged members of these Euro Atlantic communities. This will start the third stage moving our country and its foreign policy to qualitatively new and higher level.

From this development perspective I see the year 2002 in discipline of Slovak Republic's foreign policy as extraordinarily positive and our diplomacy able to actively, reliably and successfully handle challenges and tasks brought by the last year. I believe it is going to be so also during this year.

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## Presentation of Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic Ivan Šimko

I have accepted the invitation to the Conference with a pleasure. To study the year 2002 from the Slovak foreign policy perspective is also for a Minister of Defence very exciting. In its beginning we were as in a crossroad. The world and we ourselves, as well, assumed which one of the possible ways we choose. And the 2002 really brought answers. Today we are in a windstorm of events resulting from what happened last year, as a state with a clear direction. The last year was for our homeland a year of decisive decisions. Decisions, to my opinion, defining the position of the Slovak Republic for a long period of time.

There are three so-to-say fateful decisions. The first of them is represented by the September parliamentary elections. The Slovak electorate accepted the decision. The second issue was a decision about invitations to the North Atlantic Alliance and the European Union. These were decided by our future partners in these groupings. And finally it was a decision about our position in the Iraqi crisis. The Slovak Government decided this one. The National Council of the Slovak Republic elections determined continuity of democratic rule in our country. The whole democratic world expected results. It was a game for trustworthiness of our course. Our partner states representatives often stressed that the elections result is a decisive factor for a future position of Slovakia in Europe and the world. Since the beginning of 2002 it was more than clear that not our diplomatic skills or ability would be a basis for future international position of our country, but our internal political reality. In the elections result our foreign policy gained internal political anchorage, a firm point and trustworthiness. From the evening until the morning Slovakia got transformed from an expectant to a player.

The most important result of the last year's parliamentary elections was thus a power issue. The people decided that Slovakia continues in democratisation of the society and is determined to finish reforms. In the region tossed about by permanent change of political elites we suddenly became a stability factor. We showed that a regime change in 1998 was not only some amplitude of a pendulum of historic events for one

election period. Difficulties, problems but also mistakes that quite consistently appear during democratisation of a situation very often lead to the fact that people loose from their considerations the global route and after an experiment with democrats they choose an experiment with someone else. This often leads to instability and discontinuity. Our elections showed maturity of our society. The Slovak way goes through the year 1998 exactly as through the year numbered 2002. It is also worth to mention onerous atmosphere of those months and years before. How many times it looked like it would not be possible to explain and show the people that despite all difficulties and perhaps even mistakes we really are on the right path. Despite that the last September showed very clearly that people in our country understood it. The decision is a foundation for clear home and foreign policy of the state.

Based on the elections result very soon a democratic government of a homogenous programme was established. It is a basis of our authority, trustworthiness and clear political line for foreign policy of Slovakia. The elections decided not only the issue of democratic power continuity. People via their voting were deciding also about a programme of a foreign policy orientation. It must be stressed that it is quite infrequent. Usually voters pay substantially much bigger attention to issues of home, social, economic or security policy. Foreign policy issues become a decisive election agenda more rarely. And even then usually only in times of national threat. But in 2002 the agenda of NATO and EU accession became a decisive elections theme. Political parties competed which one is trustworthier and more capable for leading Slovakia to both institutions. Elections thus gave to the parliamentary political parties a clear and very wide mandate to do everything to bring our country to these institutions. That includes not only inconspicuous sections in election programmes of contesting political parties that were then perhaps chosen by electorate for other merits not noticing or not paying an attention to the issue. Today it is – though a bit paraphrased – planted on us by organisers of various obstacles for the NATO accession, who did not succeed in the elections with this agenda. But it is not so long ago not to remember it. The last September elections brought the integration issue as one of the major issues if not the most important one. None of the parliamentary parties escaped a clear answer and a definition of its standpoint to the issue. This was really clearly decided by the electorate.

Autumn of the last year brought us also another sphere of crucial decisions. It was the Prague Summit resulting in invitation to the NATO accession negotiations and the Copenhagen Summit representing a similar decision towards the EU. Formally those were only steps of the whole accession process but in reality they were dramatically serious political decisions. After long considerations of “if” and “if, than how many and who” the member states finally decided enlargement of both integrational groupings and they chose Slovakia for both. It is worth to remind us that a year ago it was absolutely not clear. Not only for an expected result of our elections. It was not clear even whether the Alliance and Union member states want it and if yes, then in what format. This all happened in 2002. Both autumn summits thus meant a real

decision. Serious and without pathos historical. Speculations were closed and clear rules for a further line were set.

To stress and evaluate importance of these decisions for Slovakia is probably not necessary. We are getting into a main stream of events of our civilisation sphere not only as its random geographical element but this time probably for the first time in a history also as an active player. It is not a bagatelle. Life of nations is not poetical today. Everyone fights for his place under the Sun, for influence and space for his interests and life. And here ruthless rule applies: he, who immobilises, will be overrun by interests of others. This is why it is a vital interest of Slovakia to be an active subject.

As a Minister of Defence I cannot omit mainly the decision to invite Slovakia to the North Atlantic Alliance. The invitation has a crucial importance for our country because NATO is the only really functioning organisation of collective defence in the world. There is nothing else that could secure at least an inexact of our national security but our membership in the Alliance. Nevertheless there is one more aspect: security environment of the current world is getting changed dramatically. International terror and the so called asymmetric threats create a necessity of closer co-operation of democratic countries in protection of their citizens. This requires fundamental reforms in thinking, in organisation of armed forces and international law. Slovakia in NATO will be a plain participant of the changes. It will have a possibility to contribute and thus guard its life interests. There is no alternative to the process that would not be catastrophic for our country.

Decisions about invitation of the Slovak Republic to both integrational groupings are clear culmination of home policy changes especially after 1998 and clear foreign policy line. Though these are decisions of the member states, they were taken mainly because Slovakia fulfilled conditions. Let me again focus mostly on the sphere of national security: last year we fully started a reform of our armed forces. Painful and expensive reform but one that is effective and earning respect also with our future allies. Our soldiers act often far from our borders. Concerning the number of inhabitants today we belong to the most active states. We have more than 800 military personnel in various missions. They are reliable, brave and even better trained and equipped. Our future allies and partners see in practice that Slovakia and its Army are reliable. This is also one of important factors of our foreign policy of the last year. Our ability to secure our foreign policy also by use our armed forces is a footing for the fact that our position is not just a gift or goodwill of other powers but also a result of our own activity and our own force.

To the Alliance gate we are coming not only appealingly but as a country that has what to offer. This is a foundation for our future equal relations. Also this is a decision of the Prague Summit from November 2002 and our foreign and defence policy of the last year.

Finally, there is the third crossroad of the foreign policy of the last year. While the first one concerned only us, the second one all candidate countries, this one was the

widest one. And also the least expected one. But a crucial one for a long time. It is about relationship between America and Europe. About NATO and the EU. And also about relations inside Europe. About what the incessant change or destruction of the After the Second World War World Order brings. About new architecture after the fall of the Iron Curtain, unification of Germany, continuous democratisation of the former Soviet Block – this all creates new lines of force on the map of Europe and world. I must also and again remind you of new threats. This all somehow converges in the Iraqi crisis in the end of 2002 and makes practically all states of the Euro-American civilisation to define their standpoints and create thus a new environment of international relations within this civilisation. In a seemingly easy question how to make the Iraqi dictator to execute the Security Council requirements of the last twelve years, in November and December 2002 there concentrated conflicts having nothing to do with Iraq itself.

The Slovak Government in this extremely complicated situation did not linger. It came into power in a time when this conflict became outlined. Thus it already in its Governmental Programme very clearly defined its standpoint to the relation between Europe and America: we support building of the European security pillar but we understand it as an assumption of a greater part of responsibility for security of our region, although definitely within the Trans Atlantic security system. We were very soon confronted by this basic thesis in necessity to take a position in escalation of the Iraqi crisis. It is necessary to say openly and honestly: we could not stay aside. Also inactivity would mean a very clear standpoint. I am sure it would not be a position compatible with the programme direction of the governmental policy and mainly it would not correspond with our long-term national interests. Besides it would be a policy of appeasement versus a threat to the world security, a policy that in the thirties of the last century brought the world to a catastrophe.

Many then blamed us for a pro-American standpoint after the Iraqi crisis escalation. But this is just a consequence of the above mentioned thesis of our Governmental Programme. The thesis, which is an expression mainly of our national interest. It was not a coincidence that the same position was adopted by nearly all transforming countries.

There are and there will be member states' national interests also in the EU. Not all will be identical. From time to time they collide. It is natural that everyone tries to pursue his own needs. Slovakia is a small state, but has its own legitimate interests. The Trans Atlantic dimension in crucial political and security issues offers also for small European states a bigger operational space for exertion of own national needs. It offers a wider autonomy for independent foreign policy decisions. It creates thus a stronger basis for securing their identity in the widest meaning of this world. This is why a balanced position of Slovakia towards the European integration and politico-security alliance with the USA is to my view a long-term strategic interest of our foreign policy. If we set aside the basic original question of security, then in a wider and longer term dimension the decision of the Slovak Government and the Slovak

Parliament in the Iraqi crisis in a brake of 2002 and 2003 was an expression of this national interest of the Slovak Republic.

So, to conclude and asses foreign policy of the Slovak Republic during the last year I may in a bit immodest way state that thanks to three crucial issues, or if you want decisions we became a more active subject of international life, than we were a year before. It is good, because in times of big changes we are probably coming into, it is better to be a subject than an object of the changes. It is good to be aware of the fact that every our step, every our decision may define for long our future position in world events. But equally it is worth to realise that foreign policy is not an autonomous activity sphere of our state separated from home political reality. The biggest authority and strength were given to our foreign policy positions by the last year parliamentary elections – that means home political decision of Slovak citizens. Without strong internal political basis foreign policy is usually waving. And this in times of big changes is the worst possible. A waving standpoint in a crucial moment can cause a big damage. We should be aware of this consequence in our home political discussions. It is about responsibility and internal power of our country in a time, which is not stable neither easy.





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# Presentation of the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic Ján Figel'

At the very beginning I would like to acknowledge the organisers, the Slovak Institute for International Studies and Konrad Adenauer Foundation, for organising already the fourth year of a this valuable event, where an opportunity to discuss Slovak foreign policy is given not only to its key actors from constitutional institutions, but also to the representatives of academic and science field.

The year 2002 was extraordinarily important and very successful for Slovakia from the foreign policy point of view. Finalising the accession negotiations with the European Union on the Copenhagen Summit and gaining invitation to the negotiations concerning the accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation on the Prague Summit are undoubtedly historical moments in Slovakia's modern history. They represent the top of endeavour to integrate fully our country into Euro Atlantic political, economic, security and last but not least value space, which took place after November.

It was possible to achieve this success only due to constant, long-lasting, unified and concentrated effort of the highest constitutional institutions, above all, the President, the Parliament and the Government, relevant political parties, both the coalition and the opposition, economic area, different professional and interest groups, non-governmental sector, as well as other components of the society. In this context the irreplaceable role of our supreme legislation body in the process of Euro Atlantic integration of Slovakia must be underlined in the process of approving a large number of legislation rules linked to the adoption of *acquis*, or in joining intensive political dialogue and diplomatic offensive, which preceded the key decisions in Copenhagen and in Prague.

## European Union

One of the main objectives of foreign policy of the Slovak Republic in 2002 was accomplishing negotiations on accession to the EU by the end of the year, so our country could be admitted to the EU together with its neighbours from the Visegrad Group. During the Spanish Presidency in the first half of 2002 we succeeded in closing ad interim 4 negotiation chapters (Taxes, Transportation, Justice and Home Affairs, Institutions), as well as a part of the chapter Agriculture concerning veterinary and phyto-sanitary legislation. From the Slovak Republic point of view mainly the chapter Taxes was important, as the Slovak Republic required more transitional periods and exceptions concerning VAT and consumption taxes. As an example successful enforcement of transitional period on taxation of cigarettes in its original length till the end of 2008 may be mentioned here.

During the Danish Presidency in the second half of 2002 the chapter Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments, which is crucial for drawing financial sources from the EU Structural Funds, was closed at the end of July. During the October Accession Conference we succeeded, after very complex negotiations, in closing the chapter Competition and the Slovak Republic negotiated transition periods for granting subsidies for the Volkswagen Bratislava and US Steel Košice. Final negotiations in the chapters with financial impact, it means in horizontal part of the chapter Agriculture and in the chapter Budget were extraordinarily difficult. A cardinal advance in these chapters was achieved on the European Council Summit on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October 2002 in Brussels, which defined the EU positions in sensitive issues concerning direct payments, heights and modalities of administering, as well as a total, so called financial package. Final version of accession conditions for the new countries was adopted after intensive negotiations on the European Council Summit in Copenhagen on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2003. It can be assessed after all, that the Slovak Republic at the end of negotiations concluded with the EU implementation of its main objectives – positive budgetary situation in 2004, a balance of rights and commitments, as well as an acceptable height of direct payments and quotas.

As for the political dialogue with the European institutions it is necessary to mention in the first place intensive communication of the Slovak Parliament with the European Parliament. In July 2002 an official visit of the European Parliament Chairman, P. Cox, took place in the Slovak Republic. Regular meetings of chairmen of parliaments of the candidate countries with the Chairman of the European Parliament continued during the last year (in Riga in May and in Brussels in November). The dialogue among parliaments of member and candidate states was carried also on the level of chairmen of Foreign Affairs Committees and European Affairs Committees. These meetings took place during the Spanish Presidency (in Madrid in March) and the Danish Presidency (in November in Copenhagen). Two sessions of Joint Parliamentary Committee EU-SR (13<sup>th</sup> session in Bratislava in June and 14<sup>th</sup> session in Brussels in December) took place, where the accession negotiations and preparation of the Slovak

Republic to access the EU was discussed as a priority. A plenary session of the European Parliament concerning enlargement took place in Strasbourg in November 2002, where, for the first time, members of national parliaments of the candidate countries participated, including 13 Slovak parliamentarians. Intensive communication with the European Parliament was reflected, among others, in prevailing positive evaluation of the reform process and preparation of the SR in the resolutions approved by the European Parliament.

## **Convent on Drafting the Future Design of Europe**

Based on Declaration adopted on the Summit in Laeken in 2001 a Convent on Drafting the Future Design of Europe was created and it started its activities in February 2002 in Brussels. A positive fact is that the candidate countries are fully involved in the Convent activities from the very beginning. The Slovak Republic is being represented by two representatives of the Parliament and one representative of the executive, who worked actively not only in the plenary but also in different working groups, which formulated concrete proposals of reforms of the Union to the plenary of the Convent. An outcome of the effort of the Convent should be a proposal of the Constitutional Treaty, which should be a background for the coming Intergovernmental Conference.

Slovakia answered the discussion on the future of Europe also by the National Convent on European Future of Slovakia, which started its activities in May 2001, it means before establishing the Convent in Brussels. In the National Convent political parties, academic field, churches, interest groups, trade unions, municipal and regional representations, as well as non-governmental organisations are represented. Three sessions of the National Convent took place last year and on the 5<sup>th</sup> session in December a declaration was adopted and it contained preliminary position of the Slovak Republic concerning simplification of the legal basis and institutional framework of the Union.

## **NATO**

A successful sum of our efforts of integration to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was preceded by intensive foreign policy activities, that focused by large on a political dialogue with NATO, on practical preparation of the Slovak Republic to the NATO membership via the Membership Action Plan (MAP) and on an active participation within the Euro Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and the Partnership for Peace (PFP). An important role in the process of enlargement of NATO was played by the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO, where the members of the National Council of the

Slovak Republic worked actively through a permanent delegation. The activities of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly focused last year, above all, on adjustment to the new safety challenges after 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001, as well as on documents for the Prague Summit including NATO enlargement. These important issues were dealt with during two sessions of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly last year (the Spring Session in Sofia and the November Annual Session in Istanbul). In 2002 the Deputy Chairman of NATO Parliamentary Session, M. Meckel, paid a visit to the Slovak Republic (March 2002), as well as did the Sub-committee for the Future of Security and Defence Capacities of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. The National Council of the Slovak Republic was involved in organizing the Rose-Roth seminar in Bratislava (25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2002), where the NATO Secretary General Deputy for Political Affairs, D. Speckard, participated. The activities of the deputies of the National Council of the Slovak Republic within the Group for Rapid Integration of the Slovak Republic to NATO should be emphasized here, as it played a positive role in the process of gaining support in the member states concerning Slovakia's membership in NATO. Similarly important was the visit of newly elected Slovak parliamentarians in the NATO headquarters in Brussels and SHAPE in Monsa (16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2002).

## **Other parliamentary activities**

It is important to enforce parliamentary dimension of co-operation with other important international organisations, where the members of the National Council of the Slovak Republic are represented, and in other permanent delegations at international organisations (Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Western European Union and Central European Initiative).

I would like to mention especially the activities of Slovak parliamentarians in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The sensitive topic of the Act on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries was discussed there, while the Committee for Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has accepted the report of E. Jurgens concerning this Act with a text of resolution, which is corresponding with the standpoint of the Slovak Republic in this matter. In connection with this controversial act we might mention other negotiations of the Foreign Committee dedicated to this topic (November and December 2001, March 2002), as well as the Declaration of the National Council of the Slovak Republic dated 7<sup>th</sup> February 2002, in which the Parliament supported the position of Slovak diplomacy. This fact can be emphasized as an example of effective co-operation of executive and the Parliament in enforcing foreign policy interests of the Slovak Republic.

The Foreign Affairs Committee as well as other National Council committees developed a dialogue also on a bilateral level. A closer communication was carried out mainly with partners from the Visegrad group: there were bilateral visits of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic taking place in Budapest (25<sup>th</sup> February 2002) and in Prague (16<sup>th</sup> April 2002), as well as a meeting of chairpersons of Foreign Affairs Committees, Committees for European Integration and Committees for Defence and Security of the V4 states in Budapest (31<sup>st</sup> January – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2002).

To conclude, I'd like to emphasise the work of parliamentary friendship groups with different countries in the world, which can actively support development of bilateral relationships also during periods of time, when for one reason or another communication on the highest political level is not successful. In order to give a positive example the visit of Slovak-Israeli friendship group in Israel (6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2002) may be mentioned here as it got a very positive response among Israeli partners.

## **Conclusion**

Foreign policy outcomes in 2002 created preconditions for gaining a full membership of the Slovak Republic in the EU and NATO. In order to implement this membership it is necessary to accomplish maximum not only for a successful ratification of our membership, but also in continuing reforms and multilateral preparation to Slovakia's valuable functioning within these structures.



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## Presentation of, Chairperson of the Committee for European Integration of the National Council of the Slovak Republic Monika Beňová

It is an honour for me to present to this audience, but I have to tell you at the very beginning, that a significant part of my presentation has already been said by Mr. Figel, as evaluation of foreign policy of Slovakia from the chief negotiator's position and the position of the chairperson of the European Integration Committee are very close topics. Let me make at least a few notes concerning foreign policy and its results during last year.

The year 2002 was a very important year from the EU integration point of view and from Slovakia joining NATO point of view. Despite the fact that I am not only the chairperson of the Committee, but also a member of an opposition party, it must be said that objectives that the government aimed at in foreign policy, have been accomplished last year. I'd like to appreciate especially Mr. Figel's work as the chief negotiator's work, who managed to gain for Slovakia maximum in the framework of possible barriers that we had as a candidate country.

Foreign policy of the Slovak Republic is at the same time the area that in those two core topics, integration to the European Union and NATO accession, connects coalition and opposition parties. In this field the opinions of coalition and by large also opposition, are the same, as there is only one opposition party represented in the Parliament, which does not agree with joining NATO. The situation that came into existence due to the Iraqi crisis will cause some turbulence in opinions in foreign policy of the Slovak Republic and will influence a little the existing accord of coalition and opposition. It must be said, that this fact interfered not only with coalition and opposition, but also with the core of individual coalition parties.

I believe that the war in Iraq influenced not only turbulences among different EU member states but also Euro Atlantic relationships as such. It is difficult to answer the question of future development of this particular situation, but I'd be more than happy if Slovakia's membership in the EU and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation would allow Slovakia to participate actively in eliminating these tensions and in regaining a friendly status of the relationships.

I am very pleased to be a member of the Delegation of Observers in the European Parliament, as we are getting plenty of information and we can explain certain positions to each other during our meetings with the European Parliament members. I believe that our Delegation of Observers will be successful, as since May we have been supposed to participate actively in the European Parliament sessions and similarly to the situation in Strasbourg last year we will utilize also this year to present Slovak positions. As for the Convent mentioned by Mr. Figel, I'd be very pleased if not only our national Convent but also the Slovak Parliament would start preparing a joint position of the Slovak Republic, which should be pushed through by Slovak representatives in the Convent.

I think that two issues concerning foreign policy are going to change significantly for the Slovak Republic. Integration will not be dominant in foreign policy any more, it should transfer to the level of internal policy, to different sectors as it resulted also from the outcomes of the meeting with the Secretary General of the European Commission, there is already a lot of issues to deal with in Slovakia. News coming to Slovakia either from the European Commission or from other European institutions means more than a criticism for a criticism's sake. This information should call our attention to the weak points, which have to be solved in order to be well prepared to join the EU. The accession itself should not be our aim. EU accession should create for our country and other candidate countries space and conditions for improving the economic and social situation.

I'd like to go back to the compliment to the chief negotiator's team – in case we'd like to make the most of what Mr. Figel and his team have negotiated, we would have to do a lot here in our country. If this is going to be a success or not is not only an issue of our Committee or the members of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, but of course, an issue concerning the executive bodies. Another change will be, that by becoming an EU member and a NATO member Slovakia will become also an official partner of these organisations and there are of course commitments resulting from such a partnership. I believe that we will manage to meet the commitments resulting out of the EU and NATO membership. This task will require co-operation of all involved, as I have stressed several times, coalition and opposition are not going to access the EU and NATO separately, it is the whole country and all citizens of our country who are going to join.

As for the activities of our Committee I have to mention that we are trying to be active both on the international forum, as well as within relationships with our neighbours. Meetings of foreign affairs, integration and defence-security parliamentary



committees of the Visegrad countries took place. I'd like to mention here the Visegrad group concerning the emerging issues related to the state of the Visegrad co-operation after accession to the EU – whether the Visegrad countries create a strong union with a more significant importance than if the countries operated individually. I'm speaking very frankly now that in this context I am rather sceptical. It is not because I believe that a sort of individualism is better but rather because of my notion, that this co-operation is more or less formal.

One of the tasks that our Committee is facing is to participate in the COSAC (Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of the Parliaments of the European Union) meetings. It is necessary to mention, that important changes are going to happen here as well. I hope that we'll manage, at least from the position we have, to present the standpoints of Slovakia. One of our midterm tasks is to prepare our transformation into a Committee for European Affairs. It is logical as Slovakia is becoming an EU member state. In this context it is crucial, that the Committee for European Affairs, no matter who the members are or who is chairing it, is active and efficient towards the executive. We have established a preparatory commission consisting not only of members of our Committee. On the contrary, we tried to invite experts to the commission, who might assist with this change.

To conclude my comments from the position of the chairperson of the Committee for European Integration I'd like to emphasise that all of us are aiming at the same objective, but we may have different opinions concerning instruments that should be used in order to accomplish the objective. This but shall not make us enemies.



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# Presentation of the Chairman of the Committee for Human Rights, Minorities and the Position of Women of the National Council of the Slovak Republic László A. Nagy

Why is it necessary to talk about the issue of adherence to the human rights in the Slovak Republic and its institutional establishment at the evaluation conference of Slovak foreign policy? Are human rights an aspect of foreign policy? It can be said that the adherence to human rights belongs to the interior policy issues. It is the issue of existence or non-existence of the internal legal and institutional framework and everyday experience. It is the issue of respecting or not respecting the human rights by the administrative bodies in its extensive activities. It is the issue of following and respecting the framework considered as a standard in Europe and the world by the citizens in their activities and the building of their mutual relations.

The question has been raised and the answers are correct. The answers are correct but they are not detailed. The adherence to the human rights in individual countries since the adoption of the UN Declaration on Human Rights, the adherence to the human rights in Europe since adoption of the Helsinki Declaration and the adherence to the human rights in the candidate countries to the EU since the adoption of the Copenhagen criteria has stopped being the internal issue of the countries. Not only the issue of the adherence to the human rights constitutes the organic part of the state's internal policy character but also this issue became the basic attribute of the country judgement in the international context. Albeit the issue of adherence to the human rights in the Slovak Republic is internal policy issue, it has got significant foreign policy impact for Slovakia. In respect to this, it is right and obvious, that we

discuss some human rights activities of the Slovak policy and especially of the National Council of the Slovak Republic at this forum.

Failure to fulfil the Copenhagen criteria in the accession process to the EU before the year 1998 moved the Slovak Republic to the second group of candidate countries. The Copenhagen criteria are the political criteria of the accession to the EU with a significant aspect even in the field of human and minorities' rights. At the Luxembourg Summit, the Slovak Republic was evaluated as the country with a deficit in democracy and was not invited to the negotiation table.

The answer to this legitimate criticism was the Programme Declaration of the new M. Dzurinda's government after the parliamentary election in 1998 and 2002 and its specification in the government's activities, as well as in the legislative activities of the National Council of the Slovak Republic. In the following period Slovakia accessed and ratified the whole range of significant international documents in the field of basic rights and freedoms, in the field of human rights and the rights of national minorities and moreover approved the acts concerning the concrete fields of life with its human rights aspects e.g. Labour Code, Civil Code, Criminal Code, Law on Personal Data Protection, Law on the Use of the Languages of the National Minorities etc.

This policy also included approved programmes of fight against the manifestation of racism and intolerance, programmes for solving the Roma issue. The new institutional solutions in the field of human rights, e.g. Deputy Prime Minister for Human Rights and Minorities, the Committee for Human Rights and National Minorities, Government Council for National Minorities, Coordination Committee for Equal Opportunities or Slovak Government's Plenipotentiary for the Roma Communities were established. Thanks to this positive movement of the Slovak internal policy, the criticism of the deficit of democracy has been removed gradually. In the previous five years, the adherence to the human rights in the Slovak Republic stopped being an obstacle to the accession process of the Slovak Republic to the European structures.

In 1998, the Committee for Human Rights and Minorities was established. In the previous election period it was a guarantee committee for all international documents concerning human rights and the rights of national minorities, as well as a guarantee committee concerning interior legislation. The Committee monitored and controlled the human rights aspects of the activities of the Government of the Slovak Republic, the Public Prosecution of the SR, the Ministry of Interior of the SR, the Ministry of Justice of the SR, the Ministry of Education of the SR, the Ministry of Culture of the SR, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the SR, regional offices and local self-governments. The activities of the Committee were spread on the issues of the position of women in the society.

What was the role of the Committee for Human Rights, Minorities and the Position of Women of the National Council of the Slovak Republic in the development of the system of adherence to the human rights in Slovakia during the evaluated year? In the first half of 2002 the Committee was in the last stage of completion of the legislative

tasks resulting from the Programme Declaration of the Government of the SR, tasks of the establishment of the human rights institutions and legislative tasks resulting from the accession process to the EU. It is necessary to mention the most significant new legislative norms that were adopted during this period, e.g. Law on Personal Data Protection, Asylum Law, Amendment to the Criminal Code and Criminal Law. The paragraph concerning the stricter judging and punishment of the domestic violence posed the significant part of the Civil Law amendment. The Law on the Institute of the Nation's Memory was approved. As far as the international documents are concerned, the ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Convention of the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data was the most significant legislative step. By the election of the historically first Ombudsman in Slovakia, the several decades lasting Slovakia's remaining behind the European democratic states and a few years remaining behind the former socialists states of Eastern Europe was removed.

In the latter half of 2002, the Committee started to complete the tasks stemming from the new Programme Declaration of the Government of the SR. *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court* was ratified. The law on the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights is negotiated and the Anti-discrimination Law is being prepared.

In the framework of the Committee control activities, it negotiated the reports on human rights aspects of the work of the Deputy Prime Minister P. Csáky, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Culture, the Plenipotentiary for Personal Data Protection, the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior, the Slovak Government's Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities and the Agent of the SR to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Within the widened scope of activities, the Committee prepares establishment of the Commission of Equal Opportunities and the Position of Women, which is going to be its advisory body. The members of the Committee take part in the developing of the new principles of the Roma policy in the SR, as well as in the establishment of the new Roma Office as the central body of the state administration. As far as the human rights documents of the Slovak Republic as well as the level of the human rights in Slovakia are concerned, the Committee wants to focus its attention on the issues of the human rights violations in some other foreign countries e.g. Cuba, North Korea, etc.

The Slovak Republic will join the European Union and NATO in the near future. These facts will bring the new tasks for legislative activities in the human rights field especially in the process of adopting of the Anti-discrimination Law, tasks for implementation of the languages rights of the national minorities and tasks of the complex solution of the Roma issue. In terms of judging and evaluating the Slovak Republic abroad, it will be henceforward determining how the Slovak Republic will be able to deal with it.



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*Grigorij Mesežnikov*

## Domestic Development as a Prerequisite of Successful Integration

The year 2002 was of special importance for the Slovak Republic. The country definitely mastered the lag in integration behind its neighbour countries inherited from the 1994 – 1998 period. By the end of 2002 it completed the negotiation process with the European Union and was invited to join NATO. This was the last year of the 1998 – 2002 term of office, the last year of the Prime Minister M. Dzurinda's first cabinet, the year of parliamentary and local elections. In 2002 a new coalition consisting of SDKÚ (Slovenská demokratická a kresťanská únia – Slovak Democratic and Christian Union), SMK (Strana maďarskej koalície – Party of Hungarian Coalition), KDH (Kresťansko-demokratické hnutie – Christian Democratic Movement) and ANO (Aliancia nového občana – New Citizen's Alliance) formed the Dzurinda's second cabinet. Pleasant conditions were formed to accomplish the country's integration ambitions, above all thanks to the state authorities (especially the Foreign Service), actively asserting the priorities defined in terms of foreign policy, as well as thanks to the main trends of domestic development.

### **Principal trends of domestic development in the Slovak Republic in 2002**

Even in the final phase of the 1998 – 2002 term of office the stability of the ruling coalition was preserved, so that the democratic, pro-reform and pro-integration

orientation could continue. The operation of the system of constitutional institutions based on power division was failure-free; the relations between its institutions were of co-operative character; the foundations of the rule of law were fostered and the conditions for the enforcement of human rights improved as a result of appropriate legislative steps.

As a result of the elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic favourable conditions were created strengthening the pro-reform orientation imposed by the development since 1998. By the end of 2002 a coalition was formed consisting of right-of-centre political parties with similar political programmes, most of them already having co-operation experience from the previous term of office. The position of democratic political powers of right-of centre orientation still consolidated after the parliamentary elections in September 2002, the positions of nationalist, authoritarian and extreme powers, however, weakened considerably as a result of major inner conflicts, ensuing fragmentation and the parliamentary elections fiasco. A substantial worsening of the positions of left-wing powers, claiming social democracy, was recorded as well; their representatives lost their seats in the legislation body. In general, the election results confirmed that the transformation processes met the support of the society, necessary for their continuation.

## **The activities of the National Council of the Slovak Republic**

In 2002 the National Council of the Slovak Republic finished its second term of office. During this term the legislation body served its functions effectively enough and without any restrictions. It continued the process of passing legal regulations strengthening the stability of the constitutional system, improving the enforcement of human rights and constantly preparing the Slovak Republic for the accession to the European Union and NATO. Both, the process of law adjustment and the reform of the constitutional system, went on; the parliament passed a number of laws adapting the legal system of the Slovak Republic to the amended constitution. In the respective period the National Council passed one constitutional act (The Act on State Security).

Despite the on-going fragmentation of the parliamentary clubs of individual parties the distribution of power between the ruling coalition and the opposition remained preserved at a level comparable with the last term. This fact enabled the ruling coalition to pass legal acts submitted to discussion in the National Council. In many key issues the cohesion of the ruling coalition was tight enough to resist opposition's proposals aimed at slowing down the reform and democracy strengthening steps in certain issues (especially in terms of staff), this cohesion, however, was not strong enough to assert joint coalition proposals.



In 2002 the effective legislative activity of the legislation body continued. The number of legal norms passed in 2002 was higher than in any other year of the 1998 – 2002 term of office. The intensity of legislative activity in 2002 can be demonstrated by the fact that a higher number of norms were passed within less than eight months (from January to August 2002).

In 2002 the percentage of acts and amendments passed, drafted by parliament members, rose and the percentage of legal norms passed in summary legislative procedure dropped considerably. At the same time the number of acts and amendments, President R. Schuster returned to the National Council to re-discussion, rose.

In April 2002 the National Council passed the Act on Judiciary Council, which was supposed to strengthen the independence of judiciary considerably (the Amendment of the Constitution demanded such an act). The National Council passed a variety of legal acts contributing to higher stability of the institutional system of state power, to the modernisation of the judiciary system and the enforcement of law. Among these also the amendment of the Act on the Organisation of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic (February 2002) counts, strengthening its competencies. The effectiveness of judiciary and its transparency should be increased by means of the Arbitration Act passed in April 2002. The amendments of fundamental acts in terms of judiciary were also of great importance – the amendments of the Civil Procedure Code, the Civil Code and the Criminal Code (June 2002).

The National Council of the Slovak Republic passed the Act on State Security for the case of war, warfare, martial law or the case of emergency, exactly defining the extent of restrictions of basic rights and freedoms, possible in case of war and warfare, and determining the competencies of the Security Council and the Parliamentary Council. The National Council passed three reform military acts – the Act on Conscript Duty, the Act on Armed Forces and the Act on Defence. All of the norms mentioned above, compatible with similar legal norms valid in NATO member states, improved the position of the Slovak Republic considerably, as well as its preparedness to join the organisation.

In 2002 the National Council of the Slovak Republic passed the Agreement with Registered Churches and Religious Communities. The agreement was published in the Collection of Law. It presents a basic scope for co-operation of state and churches. It assures independence and religious freedom, it embeds mutual co-operation of state and churches in terms of culture, education, health service, charity and pastoration. The wording of the Agreement is based on principles analogical to the wording of the international treaty between the Slovak Republic and the Holy See.

In September 2002 parliamentary elections were held. As a result of a political agreement between the ruling coalition parties and the opposition chair positions in the parliamentary committees were distributed 9:8, which meets the proportion of both, the coalition and the opposition, in the legislation body. The opposition took chairmanship in two supervisory committees (*Special Control Committee for the*

*Supervision of Activities of the Slovak Intelligence Service and Special Control Committee for the Supervision of Activities of the Military Intelligence Service*) and in the Committee for European Integration, the Committee for Social Affairs and Housing, in the Defence and Security Committee, in the Committee on Conflict of Interest of Public Officials, the Committee for Agriculture and the Committee for Environment and Nature Protection. Political agreement on the division of chair positions in the parliament and the parliamentary committees established generally favourable conditions for more constructive relations and co-operation between ruling and opposition parties during the 2002 – 2006 term of office.

## **The activities of the President of the Slovak Republic**

In 2002 the relations between the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster and M. Dzurinda's first cabinet were much more co-operative and less conflict than in the previous period. In his speeches the President repeatedly expressed criticism of certain aspects of the activities of the cabinet or its particular members (it was mainly in terms of evaluating the socio-economic development); however, he positively assessed cabinet's activities in terms of foreign policy and government's effort to launch reforms. In terms of foreign policy R. Schuster expressed his positive attitude towards integration, both, into the EU and NATO.

On the other hand, the President was critical in terms of the results of the activities of the cabinet, as well as of the whole coalition, he pointed at persistent social problems. He offered his interpretation of these problems, activating thus disagreement of some cabinet members. Despite the fact that the President relatively often expressed his objections against cabinet's activities and cabinet members publicly expressed their disagreement with these objections, the relations between the president and the cabinet remained as provided by the Constitution and other legal norms. Unlike in previous two years, when the President relatively often presented opinions in several key issues corresponding to those of the party "Smer", in 2002 he didn't seem to tend to the opinions of any political subject. Relatively often he expressed his intention to contribute to such a development after the parliamentary elections that would culminate in the fulfilment of the integration ambitions of the Slovak Republic. He also concentrated on the perspectives of the future development of the Slovak Republic after the elections in September 2002. He connected them directly with the country's integration ambitions. According to R. Schuster the results of the elections would influence the accession of the Slovak Republic to NATO and the EU. According to him the government that would arise after the 2002 elections should retain continuity in the present positive development.

## The Activities of the Government of the Slovak Republic

In 2002 the first Dzurinda's cabinet formed in October 1998 following the coalition agreement between SDK, SDE (Strana demokratickej ľavice – Party of the Democratic Left), SMK and SOP (Strana občianskeho porozumenia – Party of Civil Understanding) finished its term of office (in 2000 KDH entered the treaty). This cabinet was marked by relatively high level of diversity of the individual coalition partners in terms of their political programmes. This diversity was a major complication in terms of the relations inside the ruling coalition and it lowered the effectiveness of the cabinet in terms of taking decisions and actual measures, especially reform measures. This diversity, however, didn't become a factor that would disable coalition co-operation during the whole term of office. In October 2002 a new ruling coalition was formed in the Slovak Republic consisting of parties with similar priorities. This fact established favourable conditions for programme and power continuity.

The configuration inside the coalition was the fundament for the government's policy based on compromise enabling to preserve the country's focus on integration, democracy and reforms. A consensus of the coalition partners prevailed that it was inevitable that the government would function in the same configuration during the whole term of office. The relations between the coalition parties were marked by conflict elements, the actual occurrence of conflicts, however, didn't increase compared to the previous period. By the end of the term of office formalised mechanisms of co-ordination of coalition co-operation were losing in weight continuously; pragmatic attitudes motivated by the need to accomplish the term of office were coming to the foreground.

The legislative activity of the cabinet in terms of the EU accession process was marked by a high rate of effectiveness. After a certain time slip in the preparation of "Euroacts" recorded in March 2002, the government, as well as individual ministries intensified their efforts and respective drafts of acts were presented to the National Council, so that they could be passed during the terminating term of office (35 of the total 42 priority acts listed in the 2001 EC Report were passed by the National Council of the Slovak Republic before the end of the term of office). During its term of office the cabinet drew up a total of 597 legal norms. The Government of the Slovak Republic kept co-operative relations with other institutions of the constitutional system (the parliament, the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, local and regional self-administration bodies). The relations between the cabinet and its individual members and the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster remained generally correct in 2002.

Only several hours after the announcement of the results of the parliamentary elections representatives of four political parties – SDKÚ, SMK, KDH and ANO – agreed on creating a coalition consisting of these parties (with the support of 78 of the total 150 representatives in the National Council of the Slovak Republic).

Programme affinity of SDKÚ, SMK, KDH and ANO in socio-economic issues, their consensus in terms of domestic, as well as foreign policy, their co-operation experience from the previous term of office, as well as declared preparedness to coalition co-operation after the elections, declared by SDKÚ, KDH and SMK, enabled relatively quick and effective negotiations on the formation of a new government, on the division of respective departments, as well as on the programme of cabinet's activities during its term of office. On 8<sup>th</sup> October 2002 the leaders of SDKÚ, SMK, KDH and ANO signed the coalition agreement. According to the premises of the agreement the aim of the coalition co-operation formed by the participating parties is to proceed in "solving complex social, economic and intellectual problems". Coalition partners resolved to expand pluralistic parliamentary democracy as an inevitable quality of civil society, to respect the principles of the rule of law, to establish conditions for the development of market economy, to strengthen the international status of the Slovak Republic and political stability and create conditions for social reconciliation, for national, ethnic and religious tolerance.

At the beginning of November 2002 the Dzurinda's cabinet submitted its Policy Statement to be passed by the National Council of the Slovak Republic. The National Council passed the document in the middle of November 2002. The new cabinet set itself several focus tasks in terms of the development of the political system. In the part *Democratic State* the new government pledged to "guarantee civil freedoms and general development of human rights". It pledged it would try to make the operation of state effective, lean and not expensive, it promised to lower state administration, to de-bureaucratise and modernise public administration and to finish the state administration reform. The Policy Statement includes the pledge to draft a Constitutional Act on the Conflict of Interests, to reduce the immunities of constitutional representatives, to pass an act dealing with lobbying, as well as the Act on Property Declaration.

The cabinet should draft "a change in the election system with the aim of increasing the number of election districts, of enabling private electronic media to participate in the pre-election campaign, of increasing the weight of preferential votes and enabling citizens of the Slovak Republic to vote abroad". The Policy Statement of the government of the Slovak Republic includes the commitment to draw up and submit a draft of the Act on the elections to the European Parliament, so that the elections to the EP in the Slovak Republic could take place in the first half of 2004. The problems, the government will try to cope with, are corruption and the status of the Roma minority. In the part *Secure and Effective State* the government calls the reform of judiciary, higher law enforcement and a radical change in penalty policy its priorities and proposes to make a series of actual steps in terms of the institutional and organisational structure of judiciary. It also suggests carrying out a reform of legal procedure and the criminal law, increasing independence and responsibility of judges. In terms of public administration the government wants to carry on the already launched reform (decentralisation and deconcentration of the state administration, the development of

regional self-administration). It promised to “re-asses the competencies, the effectiveness and the structure of district and regional authorities”, to carry out an analysis of their competencies and according to this analysis to prepare a new organisation of regional state administration to enforce lean administration connected with the disestablishment of district authorities.

## **The evaluation of the domestic development in the Slovak Republic in 2002 by the EU and NATO representatives**

When assessing domestic development in the Slovak Republic in 2002 the representatives of both institutions the Slovak Republic is trying to join, as well as the representatives of individual EU and NATO member states, stressed actual results achieved in the 1998 – 2002 period. They drew attention to the need of solving several enduring problems as a prerequisite of successful progress of the Slovak Republic in the integration processes; they encouraged resolute reform effort and mentioned direct dependence of the prospects of the Slovakia’s EU and NATO membership on the results of the parliamentary elections and the composition of the ruling coalition. The representatives of both institutions welcomed the results of the elections to the National Council and the post-election development, especially the formation of the coalition able to complete the accession to NATO and the EU.

## **Conclusion**

The year 2002 brought several events important for the domestic development of the Slovak Republic; among these especially the parliamentary elections and the formation of the new cabinet. A government arose in terms of its programme and priorities generally corresponding to the needs of the completion of the accession process, as well as the needs of the continuity of economic and social reforms. The election results established favourable political environment, since the progress trends towards integration could continue. The results provided a confirmation of continuity of the country’s orientation imposed in 1998. New prospects opened to the country, the prospects of achieving regular membership in NATO and the EU within the next two years.



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*Pavol Lukáč*

## Slovak Foreign Policy towards the Western Balkans – a Need for Continuity, Differentiated View and Flexibility

During the nineties of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the Western Balkans became as an area of blood conflicts a synonym of problems, not only in the issues linked to nationalism, building a national state, ethnic clean-outs and limitations of democracy, but also a synonym of problems of European responsibility and involvement, solidarity and building a system of European security. The Balkans as an undividable part of Europe still remains a challenge for a more complex solution of these problems, despite that it seems as if not only the world community, but also Europe it would again abandon its old infirmity – a lack of interest in serious problems before they break forth into open conflicts.

Slovak foreign policy and diplomacy, despite its own difficulties and self-isolation, in the first half of the nineties proved a remarkable involvement in the Balkans territory. It can be even admitted, that Slovak difficulties with democratisation during 1994 – 1998 during Mečiar's period sensitised the Slovak civic society towards problems with democratisation on the Western Balkans, particularly in Milosevic's Serbia. Despite the fact, that the reaction did not always had an unambiguous and common denominator, it did not leave indifferent neither the political and social elites, nor the public opinion. Just to remind, it does not need more that to return to the Kosovo crisis in 1999 and the accompanying reactions in Slovakia.<sup>1</sup>

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During the second half of the nineties (and partly even before) we witnessed how in a more intensive form Slovak foreign policy, diplomacy both official and public diplomacy, exercised through non-governmental organisations, pushed itself in the area of former Yugoslavia. I'd like to mention just a few activities without an aspiration to give a full account of the activities representing Slovak involvement on the Balkans.

A lot of Slovak experts participated in monitoring the elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, FRY and Macedonia, either under the OSCE (Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe) or IRI (International Republican Institute) a NDI (National Democratic Institute) umbrella.

There were numerous groups, which repeatedly visited this region and therefore many of them became experts in the local situation. Except for monitoring of the elections, the Slovak experts coming from the NGOs participated also in training of NGOs in the states of former Yugoslavia and willingly passed their know-how from building structures of the civic society, different kinds of NGOs and offered standpoints on possibilities of political activities in the transition period from authoritarian regimes towards an open society.

Slovak foreign policy and diplomacy tried before the fall of mečiarism in Slovakia and mainly after 1998 to push itself significantly in the area of the Western Balkans and particularly in the Federal Republic Yugoslavia, which remained the latest in the grip of a non-democratic regime. Diplomatic mission of the Slovak Republic in Belgrade supported the political opposition in the country, for which the "Slovak model" of destructing mečiarism, by means of merging political opposition in close co-operation with NGOs, represented a sort of political inspiration. Recently published memoirs-like remarks of M. Mojžita, the Slovak Ambassador in Belgrade in the years 1995-2001 proves the real involvement of our diplomacy in this territory, as there was something to tie up and it tried to react meaningfully to new conditions.<sup>2</sup>

A unique chapter in the history of Slovak foreign policy involvement on the Western Balkans was the so called *Bratislava Process*. Under this title there is a special initiative of our diplomacy, which allowed to organise at the end of Milosevic's period on a "neutral" territory in Slovakia, in Bratislava, a meeting of politically divided and diverse anti-Milosevic opposition, non-governmental organisations and think tanks, so they could, in a mutually difficult dialogue, consider not only the fact how to defeat the Milosevic's regime but also the way of renovation of the democratic life in the country. Since 1999 a few seminars took place in Bratislava and in Belgrade which assisted an easier course of democratisation changes. On the Bratislava Process participated besides the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also the East-West Institute, German Marshall Fund of the US and several Slovak non-governmental organisations, such as the Civic Eye (Občianske Oko), Pontis and Memo 98. On 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2002 a ceremonial ending of the *Bratislava Process* took place again in Bratislava, where plenty of participants of the previous meetings and seminars took part. Many of them work nowadays even in different positions in the government. Slovak side informed on this meeting through its former ambassador in Belgrade, M. Mojžita, that Slovakia



would – in terms of the OECD member responsibilities – provide development assistance to FRY as to a prioritised country.<sup>3</sup>

These activities are nothing but examples of an illustration of presence of Slovakia in the Western Balkans territory. It is necessary to continue in this involvement; therefore *continuity* will be a key word here. A strong atmosphere of communication and co-operation with this territory is going on within the milieu of NGOs. The Bratislava office of the German Marshall Fund led by P. Demeš, which is active in the whole Central and South East Europe, is opening a special branch office in Belgrade, that should be operational on the whole Balkans. Slovak Foreign Policy Association, and mainly its Research Centre, is trying to stimulate mutual dialogue by means of organising specialised seminars with experts from think tanks of the Visegrad countries and countries of former Yugoslavia, where the areas of a mutual close co-operation should be defined. The Pontis Foundation continues its programmes aiming at training young leaders from Montenegro and Serbia. The civic community “People in Need” is planning a project to support multiethnic media activities in Kosovo by supporting radio broadcast and training young journalists.

A special Slovak-Serbian Fund Belgrade-Bratislava is just about to be established and through financial resources allocated to development assistance, it should support projects focusing on renovation of the destructed economy and building structures of civic society in Serbia and Montenegro. Some of the participants of the Bratislava Process on its last meeting – for instance J. Minić from the Belgrade Ministry of Foreign Affairs – think of a “new phase” of this process, which should not be a one way process any more, but it could be applied, as a model of assistance in democratisation, also apart from Slovak-Yugoslavian relations.<sup>4</sup>

In a narrow circle of Slovak diplomacy an idea of offering the Slovak neutral territory is being considered for restarting the very necessary dialogue among the Serbs and the Kosovo Albanians, as there has been a gap in it since the conflict in spring 1999 (if not since 1989). Even a sheer meeting would not be just another phase of the Bratislava Process, but a real success for all parties.

The fact, that Slovak foreign policy sees the territory of the Western Balkans a priority of its interests, is proved by the fact, that in the framework of the Department of Analysis and Planning (in co-operation with other departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other ministries, or non-governmental think tanks) three conception materials have been elaborated so far: *Main Objectives and Interests of the Slovak Republic towards the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the Western Balkans*.<sup>5</sup>

Basic elements of the foreign policy conception of the Slovak Republic towards the Western Balkans in political area (except for that, there is economic, security and other areas) consist in the following premises:

- Integration of countries of this territory to Euro Atlantic political, security and economic structures;
- Functioning of an open, civic and democratic society and a legal state based on market economy principles;

- Establishing a multiethnic society and co-operation of countries in providing for valid international-legal commitments concerning democracy, human rights and basic freedoms;
- *Status quo* preservation concerning borders and territorial integrity and support of these issues in bilateral contacts and on international forum.

Concerning security, there is a very important issue “crisis situations solving”<sup>6</sup> next to multilateral co-operation in fighting against organised crime, illegal migration and creating regional dimension of European security.

Later in my argumentation I will try to underline the fact, whether preserving the status quo is not in a contradictory relation with the proclaimed attempt of solving crisis situations. In my opinion, the above mentioned *differentiated optics* and *flexibility* in thinking and acting will be necessary.

Of course, it is obvious, that Slovak foreign policy is in terms of its Euro-integration imperative trying to coordinate and harmonise its acting with acting of the European Union on the Western Balkans – this is how it is presented in the material *Main Objectives and Interests of the Slovak Republic towards the Western Balkans*. This does not exclude the possibility of constructive objecting to some steps of the EU foreign policy on the Western Balkans, after all, this is the only way, how to become a full member, to have our own opinion and a strategy to enforce it. In this respect it might be necessary for Slovak foreign policy to influence the foreign policy platform of the Visegrad group, where Slovakia could initiate some of the V4 activities. Visegrad may become not only an advocate of a special EU strategy towards Eastern neighbours (Ukraine) but also towards the Western Balkans.<sup>7</sup>

In the past there were regional activities in the Central Europe territory aimed at the Western Balkans. Let us remind, for instance, Dubrovnik Summit of Presidents of the Czech Republic V. Havel, Slovenia M. Kučan, Croatia S. Mesić and Montenegro President M. Djukanović (the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster did not take part in the Summit due to his illness) in June 2000. The summit supported in many ways those-time secessionist attempts of Montenegro citizens to disaffiliate from Milosevic’s Yugoslavia. And after all, at that time these attempts were massively supported by the American Administration and in a certain way also by Slovak foreign policy.<sup>8</sup> This policy has changed after the fall of the Milosevic’s dictatorship, when the Western community, on the contrary, started to insist on an unchangeable status quo and refused any other secession and creation of new states.

A significant Slovak assistance in democratisation of Serbia, the so called Bratislava Process, as well as the above mentioned planned activities for the future (e.g. Belgrade-Bratislava Found), create a close Slovak-Serbian alliance. Also due to the above mentioned facts on a creation of some *special relationship* between Slovakia on one side and Serbia and Montenegro on the other is being mentioned lately.<sup>9</sup>

It is nothing but praiseworthy, that Slovakia has left behind its original introvert position and it is cultivating “special” relationships also other than with its closest

neighbours. Serbia and Montenegro are after all close countries for Slovakia both from geographical, cultural and historical point of view.

The Balkans is a mixture of different historical, ethnographic and cultural traditions as well as separating lines recasted to present political attitudes of different countries. If, in the future, Slovakia would like to present itself as a „connoisseur” in the Western Balkans issues, it must accept a more *differentiated optics* of seeing the problems of the Western Balkans. Simply said, this region cannot be viewed only as *sub specie* of Belgrade (or say Podgorica), but the processes must be observed also from the Sarajevo, Pristina, Tirana or Skopje point of view. Only a synthetic result of such vision can be an adequate objective analysis of the course of events on the Western Balkans. Establishing new diplomatic missions on the Western Balkans may assist to this process as they would help covering these issues in Sarajevo and Tirana.

It would be a good idea if Slovakia considered in a more concrete way its contribution to Europe after accession to the European Union. One of such positive contributions might be to use our know-how and human potential in the process of forming European policy towards the Balkans. Our experiences, language and a close mentality might be a specific Slovak contribution. We may even consider aspiration to the position of a Commissioner for (further) enlargement of the Union. Through this position we can market our experiences from the negotiation process and at the same time we can persuade the West European countries it is necessary for the Balkan countries to join the European integration process. Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia are formally candidate countries for the EU accession. Their success may significantly stimulate also the pro-reform course and pro-European policy of those elites that in this territory regard such European values as democracy, human rights, settling with the past and philosophy of good neighbourhood relations.

Other countries in this territory (Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Albania) will need a clear “road map” on what and how to do, so they can slowly but firmly proceed to the EU.<sup>10</sup>

For the future settled and coordinated development on the Western Balkans it will be important to have a concrete idea of a continuous problems solution persisting here since the end of hot conflicts and many others, that come to existence due to inflexibility of international community, insubstantial advocating the *status quo* without a vision how to continue solving problems, for instance protectorates in Bosnia and Herzegovina or Kosovo. Without a sufficient *flexibility* there are threats of new outbreaks of violence as many representatives of radical groups in this territory are aware of the fact, that without a conflict becoming acute the international community is not prepared to start settling future situation on the Western Balkans. Slovak foreign policy and diplomacy, as well as the foreign political community of experts should resolve “awaking” of the Western community and in the interest of future long-term stability they should enforce a bigger flexibility in decision making of important issues of new political configuration on the Western Balkans.

In the milieu of professional community in the West there are already knowledgeable analyses of the need of solving the final status of Kosovo by means of a so called conditional independence conception. It is a definition of independence under a condition, that the representatives of the new subject would commit themselves to a refuse of any territorial and frontier changes (this is how playing around with the idea of Great Albania would potentially be excluded), respecting human and minority rights, and a possibility of voluntary return of the refugees.<sup>11</sup>

A blind persisting on the frame of a formal component of Kosovo in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (now Serbia and Montenegro) does not lead to anywhere. Nevertheless, Belgrade does not have any means to enforce its rule in Kosovo. And now it is an international protectorate, "UNMIKistan" as it is called by V. Surroi. In Kosovo there is no political power that would support a return to any union of Serbia and Montenegro. The risk to delay acknowledgement of sovereignty is launching threats of strengthening radical political directions, which can evolve a conflict again, awarding the status of "conditional independence" means on the contrary enforcement of moderate and pro-European political forces. Except for that, there is another strong nexus, which was given a lapidary definition by T. G. Ash: "One day there will exit a small state called Kosovo or great Albania".<sup>12</sup>

In modern history there are a few examples, that a country due to its expansion and non-democratic policy not only did not expand or confirm its territory, but on the contrary, it lost a lot of its territories. For instance, Germany, after the World War II lost the Eastern territories (Eastern Prussia, Silesia) or Hungary after Trianon lost one third of Hungarian territory. A bitter fact in case of Serbia is, that if Milosevic caused this policy, its fruits must be yielded by current political elites and the Serbian nation as such with its traditional fixation on "historical" territories in Kosovo. As correctly stressed by J. Rupnik, the sooner Belgrade says "goodbye" to Kosovo, the better it is for democracy in Serbia.<sup>13</sup>

At the same time Rupnik rendered another challenge for Europe of the 21<sup>st</sup> century writing, that if the Balkans was dominated by "Serbian issue" in the last decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in the coming decade it could easily be an "Albanian issue".<sup>14</sup>

E. Biberaj is drawing attention to the fact, that if Albanian issue is not managed properly, there can be another outbreak not only in Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro. Presently it seems that the political elites in Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia do not correspond in basic issues of political routing and they have a tendency to start their own action. Albanians in Kosovo and Macedonia do not accept Albania as a "home country".<sup>15</sup>

Therefore it will be important to support policy of political and economic fragmentation of Albanian population in the region. It is obvious, that the risk of a "domino effect" of destruction of current structures is a threat for many West European leaders. They cannot avoid this risk neither in case of staying in the present non-perspective situation.

Another already mentioned issue is the future of Montenegro. An agreement between Serbian and Montenegro political elites under a massive EU pressure personalised in J. Solana led to an agreement, which is reminding more of a three year long moratorium for opening the Montenegro secession issue than of a long-term agreement, which may satisfy both parties and confirm a current model of a bizarre confederation (for instance the existence of two different currency is adding to the bizarreness). It is necessary to have in mind, that even if not a significant majority, but a significant part of Montenegro society including top intellectuals has identified itself with the idea of Montenegro state identity, therefore any successful model of a federation or confederation will hardly persuade them it is a meaningful one.<sup>16</sup> Even here might the essential Slovak experience realise, which during split of Czechoslovakia clearly showed, that any massive pressure from the West, concerning staying in the alliance, is not only ineffective but even contra productive.

An important and cardinal issue of the Western Balkans is going to be a confirmation of a meaningful existence of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This system will need, in order to remain vital, to “rewrite” the Dayton peace treaty, which currently becomes a break of a normal development of a state and it is rather sustaining an abnormal situation of a “three-state”. The Dayton treaty presently became, for instance, a barrier for joining the Partnership for Peace, as there is no homogenous leadership or one Ministry of Defence in the country.

The European leaders seem not to have enough time to solve currently accumulating important problems. It is a very dangerous and risky strategy, a strategy waiting on Godot. This situation may be a challenge for Slovak foreign policy and its V4 partners, a challenge to take over a bigger responsibility and flexible thinking about establishing a more sustainable situation in the Western Balkans. The only correct problem solving recipe in this region is a sub-regional co-operation as a half-step towards a Pan European integration, but it must be kept in mind that any initiative coming from outside may remind to those countries of the concept of former Yugoslavia, they are opposing.<sup>17</sup> Therefore it is necessary to adopt a combined strategy of releasing the pressure on staying in the current status quo combined with straight rules of the game of economic support, creating regional frameworks of co-operation, policy of EU conditionality (as it has been tried in the Slovak Republic) and abiding Copenhagen criteria for the EU membership. It is necessary to refuse any proposals to new “Berlin” conventions that should generally re-design the map of the Western Balkans. Even here may the positive experience from a peaceful division of Czechoslovakia serve while keeping the time internal borders as borders between the new state formations. This might be the way how to keep in one package the principles as designed in the concept of our foreign policy and to abide the principle of constancy of territorial borders and to solve the sources of currently latent, but in the future maybe again, a hot crisis on the Balkans. M. Glenny is in his latest books emphasising many negative and unqualified interventions of European great powers to the Balkans territory.<sup>18</sup>

Being aware of these mistakes may create a bigger space for Central Europe in its Visegrad pattern, to initiate it towards a bigger involvement and a more conceptual presentation on the European diplomatic scene. Slovak foreign policy could become due to its continuity of involvement in the Balkans and flexibility towards applied schemes of viewing those problems not only a connoisseur of the Balkans issues, but also an author of new approaches towards the Balkans in the Central European or directly European policy.

## Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> See Pavol Lukáč (ed.): Kosovo 1999 and Slovak Society, Grigorij Mesežnikov: Internal-political aspects of the Kosovo crisis in Slovakia, pp. 19 – 39 and Oľga Gyarfášová: Kosovo Crisis and the Slovak Society, pp 40 – 53, Research centre SFPA, Bratislava, 2001.
- <sup>2</sup> Miroslav Mojžita: Belgrade: Notes 1995 – 2001, Bratislava, 2003. On Key Role of Slovak Diplomatic Mission, compare also with Jiří Dienstbier: Tax of Blood, Praha, 2002, pp 210 – 211.
- <sup>3</sup> Miroslav Mojžita: Bratislava Process – Genesis, Development and Results, Listy SFPA, November-December 2002, p 21.
- <sup>4</sup> Jelica Minić: A New Phase in the Bratislava Process, Review of International Affairs, (Focus on Relations between the Slovak Republic and the FRY), Beograd, January 2003, pp 12 – 13.
- <sup>5</sup> See [www.foreign.gov.sk/dokumenty](http://www.foreign.gov.sk/dokumenty). Essential part of this document is also in the article of Peter Holásek, director of Department of Analysis and Planning: Slovakia's Policy for the Western Balkans, Review of International Affairs, Beograd, January 2003, pp 19 – 20.
- <sup>6</sup> Main Objectives and Interests of the Slovak Republic Related to the Western Balkans, [www.foreign.gov.sk/files/add.php3?text](http://www.foreign.gov.sk/files/add.php3?text)
- <sup>7</sup> More in Pavol Lukáč: What Kind of Visegrad Policy towards the Western Balkans? Listy SFPA, November-December 2002, pp 13 – 16.
- <sup>8</sup> A clear demonstration of recognising these efforts may be considered the audience of Montenegro President including all official honours; actually Milo Djukanović in the presence of President Rudolf Schuster planted the traditional oak tree in the Alley of Heads of States on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1999. The Federal President of FRY Vojislav Koštunica did the same later, on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2001.
- <sup>9</sup> This expression was used e.g. by Jelica Minić: A New Phase in the Bratislava Process, Review of International Affairs, January 2003, p. 12. A whole monothematic issue on Slovak-Serbian relations is designed in this sense. See also articles Maroš Šefčovič: Some Aspects of Slovak-Yugoslav Co-operation, p 14 – 16. Vojislav



Milenkovic: Bilateral Relations between Slovakia and Yugoslavia, p 16 – 19. As examples of concrete "export" of Slovak know-how there might be documentation annexes Foreign Policy Priorities of the Slovak Republic in 2000 -2003, Slovakia and NATO: Annual National Programme for Slovakia 2003, Economic and Social Context of Slovak Accession to the EU: Benefits and Risks (Material of the Slovak Academy of Sciences).

- <sup>10</sup> Influential Kosovo-Albanian intellectual and politician Veton Surroi, editor of *Koha Ditore* on the seminar *Status quo and future prospects – Bosnia, Kosovo and Macedonia* in the Austrian Institute of International Relations on 4<sup>th</sup> April in Vienna said, that the Balkan countries may need a "new Verheugen", who in communication with them will discuss the possibilities of their future EU membership. In discussion with author of the article Surroi later welcomed the idea that it be a representative of a newly accessed country.
- <sup>11</sup> See Jacques Rupnik: The Post-war Balkans and Kosovo Question, In: What Status for Kosovo? Chaillot Papers, Paris, 2001, p 82 – 84 and also other articles by: Dana H. Allin, Franz-Lothar Altmann, Marta Dassu, Tim Judah, Thanos Veremis.
- <sup>12</sup> Timothy Garton Ash: Now It Is Going to Be Kosovo for Kurds, Self-determination as far as Separation. We will face again the same questions, which the grand parents of present Britons struggled with, *Fórum*, SME, 2. April 2003, p 21.
- <sup>13</sup> Jacques Rupnik: c.d., p. 83. "The sooner Belgrade says goodbye to Kosovo the better it will be for democracy in Serbia."
- <sup>14</sup> Jacques Rupnik: The Post-war Balkans and Kosovo Question, In: What Status for Kosovo? Chaillot Papers 50, October 2001, Paris, 2001, p 70.
- <sup>15</sup> Elez Biberaj: The Albanian National Question and the Balkans Stability, *EES News*, March-April 2003, p 10.
- <sup>16</sup> See e.g. Milorad Popovic: Crnogorske pitanje, Cetinje, 1999 or Aleksandar Sjekloca: Izazovi savremenog republikanizma – Crna Gora i globalizacija, *ARS*, 1-2/2000, pp 67 – 79.
- <sup>17</sup> See Július Lörincz: The Balkans Wave of EU Enlargement, *Listy SPPA*, March-April 2003, pp 10 – 11.
- <sup>18</sup> Misha Glenny: The Balkans 1804 – 1999, Nationalism, War and Great Powers, Praha, 2003.





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*Peter Weiss*

## A Year of the End of a Historical Journey

When on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1999 in the Hilton Hotel in Strasbourg accompanied by the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the European union J. Migaš I breakfasted with in that time a future EU Commissioner for Enlargement G. Verheugen we learned about the enlargement strategy which was considered by the old leaving European Commission. In 2000 negotiations with Malta and Cyprus were supposed to start, in 2002 with Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia and in 2004 with Bulgaria and Romania. When I objected that such a notion could not be introduced to the Slovak electorate which in 1998 got so mobilised that 84 % of voters came to the election polls to bring a revival of integrational chance for their republic, the answer of the man few hours later designated a new Enlargement Commissioner by the European Parliament was laconic – so we have to change our strategy. Step by step an enlargement conception was born gaining name Regatta. Nevertheless even after its approval not everyone believed Slovakia would manage to catch up the two years without one moth deficit in negotiations with the EU comparing with the so called Luxemburg Group. Let's say it openly there were politicians also in neighbouring countries who did not believe that the Slovak Republic would manage to reach other countries of the Visegrad Four and at home they were proposing steps to get along such development. As in one of the European Parliament meetings J. M. Wiersma, the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee rapporteur for the SR, said that in a start of the negotiations with the EU there prevailed general scepticism in relation to Slovakia. The situation was not different in negotiations with NATO.

And this is the perspective we should use to see events, which happened few days ago. The President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster called a referendum about the

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SR's EU accession on 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2003. The before the referendum campaign has started. Its role is to give the citizens information and mainly to mobilise them for participation in the really historical referendum. On 26<sup>th</sup> March 2003 in Brussels under the presence of Minister for Foreign Affairs of the SR E. Kukan the ambassadors of the member states of the North Atlantic Alliance signed the Protocols on the Accession of the SR and further six new NATO members. On 27<sup>th</sup> March the Slovak Government in its extraordinary session approved to present the National Council of the SR a proposal of accession of the Slovak Republic to the Washington Treaty.

These are the actual fruits of the foreign policy effort in 2002, which – understandingly – rested on real results of fulfilling the pre-accession criteria. Citizens take for granted this finish of the historical route to creation of real conditions for integration of the SR to the EU and NATO. Even after difficult political fights for revival of integrational chance and release of Slovakia from foreign political isolation just after the Prague Summit of this politico-military organisation a new wave of the SR's Alliance accession refusal arose, what is conjoined mainly with changed foreign policy situation as a result of disputes over a way of a solution of the Iraqi crisis.

Certainty with which in the end of 2002 the Slovak public received closure of the pre-accession negotiations with the EU in Copenhagen and invitation to accession negotiations to NATO in Prague is definitely a positive signal of essential changes that happened in the Slovak society. The 2002 integration stopped being a major subject of a political fight. The EU integration even became the only sphere of a really all-nation consensus reaching all political parties. With the exception of the Communist Party (KSS), the Slovak National Party (SNS), and the Real Slovak National Party (PSNS) no relevant political party called neither our NATO inclusion into question. Nevertheless the integration agenda despite the wide political consensus played an important role in the elections. Both NATO and EU played signals according to which for successful closure of negotiations with these groupings there would be necessary unequivocal guarantees of no return to political behaviour which caused Slovak self-disqualification in Madrid and in Luxemburg in 1997 and no invitation for the SR to NATO and no start of EU pre-accession negotiations in 1998. Also this is why the clear guarantees of the integration process continuity became for large groups of voters a decisive motive for their definitive decision thus influencing the result of the elections.

To finish negotiations with the EU and to gain invitation to accession negotiations to NATO for foreign partners it was crucial to find out that transformation and reforms continuation have sufficient support in the Slovak society, that constitutional institutions in the SR function without serious malfunctions, that rule of law foundation was strengthened, principles of democracy and human rights are respected and there is no threat of return of political methods and a policy making style which already once threw Slovakia to foreign-political isolation. Nether in 2002 would foreign policy be successful shall there be thanks to the previous government no progress in economy, Armed Forces and other spheres reforms – a needed background to fulfil concrete criteria set by the EU and NATO for the candidate countries. And of course shall the

state political representation be not trustable in abroad before and even after the elections. This is also for future a key condition for successful foreign policy.

An end of a historical route or one important stage is to be thought about not only from a perspective of conditions formation for finish of the EU and NATO accession negotiations. The 2002 was also the tenth year of independent state existence of the Slovak Republic. Strengthening the Foreign Service and abilities of state diplomacy and thus the overall quality of foreign policy plays an extremely important role in construction of any state. To evaluate last year from this point of view we must say one cannot avoid stating it was objectively a year when the SR won essential success in its foreign policy proving its maturity. The most important result of the SR's foreign policy was that the SR definitively anchored in western political space. Nationalistic-isolationistic forces were marginalised. An idea of extraordinary role of Slovakia as a bridge between East and West and somehow privileged relationship with the Russian Federation that would bring us special economic advantages found itself in an empire of forgotten illusions. It was replaced by realism. Many of those few years ago defending it and more or less pursuing it also in praxis of the SR's foreign policy under pressure of circumstances declared themselves as convinced supporters of not only pro-European but Trans Atlantic orientation of Slovakia, as well.

There is one more indicator of growth of importance and authority of Slovak diplomacy – following Mr. J. Kubiš, who has been the OSCE Secretary General for some time already, Mr. P. Tomka was elected a member of the UN International Court of Justice in The Hague and Ms. B. Schmögnerová was appointed by the UN Secretary General to be an Executive Director of the UN European Economic Commission, what is a position of a Deputy to the UN Secretary General.

Slovak foreign policy managed to profit from its prompt, serious and conceptual reaction to the global terrorism phenomenon in 2002 in very good relations with the USA and strengthening its position among NATO membership candidate countries.

Another important proof of qualitative change of power and possibilities of Slovak foreign policy and diplomacy lies in a result of a dispute about the Act on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries. The Hungarian diplomacy did not manage to pursue its concept of uniting a nation over borders by creation of legal and institutional connections between the Republic of Hungary and Hungarians living in neighbouring countries, which it tried to present as a new universal European model of minorities protection. Contrary, international law and politically well argued fundamental and stable Slovak position to this issue found support in all three key European institutions – the European Union, Council of Europe and Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. It appeared the Slovak diplomacy shall have no complexes against so experienced diplomacy with strong traditions and composite connection as is the Hungarian one. It must be also mentioned how together mainly with the Czech diplomacy the SR managed to eliminate risks resulting from opening the after War arrangement of Central Europe by putting forward the issue of the Benes's Decrees abrogation.

As a part of the maturing process there was also performance of the Slovak Embassies and diplomatic missions in Belgrad, Brussels – both to the EU and NATO, in Washington, Moscow and other capitals. And there was also a modern way of using the Third Sector and of tools of foreign assistance within the OECD for gaining the opportunity to build an anteroom for a long term co-operation with the key Balkan country the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia or with Serbia and Montenegro which will after going through the anti-Milosevic era represent an important player in the next EU enlargement stage directed south east.

The SR's activities within the Visegrad Four shall be characterised as an important success of Slovak foreign policy. It is so even despite the fact that due to the policy of the Hungarian ex-Prime Minister V. Orbán in the issue of the so called Benes's Decrees and the so called fellow-countrymen act the Visegrad Four found itself in one of its deepest crises of its existence. Slovakia became a motor of the neighbouring consultations forum and seeking and persuading common interests not only vis-à-vis the EU but against the western part of the Commonwealth of Independent States, especially against Ukraine. The motive powers of efforts to formulate a basis of East policy of the future enlarged Europe were Slovakia and Poland. Importance of the policy within the Visegrad Four for the Slovak Republic was not called into question despite the fact that during hectic final negotiations in Copenhagen virtually all original aims to co-ordinate course of action of all four countries against the EU dissolved.

Strengthening of Slovak foreign policy was a result also of improved coordination of foreign policy activities of the supreme constitutional authorities. In 2002 the President R. Schuster played the final stage of creating conditions for the SR's admission to the EU and NATO. Beside classical foreign policy tools at the executive disposal much more possibilities of parliamentary diplomacy was used what was possible thanks to good co-operation of the NC SR committees with the MFA SR and also thanks to the wide consensus among parliamentary parties in understanding Slovak foreign policy priorities. The National Council of the Slovak Republic and its key committees – the Foreign Affairs Committee, Committee for European Integration and Committee for Defence and Security played much more important role than the ones during the previous electoral periods also in discussions about foreign policy substance and priorities.

The 2002 reflected another positive tendency in development of Slovak foreign policy. I mean inclusion of academic circles and non-governmental organisations into discussions about goals and tasks of foreign policy and also to the so called public diplomacy. In this connection I must mention especially activities of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association. Co-operation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the SR and some universities was strengthened in preparation of a new generation of diplomats and in enlarging foreign policy expert thinking background.

Of course in 2002 there were also some weaknesses in foreign policy of the SR. Those were mainly residua of previous mistakes in policy towards Russia and Ukraine based on the fact that our relations with Russia were not always compatible with a framework of interests of our immediate neighbours succumbed to an illusion about

some special relationship of Russia and Slovakia. It is also true that neither the President's activities could compensate the reality that during all four years there was no visit of the Prime Minister of the SR in Moscow.

Informing public about tasks and results of foreign policy and challenges it is facing can be considered a weakness, as well. Especially informing public about results and risks of the SR's NATO and EU admission had no systematic character; it was more a campaign. While in March 2002 the support for the SR's admission to NATO reached 61 % thanks to the autumn/winter campaign organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the SR the pre-election period omitted systematic public information what finally reflected in an extremely deep fall of public NATO entry support. The Government did not react with sufficient flexibility to the changed foreign policy situation resulting from the Iraqi crisis what was used by the NATO entry opponents for an offensive. Similarly the public felt the deficit of information about practical results of the future possible Slovak EU membership. The previous M. Dzurinda's government resigned from early preparation of the pre-referendum campaign so it was started only after approval of the new government's Programme. Thus a part of the Slovak public following the pre-referendum campaign in the CR felt they are not informed enough about effects and risks of the EU and NATO admission right in the time Slovakia was standing at the front door of these integrational groupings.

Foreign policy of the 2002 was definitely the sphere that gave the ruling governmental coalition the biggest extend of legitimacy for its after-election steps. The Government's Programme Declaration "to make steps by which Slovakia definitively enters a community of European democracies and becomes an EU and NATO member" and takes over in this community "an honourable, respected and responsible position" is a part not only of a wide political consensus but an accord in a civil society. It depends only on the government and coalition parties how they would use this consensus in solving specific tasks of foreign policy.

Even more so because Slovakia appeared in a qualitatively new situation. The romantic era of heroic catching up the lost time – a logical consequence of political failure of the governmental coalition of HZDS – ZRS and SNS in 1994 – 1998 is definitively over. Yellow cards from Madrid and Luxemburg in 1997 are only a displeasure memento. Slovakia appeared in the same position as other candidate countries and is facing less spectacular but more difficult period of inventive and patient persuasion of its national economic, security, culture and humanitarian interests in complicated integration frameworks and overall instable international relations threatened predominantly by the global terrorism. From this point of view one can only agree with a goal to pay attention to further professionalisation and stabilisation of the Foreign Service and systemic build up of the MFA SR and a net of embassies and missions with awareness of the long term foreign policy priorities.

These pre-accession long term priorities shall be a subject of a wide expert discussion including not only experts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the SR but academic and university scientists and non-governmental experts, as well. To finally

pursue in the government by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the SR a modern proposal of a Foreign Service law is not less important. Also because effective and of quality Foreign Service is one of chief attributes of the Slovak statehood, of which the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary we remembered recently.

A little country with economy deeply depending on its ability to export and with a long term negative trade balance cannot afford to spare money on a wrong place. The correct decision of the government to strengthen economic dimension of diplomacy and to unite the Foreign Service action in this important sphere expects final weed out unhealthy departmentalism and persuasion interests of narrow economic lobby groups in activities of trade representations and unequivocally subordinate them to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the SR. The Slovak Republic must finally have a consistent state foreign and trade policy built in a dialogue with the Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the key exporters, and unanimously persuade it in all Slovak embassies. Because of a structure of the negative foreign trade balance it was expected that in otherwise factual, sober and non-ideologizing foreign policy part of the Governmental Programme, which seems to be definitely the most conceptual and best balanced one, there would be at least a mention about importance of relations with the Russian Federation and necessity together with the ther Visegrad Four countries to efficiently influence eastern policy of the EU and NATO. Also in improvement of the net of Embassies and Missions of the SR a foreign policy dimension shall be taken more into consideration (the SR has for instance no representation in such economic developed centres as are Singapore or Hong Kong).

To accomplish a life-important and ambitious tasks to secure ratification of treaties about the SR's admission to NATO and the EU in member countries' parliaments before 2004 will need beside others preparation of a concept of building the image of the Slovak Republic in abroad. The fact that according to the EU citizens polled in December 2002 by the Eurobarometer agency the SR is the sixths in a possible EU member popularity line among the candidate countries, the governmental coalition and opposition and public should mobilise to activities directed to improvement of image of our country. Neither after preparation and realisation of the SR's Public Relations Conception money should be spared and time wasted any longer.

Improvement of image of Slovakia requires in home policy to reach real progress in anti-corruption fight, in integration of Roma, in anti-racism and intolerance (damage of Slovakia's image in the United Kingdom caused by racist message of the Slovak "fans" in Bratislava stadium during a football match with England are still underestimated), in suppression of an organised crime, building administrative capacities needed for absorbing the EU funds, etc. One of important steps will for instance be in anti-discrimination law.

Much will depend on behaviour, explanation and a chord of the top representatives of the state in presentation of Slovakia and its interests and on ability of the government and ruling parties to spread consensus in understanding of state national interests and in ways of its persuasion via foreign policy. The Iraqi crisis showed that it is not an easy task.

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*Oľga Keltošová*

## Common Features and Differences in Foreign policy of the Government and Opposition of the Slovak Republic in 2002

First of all I'd like to express my thanks for being invited and for being given the opportunity to present in this conference. My presentation will be due to my political past (as a parliamentarian and a member of the European Integration Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee EU-SR, a member of the Slovak delegation in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, a member of the delegation of the National Council of the Convent on the Future Design of Europe and a deputy chairperson of the Committee for Equal Chances of Women and Men in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe) a more parliamentary one. If I want to deal with evaluating the results of foreign policy in 2002, I have to say at the beginning, that from the parliamentary point of view, it was an atypical year. It was an election year. Maybe also due to this fact, unfortunately, some of the parliament parties during the last year sooner or later put their minds more to election preparations than to important and maybe vital issues that may influence quality of life of future generations on this territory.

I can judge from my own experience that political elites of all political relevant parties, which in the last election period got their members in the parliament, from the beginning of 2002 focused on enforcing their own party short-term interest, read pre-election interests. And by the way, I dare to say, more than 33 important resolutions (I

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have them in an annex here, I am not going to cite all of them) concerning international law and politics, were adopted without a greater interest from our side – members of the National Council. In the parliamentary discussions concerning these documents a rare consensus has been achieved. This fact was positively assessed not only by foreign public, but also by the media and the government. Out of these 33 documents I can mention only two, that launched a more or less extensive, but above all, an emotional discussion in the parliament, e.g. Declaration of the National Council on the Act on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries dated on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2002 or the other document, Declaration of the National Council on Sovereignty of the EU Member States and Candidate Countries in Cultural and Ethical Issues. If we remember well the discussion about both documents, it cannot be said that in presentations of different parliamentarians or parliamentary clubs there would have been differences typical for a developed parliamentary opposition or coalition.

We can remember that the division line ran across the parliamentary political spectrum and divided even then the governmental coalition into two groups. I am mentioning this here as I believe that similar attention should have been awarded to other documents too, which unfortunately were not discussed in the plenary of the National Council of the Slovak Republic.

Speaking from my thirteen years long political experience both abroad and in Slovakia I believe that it is not enough to get the information in the Committee for European Integration, where I used to be a member for four years, or in the Foreign Affairs Committee to get information on our negotiation positions and not to pass these information to the plenary meeting of the National Council of the Slovak Republic afterwards. During four years we have regularly driven the attention of the Office of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, so that in important issues concerning foreign policy, where, as we heard from the Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Defence Minister this morning, there has always been a consensus between opposition and coalition, the debates should not take place in the National Convention or in the Convention on the Future of Europe in Brussels only, but these discussions should be transferred also to the national parliament. Unfortunately it has not been the case and I am afraid that not even at present there is a sufficient time space for such important, and above all, professional discussions in the plenary of the National Council.

I have to state, that the year 2002 in the Slovak foreign policy, inter alia, did not meet even the offer from the Summit in Nice for candidate countries, and this brings me back to the debates in the National Council of the Slovak Republic, and public information and simplification of the resolutions of the EU summits, so they are comprehensible not only to the wider European public, but above all, to the national public. The candidate countries were given another offer in Nice, which we've unfortunately thrown away. The subject matter of this offer was to define the tasks of the national parliaments in setting the architecture of future Europe. I cannot remember even one intervention related to this topic during the meetings of the National Council



or related to the important documents concerning foreign policy, that I have talked about. As I used to take part even in the Convent Assembly in Brussels as a member of parliamentary delegations, I have to confirm that the Slovak parliamentarians used to leave for these meetings without a foregoing wide and professional discussion in the plenary.

The Slovak parliament did not find the time during last year to give a statement on basic issues of the future structure of the Union. There has not been, for instance, a discussion in the plenary of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, whether the future architecture of the Union will be a federation, a confederation or a supra state. Neither a discussion on the need or a concrete wording of the European Constitutional Treaty has taken place. The parliamentarians neither had a chance to get information nor a discussion has taken place in the plenary concerning the needs of reforms of the European institutions, competencies of the European Parliament towards the European Commission, etc. It should not be a surprise, that the wide public has poor information and quite often naive ideas on welfare and prosperity of the Slovak Republic immediately after accession to the EU. That makes me believe that the few days or weeks lasting so called mobilization pre-referendum campaign on accession is not a sufficient one.

To conclude I'd like to go back to the title of my presentation, what was that what joined and divided coalition and opposition in Slovak foreign policy in 2002. We all pretty well know, that all relevant parliamentary parties, except for the Slovak National Party, which denied the accession of the Slovak Republic to NATO on principle, have supported the Programme of the Government of the Slovak Republic in foreign policy and mainly in the area of integration to the Euro Atlantic structures. This rare consensus proved true also when approving the Constitutional Act on Security of the Country in Wartime or approving governmental Proposal of the Act on Military Forces adopted on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2002, where a majority of two thirds is necessary. Similarly, with the support of the opposition parties, the time schedule of approximation of our legal order with EU law has been followed.

Based on my experiences of last four years of parliamentary practice I can say, that the parliamentarians of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, members of different parliamentary delegations of Slovakia abroad have represented our national – state interests without any differences concerning party affiliation. I believe that such good tradition should be continued in this election period too. No sooner than at the end of 2002, during the threat of Iraqi crisis, an interesting situation occurred in the parliament, when the governmental proposal on sending our troops has been supported even by a significant part of the opposition unlike some coalition parliamentarians. Despite that, as I have already mentioned, there was a consensus in basic issues concerning foreign policy movement of the Slovak Republic last year.

Last year was an election year. That is why I have expected, that after the elections in September the National Council will evaluate and primarily reconsider its own constitutional control role towards the executive, mainly in connection with the

approaching accession of the Slovak Republic to the EU. There are examples from the parliamentary practice of the EU member states, where to the so called grant committees ministers of member state governments will come before each important meeting in Brussels in order to get rails from their national parliamentarians to represent one or another member state in the European Commission. I am drawing attention of the professional public, as well as the Office of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, present members of parliament, to this procedure of national parliaments of the EU member states, so the national parliamentarians continue safe guarding the national-state interests of the Slovak Republic and direct not only the home political scene, but in particular help the executive to accomplish our joint foreign policy Programme.

Let me one more small comment concerning enlargement competencies of the Committee on Human Rights and Equal Chances. This is another straight example of our half steps towards the EU. Despite the statement of my fore speaker and a dear friend, Mr. Nagy, that the so called women issues belong to the Committee for Human Rights, I do not think so, as there are not human rights and women rights. I believe that this is why there are separate committees for equal chances both in the European Parliament and in the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. This is nothing but a marginal comment.

To conclude, I believe that the presentations of my fore speakers and perhaps also my critical comments may help, in its deepest sense of the word, to the National Council of the Slovak Republic, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and to the parliamentarians to raise the quality of information of our citizens and mainly the quality of decision making of those who are in charge of important issues in these days, which are going to influence lives of our citizens for long decades.

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*Maroš Šefčovič*

# New challenges of bilateral co-operation after the accession of the Slovak Republic to the European Union and NATO

Slovakia is now in the final phase of achieving the two main priorities of its foreign policy since 1993. The EU membership of the Slovak Republic and the accession to NATO will have a striking impact on the quality of bilateral relations not only with our future partners but also with those countries that will stay outside these structures.

## **Bilateral relations with the EU and NATO member countries**

After the accession to the Euro Atlantic community relations of the Slovak Republic with the member countries will acquire a new intimacy. Only step by step we will be uncovering the areas in which our bilateral relations with the respective member countries lag behind. And I am sure, there will be a plenty of these areas:

- Political co-operation: governments, parliaments, Presidents, Prime Ministers and their offices will have to become real partners. Building up such a partnership is

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a long-term process. It cannot be build up only by meetings in Brussels with an agenda specified to the very detail and limited time.

- Economic co-operation: EU and NATO memberships will also require a wider interconnection of the economies. The Slovak Republic will have to act more aggressively to win foreign investments. This is the only way to become a developed European economy. Of course, the growth of our economy is one of the priority interests of the EU; but real effort will have to be made mainly by the Slovak Republic itself.
- Security co-operation: the Slovak Republic will have to work more intensively on the interconnection of the armed forces with the police forces and the intelligence service and last, but not least, on an even stronger co-operation of the defence industry.
- Building up solidarity and the feeling of alliance between the member countries and the Slovak Republic: it will take some time until the inhabitants of the current member states get used to the new member countries and until feelings of solidarity and togetherness are build up. The best way to speed this process up is to establish contacts in culture and sports, on the *people to people* level.

## **New bilateralism**

The above-mentioned challenges the Slovak diplomacy has to cope with, make it clear that the bilateral relations with the member states will have to undergo a massive transformation. However, it is already clear that their importance will rise. If we are successful in building-up tight bilateral relations of high quality, we'll also succeed in building-up relations with European institutions and in asserting our interests in these. The correctness of this statement has already been proven by the final phase of pre-accession negotiations, in which the most sensitive and problematic issues were solved with the same intensity in the capitals of the member states, as well as in Brussels.

After accession new negotiations start, this time we will participate in the process of legislation making, we will co-decide on European issues. High quality bilateral relations will be of crucial importance for the Slovak Republic not only on the field of communitarian co-operation in the EU, but mainly in those spheres in which the inter-governmental character still prevails – Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common European Security and Defence Policy (CESDP).

Further transformation of bilateral diplomacy has been evoked besides on-going integration by the process of globalisation. Globalisation added to the new challenges connected with global terrorism, refugees, environmental problems and some other problems that didn't occur ever before. In addition to this, smaller countries, such as Slovakia, have to invest more energy in the development of their identity and in the

building-up of an image necessary for their presentation and asserting in the growing competition. The Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs called this complex change in bilateral priorities a "new bilateralism". The challenges of the "new bilateralism" are equally new and important for both, the new and old member countries.

## **Good bilateral relations – a benefit for both, the EU and NATO**

The Slovak Republic is joining the EU and NATO in the process of their mutual transformation. Changes in these institutions reflect new geopolitical situation, new tasks and new solutions. An important factor is the new geopolitical situation of both institutions, which have extended into areas nobody had ever expected. It is this political, historical and geographical shift that gives Slovakia a great opportunity to become useful and advantageous in terms of foreign policy for both, the EU and NATO. Slovakia has got unique historical experience, language similarity and extraordinary good relations with its neighbours in a wider Central and East European region without any historical burden. To be honest, there's no other new EU or NATO member state having such a quality.

The Slovak Republic managed to build-up friendly relations based on partnership without any suspicion of side-intentions to our eastern neighbours, as well as to the Balkan states. Slovakia has much to offer in these areas. I dare to say that it is expected from us – from both sides. It is this area where I see major possibilities of using our good relations for the benefit of the EU and NATO.

## **Bilateral relations with the rest of the world**

The Slovak Republic has made an enormous effort to be prepared for the accession to the EU and NATO. The priorities in the development of bilateral relations have been adapted to this effort. That's why they focused mainly on the EU and NATO countries. However, Slovakia is a country, which not only for economic reasons has a wider orientation and a possibility to establish good relations in a wider context.

The EU and NATO membership will give new attractiveness to the "Slovakia" brand. Slovakia (if it is well prepared) will be able to utilise this attractiveness even in more distant territories where it has eminent economic interests. New quality of the position of the Slovak Republic will certainly become visible not only in the above-mentioned region, but also in relation to the Russian Federation, Japan, Africa or Latin America. It will only depend on the Slovak diplomacy whether it will use this

quality in a proper way and focus its attention realistically on those targets, where positive results can be expected.

## **Conclusion**

Bilateral diplomacy has to cope with various challenges. The era of strict division into bilateral and multilateral relations is gone. The on-going integration and inexorable globalisation give bilateralism a new quality and mission. But even after these changes, its aim will remain the same – the effort to build up good partner relations and interest in economic co-operation. The importance of the ability to understand one's partners and the motives of their action will increase. I believe that the Slovak diplomacy is well prepared to meet these challenges and that its good bilateral relations will be a benefit for both, the European Union and NATO.

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*Juraj Macháč*

## Security and Multilateral Dimension of Foreign Policy of the Slovak Republic

From the point of view of the Foreign Service of the Slovak Republic the year 2002 with no doubt was a historic one. In terms of the integration processes Slovakia fulfilled the goals set in the *Priorities of the Foreign Policy of the Slovak Republic for the Year 2002*. An important factor underlining the successes of Slovakia in its integration effort is the fact that the Slovak Republic became one of the prominent candidates in these processes. It not only belongs to the group of problem-free candidate countries, but thanks to its active inner and foreign policy it has also become one of the leaders in both integration processes.

In terms of our integration efforts to become a NATO member, year 2002 can be called a real break-through. At the NATO Prague Summit the Slovak Republic was invited to start negotiations on the accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, which meant the fulfilment of the priority goal in relation to NATO. This invitation is a clear success and an acknowledgement of Slovakia's effort to achieve NATO membership. This success was only possible thanks to our systematic preparation in all of the five *Membership Action Plan* fields, as well as thanks to responsible performance of the Slovak Republic on international level. In the last year Slovakia strongly strengthened its participation in the peace operations led by NATO in South-East Europe. The helicopter unit of the Army of the Slovak Republic was sent out to join the SFOR troops. This is of striking importance because this is the first air unit of the Air Forces of the Slovak Republic in the history of Slovakia that has ever been

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engaged in a peace operation under the command of NATO. Another important reinforcement of our contribution to NATO units in the Balkan region took place in March 2002. 100 Slovak professionals, members of the elite battalion of rapid deployment in Martin, in co-operation with their Czech colleagues formed a joint mechanized Czecho-Slovak battalion consisting of 500 men.

These decisions about strengthening the contribution to NATO are a consequence of the conception adopted by the Slovak Republic aimed at gradual restriction of units participating in peace operations of the UN and at the enforcement of priority participation in operations under the command of NATO and the EU.

Another important step taken by the Slovak Republic on the international scene in the last year was the expression of Slovakia's clear support to the fight against terrorism and active participation in the anti-terrorist coalition. Slovakia didn't only declare its support but it also took measures on all levels of the inner sphere and it actively contributes by its participation in the operation *Enduring Freedom* in Afghanistan (one mechanized company consisting of 40 members of the Army of the Slovak Republic operates in Afghanistan). In this way we prove our responsible attitude and approach towards security and stability not only in Europe but also outside our region.

The preparation of Slovakia on its NATO membership is being carried out by means of the MAP and its national application version – the Annual National Program (Ročný národný program – ANP). In 2002 successes in all its five fields were recorded. Allow me to mention briefly at least the most important ones:

The parliament elections held in September 2002 put an end to the previous doubts about further development in Slovakia. An important political consensus was created between major political parties expressing support of Slovakia's accession to NATO. The public opinion support of Slovakia joining NATO remained stable throughout the year – it oscillated around 60 %. The Slovak Republic kept strengthening its democratic institutions. The first ombudsman was elected, anti-corruption measures were taken and Slovakia continued carrying out the governmental strategy in terms of improving the situation of the Roma ethnic minority.

In the sphere of military and defence activities Slovakia consistently continued implementation of the reform of the defence department and proceeded in the process of professionalisation of its armed forces. In 2002 both, the aim of the reform – smaller, fully professional and flexible armed forces – as well as the vigorous procedure of the implementation of the reform, were positively assessed by the Alliance and Slovakia was often presented as a model example to other candidate countries.

In terms of financial means the government of the Slovak Republic pledged to spend 2 % of the gross domestic product (GDP) on defence policy. This would assure stable allocation of means for defence even in future. An important progress in the field of defence was brought by the integration of the National Security Authority (Národný bezpečnostný úrad – NBU). This is a body in charge of the protection of restricted and classified facts.



In the legal sphere the defence legislation was completed creating the necessary legal framework for the reform of the armed forces.

In autumn 2002 Slovakia submitted NATO its fourth *Annual National Program* for this year (ANP PRENAME 2003), which was assessed as the best one up to now. The preparation of the Slovak Republic on the accession to NATO and the fulfilment of the *Annual National Program* were last year's priorities of the Slovak Republic. However, as a partner country we were also active in the Euro Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and in the Partnership for Peace, which are important mechanisms of NATO in wedging stability and security in a broader Euro Atlantic area. The Slovak Republic also participated in international mechanisms created in NATO in the field of civil emergency planning by sending out an expert to operate in the Euro Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC).

Slovakia also contributed by concrete activities to the strengthening regional security and broadening the zone of democracy, stability and prosperity in Europe. The co-operation of the V4 countries continued on the top level as well as on the expert levels with the emphasis laid on the accession to NATO and the integration into the EU. The Slovak Presidency in the V4 in the second half of 2002 enabled the Slovak Republic to assert its integration interests.

The existence and the activities of the Vilnius group (V10) in the last year were again a confirmation of importance of regional integration and co-operation of the candidate countries in the sphere of regional security and stability in the Euro Atlantic area. Joint action of the candidate countries played an important role in taking the decision about NATO enlargement and enabled the exchange of particular national experiences with the fulfilment of the MAP.

At this place I would like to draw your attention to the idea, the aim of which is to create a platform of co-operation of the 13 countries of V4 and V10. In case this would not mean weakening of co-operation in the V4 format, but a combination of the two streams of integration, both into the EU and NATO, we believe it would be a profitable co-operation.

I already mentioned that the year 2002 was the year of the long expected Prague Summit of NATO. This top-level meeting, which was about to be crucial for the beginning of a new round of enlargement, turned out to be crucial for the transformation of NATO, as well. This Summit can be seen as a climax of the self-reflection era of NATO after 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001. At this Summit NATO adopted a set of transformation documents the fulfilment of which will enable its adaptation to new security conditions – the asymmetric threats including international terrorism and spreading of weapons of mass destruction. The leading motives of the Summit were the new capabilities enabling NATO to fulfil the new tasks it has to face via accepting concrete commitments – the “*Prague Capabilities Commitment*”.

Basically the Summit was marked by three topics: new members, new capabilities and last, but not least, new partnership, which became an inevitable part of the adaptation of the Alliance. A new understanding of partnership enables broad

involvement of the EAPC countries in the fight against terrorism and in the strengthening of stability and security in this region. The trend imposed by the NATO Summit was also confirmed by the EAPC Summit. At this Summit the Slovak Republic at the top level approved the modernised concept of partner co-operation and the fight against terrorism. The invitation of Slovakia to start the accession negotiations adopted by the Prague Summit represents the culmination of one phase of the accession process and the beginning of a new one. As soon as at the end of 2002 short two-round access negotiations were held followed by a series of visits of the NATO representatives in the Slovak Republic at the beginning of this year. On 26<sup>th</sup> March 2003 this accession stage reached its top by signing of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation on the Accession of the Slovak Republic by the ambassadors of the NATO member countries in Brussels.

This was the first step of the ratification phase, during which the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation on the Accession of the Slovak Republic, as well as the Accession Protocols of other invited countries, will have to be ratified in each member state. The ratification process should be finished before the next NATO Summit in May next year, so that the invited countries can take part on the Summit already as NATO members. On Slovakia's side the inevitable step will be the accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. The ratification instrument will then be passed to the depository of the Treaty – the Government of the USA.

I dare to claim that the Slovak Republic is today better prepared for its NATO membership than the previous enlargement three countries. Nevertheless, we have to continue in our effort, we have to focus on those spheres of NATO's activities, which are new for us and concentrate on the fact that soon we will become a part of the NATO decision making process.

At this point I would like to call your attention to several serious facts, which exceed the aim of the today's evaluation conference, but which I consider to be extremely important.

This year the Slovak Republic will have to make concentrated effort on three levels: the substantial, the organisational and technical and the political one. On the substantial level Slovakia will continue its preparation for NATO membership by fulfilling the *Annual National Program (ANP PRENAME 2003)*. Following the results of the Prague Summit the Slovak Republic will have to identify the way in which it wants to contribute to the *Prague Capabilities Commitments* and define its approach to the respective NATO agendas.

Public opinion will be one of the key spheres, because its role has been rising since 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001 and since the transformation Prague Summit. Active communication with public about the new treats of terrorism combined with the weapons of mass destruction and about NATO's role in this sphere will be necessary. Public has to be made familiar with the changes in the security environment, since these changes require new approach and new way of thinking about security. On the organisational and technical level building up of the Mission of the Slovak Republic

to NATO will have to be finished. The mission must be transformed into a standard permanent delegation comparable with the delegations of other member states.

We will have to cope with the rising amount of activities of the Mission, since we will soon become a member of all committees and groups of NATO in the work on which we couldn't participate as a candidate country. On the national level we will have to consider utilization of the PRENAME mechanism – a mechanism of intense co-operation of all departments participating in the preparation of Slovakia on the accession to NATO that has been developing since 1999. We would like to preserve a high level of this co-operation even after our accession to NATO.

In political terms the ratification process will be crucial in 2003. That's why Slovak Foreign Service will have to become even more active in NATO member states, this mainly on the parliamentary level. The members of the National Council of the Slovak Republic should lobby in the parliaments of the member states to help the ratification process become as smooth as possible.

A continuous political dialogue will be necessary not only during the ratification process but also in the process of gradual integration of the Slovak Republic into all NATO structures. In 2003 we will also start preparing organisation of the meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, which will take place in Bratislava in May 2004, just a few days before NATO Summit. Its success will be politically very important for Slovakia.

I would also like to make a few remarks to the *Security Strategy of the Slovak Republic*. It is clear that, after the accession of Slovakia to NATO considering the change of the security environment and risks not only in Europe but also from a global point of view, this *Strategy* will have to be updated. The revised *Strategy* should reflect the real place of the Slovak Republic in the security-political system – in other words its integration into NATO and the EU. A successful updating of the *Security Strategy* will depend on the creation of a wide security oriented forum opening a broad discussion on these issues with the participation of the government, the legislature, the experts of diverse NGOs, as well as the public. I would also like to use the conclusions of this forum to start a discussion on the revision of the *Security Strategy of the Slovak Republic*.

I would also like to inform you briefly about the fulfilment of the *Priorities of Foreign Policy of the Slovak Republic for the Year 2002* in other fields of multilateral diplomacy. Besides the integration efforts of the Slovak Republic in connection with NATO and the EU there were also other organisations in which Slovakia was asserting its interests on multilateral basis.

One of the long-term priorities – activities of the Slovak Republic within the framework of the United Nations Organisation – was striking also in 2002. Slovakia's activities on this field were based on key political documents adopted on the UN Millennium Summit and the following conferences on financing for development in Monterrey and on sustainable growth in Johannesburg.

The Slovak Republic was active in the UN and in other international organisations in accordance with the priorities and aims of foreign policy of the Slovak Republic and in particular instances it also proceeded in accordance with the regulations adopted

by the Government of the Slovak Republic. An important element guiding the procedures of the Slovak Foreign Service in multilateral forums was the principle of consistent coordination of the steps with the EU member states. Emphasis was laid on two priority fields of activity – international peace and security (inclusive the issues of the fight against terrorism) and international law.

The Slovak Republic still belonged to important contributors to the peace forces of the UN. At the end of 2002 there were 614 personnel active in seven peace operations: Cyprus, where the members of the Army of the Slovak Republic are in charge of one of three sectors; Ethiopia-Eritrea, Eastern Timor, Syria – the Golan Heights, Iraq, Jerusalem and Sierra Leone. The citizens of the Slovak Republic were offered to participate in the inspection in Iraq within the framework of UNMOVIC. In November 2002 the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO) appointed Mrs. M. Kadlečíková the FAO representative for Central and Eastern Europe.

Thanks to the Slovak diplomacy in 2002 the Slovak representation in international organisations intensified. Slovakia held several important and executive positions in the bodies of international organisations. In February 2002 the UN Secretary General appointed Mrs. B. Schmögnerová the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe. After the following enlargement she became a member of a 28-member cabinet of the UN Secretary General, a senior management group. From January to May 2002 the permanent representative of the Slovak Republic in Geneva was the chairman of the UN Economic Commission for Europe. The permanent representative of the Slovak Republic in Vienna was a vice-chairman of the Bureau of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in the Preparatory Commission CTBT. In October 2002 the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council appointed a Slovak expert, Mr. P. Tomka a judge of the 15-member UN main judiciary body – the International Court of Justice.

Foreign policy of the Slovak Republic in the sphere of armament control, disarmament and non-proliferation was carried out via multilateral forums such as the UN (1<sup>st</sup> Committee, the UN Disarmament Committee, the Conference on Disarmament, as well as separate negotiation forums and implementation bodies of disarmament agreements and control regimes, in which the Slovak Republic is a party to contract or a member).

In Europe Slovak multilateral diplomacy focused mainly on the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. The Slovak Republic carried out tasks connected to the membership in the Council of Europe. The results were assessed by the monitoring and supervisory mechanism of the bodies of the Council of Europe as positive. Minor shortcomings common for all transition countries were continuously eliminated in co-operation with respective bodies of the Council of Europe. Slovakia shifted from the position of an assistance recipient to the position of a developed member state from which a donor attitude to the activities of the Council of Europe is expected.

In the assessed period the Slovak Republic was active in the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe as an internationally accepted and internally

stable state with clear-cut standpoints in all three dimensions of security according to the OSCE concept. Slovakia was principally active in the complex political dialogue of the OSCE, both, together with the groups of states as their standard partner as well as separately. When basic principles of the protection of national minorities in connection to the relation with neighbour countries were discussed, consistent and sophisticated standpoint of the Slovak Republic based on objective points gained the support of the OSCE participating states. These issues were discussed during several meetings of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities R. Ekéus with the Slovak Prime Minister or with the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Slovak Republic as a participating state took part on the OSCE activities via long-term missions (Kosovo, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldavia, Croatia, Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh). Slovakia met its commitments resulting from the OSCE Summit in Istanbul.

Active employment of the principles of the economic dimension of diplomacy played an important role in 2002, when the negotiations of the Slovak Republic with the EU reached their climax.

The year 2002 was the second year of our membership in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The Slovak Republic managed to integrate successfully into this prestigious organisation. In 2002 Slovak experts participated in the activities of 140 committees and working groups of the OECD. More than 100 delegations on different levels of the central bodies of the state administration participated actively in diverse forums. In two years of membership we became a standard partner for the most developed countries in the world.

As far as WTO is considered in 2002 the Slovak Republic participated actively in the mandate negotiations in the fields of agriculture and services, as well as in the fields in accordance with the Doha Development Agenda and took part on formal and informal meetings and negotiations of the regular and extraordinary WTO bodies.

In 2002 the Slovak Republic was the presiding country of the Central - European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA). The co-operation was based on the CEFTA Plan of Activities for the year 2002 and focused on the most sensitive issues of common interest such as trade with agricultural and food products, employment of protective measures and mutual acceptance of certificates and test results. In 2002 many meetings and negotiations were held, during which the Slovak Republic assessed its interests as well as the interests of the CEFTA countries concerning the particular fields of the Doha Development Agenda.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to deal with a broad topic such as the security and multilateral dimension of foreign policy of the Slovak Republic in such a short time. To conclude, please allow me to draw your attention to one important fact. All goals accomplished in 2002 in terms of multilateral diplomacy, no matter how valuable they are, are only partial. Reaching a goal doesn't mean stagnation, on the contrary, it means qualitatively new environment to strive for higher goals that would contribute to the growth and development of the Slovak society.



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*Juraj Nociar*

## Negotiation Results and Expected Consequences of the Accession of the Slovak Republic to the European Union

Integration into NATO and the accession to the European Union are among principal aims of foreign policy of the Slovak Republic. From the point of view of fulfilling and carrying out these goals last year was definitely a successful one. In relation to the EU the Slovak Republic fully managed to eliminate the lag caused by a later opening of the accession negotiations. Slovakia can thus serve as a model example of the catch-up principle. It advanced in the negotiations in all chapters, so that at the meeting of the European Council in Copenhagen in December last year the EU saw no obstacle in completing the negotiations with it.

But can the completion of the accession negotiations really be regarded as a success? Is the EU membership going to be a benefit for Slovakia or do we have to fear possible risks connected with it? It has already been several years that the European Union has been expressing its interest in enlarging by countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The EU membership is the matter of willingness, ability and preparedness of the candidate country to meet the rights, as well as the obligations resulting from the membership. The Europe Agreement was the main device or guide in the process of approximation to the system functioning in the current member states of the EU. As soon as in 1991 Slovakia started its preparation for the EU membership according to the respective dispositions of the European Agreement. At the beginning it was mainly

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the matter of trade links (gradual liberalisation of mutual trade), later on, after the European Agreement entered into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1995, contacts on professional, political and on other levels intensified, ranging from the operation of the common market to the provision of state aid and to the common agricultural policy. Slovakia was expected to adopt not only the legislation and particular policies into its system but also the basic democratic principles, as well as the rule of law. This sphere was crucial for the Helsinki European Council in December 1999, where the Council decided that Slovakia would meet the political criteria, as well, and that it would be able to start negotiations with the EU.

From the very beginning Slovakia approached the negotiations with high responsibility taking into account the fact, that its aim set in the primary negotiation position – to complete negotiations by the end of 2002 and join the EU on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2004, the reference date of our EU membership – could only be achieved via consistent work and precise fulfilment of all tasks in terms of legislation and building up of institutions. During less than three years of negotiations dozens of new laws were adopted, new institutions were created and, the most important, foundations were laid to ensure full-fledged implementation of the legislation and the rules of the community after our EU accession. These were the main reasons why Slovakia was able to complete the negotiations at the Copenhagen Summit and nowadays this fact can be regarded as a success.

The EU membership will complete the intense effort to integrate our country into a community of nations promoting common ideas of liberty, democracy and human rights. There are new opportunities and possibilities connected to the accession of the Slovak Republic to the European Union in terms of international position and security within the framework of a group of member states, as well as in terms of an overall improvement, stabilisation and rise in transparency of the market and social environment. These reasons should be dominant in judging and assessing the meaning and significance of our EU accession.

When evaluating the impacts the membership is to have on a new member state, factors having rather economic nature are usually named. One of them is the fact that the accession process as well as the membership itself would make possible a quicker restructuring and modernisation of the economy and thus provide faster economic growth, rise in standards of living and gradual approximation to the economic performance of the more developed member states. Historic experience from enlarging by less developed countries such as Greece, Spain, Portugal and Ireland provides clear evidence that the economic “catching up” is a long-term process showing its results only after a longer period of time.

Slovak economy will also be able to make full use of the advantages of the EU. Nearly all of the restrictions of mutual trade with the exception of some agricultural and food products have already been gradually eliminated at the time when the Europe Agreement was applied. After the EU entry they are fully removed and Slovakia will become an integral part of a single common market comprising more than 450 millions



of inhabitants. At the same time, Slovak products would be easier to sell in third countries, since they'll be marked with the "Made in EU" label. Considering the high grade of trade integration of the Slovak Republic and respective mutual trade exchange we can state that joining the EU will not have any significant impact on the Slovak economy. However, the Slovak Republic will thus enter a much wider trade area and be able to make use of advantageous trade policy conditions arranged with the EU, such as a better access to third markets, protection of Slovak producers, etc. Furthermore, no fundamental changes are to be expected in territorial and commodity structures of Slovak trade. Slovak economy is already tightly bound to the economy of the EU member states. More than 70 % of our imports and about 85 % of our exports are carried out with the EU countries, including the accessing members. The most important trading partner has traditionally been the Federal Republic of Germany.

After integration of Slovakia into the existing EU policies, above all into the agricultural and regional policy, an overall improvement of the economic situation in its regions has to be expected. Based on the comparison between the amount, Slovakia will contribute to the budget in the 2004 – 2006 period (being about 43 billions SKK) and the amount, it can virtually absorb from the EU budget in this period (89 billions SKK), Slovakia as well as other accessing countries will probably become net-receivers. In some sectors directly dependent on state support significant improvement can be expected compared to current situation (in 2006 more than 22 billions SKK are assigned for agriculture, which is double as much as nowadays).

Traditionally, following factors are presented as strengths or advantages of our EU membership:

- Highly qualified labour force able to meet the demanding criteria of the EU labour market;
- Complete elimination of tariffs on products and services and of other trade and technical barriers within the EU market, which will mean equal rights for Slovak products launched to the common market;
- Higher inflow of investment (according to estimates compared to nowadays the amount of investment should triplicate by 2008), at the same time Slovak companies and citizens will be able to invest in the EU;
- Freedom of movement of persons including education and employment in each of the EU member states (Slovak citizens will become EU citizens), education and qualification acquired in Slovakia (as well as in other member states) will be accepted in other EU countries, as well.

The accession of the Slovak Republic to the EU is conditional upon the adoption and implementation of the *acquis communautaire*. This European legislation is the fundamental and inevitable benefit of joining the EU, because after decades it brings Slovakia back to the family of democratic European countries sharing the values of the European Union. The community law of the EU respects traditional key functions of the state in the society as well as in the economy. It is based on the premise, that the role of the state in the sphere of economy lay in the protection of free competition (it

refuses its violation including the abuse of dominant status, also in relation to strong foreign partners), in the protection of the weaker party to contract (employee, consumer) and in the protection of the right of ownership. The main benefit in terms of *acquis* will be the fact that compared to nowadays, when we are more-or-less only passive “recipients” of the EU legislation without the possibility of active influence on the process of its adoption, after acquiring EU membership we gain the right to participate in this process. Slovakia will be proportionally represented not only in the EU bodies on the expert level, but also in all of its institutions – the European Council, the European Committee, the European Parliament, the European Court of Justice and others.

However, the EU accession will not be connected only with positive effects. Mainly because of permanent transition of our economy, it is necessary to take into account the fact that there are certain risks linked with the EU membership:

- Lower competitiveness of Slovak economy. Adjustment period necessary to overcome all differences existing between the Slovak Republic and the EU will probably be longer. In the period following the EU accession multiple differences in wages will have to be balanced, as well. Cheap labour force could bring a deformation onto the EU labour market (partial protection of the EU is provided via transitional periods in free movement of persons);
- Rise in prices of food and some other goods on which excise tax is imposed (tobacco);
- Higher costs connected with the adoption and implementation of the *acquis* and the EU standards in terms of security and health protection at work, in social issues, environment, energy, in the sphere of indirect taxes, health, waste disposal, etc.;
- “Brain drain” – which will have to be solved via creating suitable conditions for qualified labour force in national environment;
- Delegation of certain competences (such as trade policy, legislation etc.) on the EU institutions.

The completion of the negotiations and the signing of the Treaty of Accession and its successful ratification do not imply the end of our accession preparations. It’s just the end of the first stage of our relations. In the course of this year we are expected to fulfil more than one hundred tasks, mainly of legislative nature, resulting from our commitments adopted during the negotiation process, as well as from the Regular Report of the European Commission on the Slovak Republic. At the same time it’ll be necessary to adjust the structures of state administration in a proper way to ensure appropriate representation of the Slovak Republic in all EU institutions and thus enable the promotion of Slovak interests within the European Union.

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# Prague Summit Declaration Issued by the Heads of State and Government Participating in the Meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Prague on 21 November 2002

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the North Atlantic Alliance, met today to enlarge our Alliance and further strengthen NATO to meet the grave new threats and profound security challenges of the 21st century. Bound by our common vision embodied in the Washington Treaty, we commit ourselves to transforming NATO with new members, new capabilities and new relationships with our partners. We are steadfast in our commitment to the transatlantic link; to NATO's fundamental security tasks including collective defence; to our shared democratic values; and to the United Nations Charter.
2. Today, we have decided to invite Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia to begin accession talks to join our Alliance. We congratulate them on this historic occasion, which so fittingly takes place in Prague. The accession of these new members will strengthen security for all in the Euro-Atlantic area, and help achieve our common goal of a Europe whole and free, united in peace and by common values. NATO's door will remain open to European democracies willing and able to assume the responsibilities and obligations of membership, in accordance with Article 10 of the Washington Treaty.
3. Recalling the tragic events of 11 September 2001 and our subsequent decision to invoke Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, we have approved a comprehensive

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\* Document provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic

package of measures, based on NATO's Strategic Concept, to strengthen our ability to meet the challenges to the security of our forces, populations and territory, from wherever they may come. Today's decisions will provide for balanced and effective capabilities within the Alliance so that NATO can better carry out the full range of its missions and respond collectively to those challenges, including the threat posed by terrorism and by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

4. We underscore that our efforts to transform and adapt NATO should not be perceived as a threat by any country or organisation, but rather as a demonstration of our determination to protect our populations, territory and forces from any armed attack, including terrorist attack, directed from abroad. We are determined to deter, disrupt, defend and protect against any attacks on us, in accordance with the Washington Treaty and the Charter of the United Nations. In order to carry out the full range of its missions, NATO must be able to field forces that can move quickly to wherever they are needed, upon decision by the North Atlantic Council, to sustain operations over distance and time, including in an environment where they might be faced with nuclear, biological and chemical threats, and to achieve their objectives. Effective military forces, an essential part of our overall political strategy, are vital to safeguard the freedom and security of our populations and to contribute to peace and security in the Euro-Atlantic region. We have therefore decided to:
  - a. Create a NATO Response Force (NRF) consisting of a technologically advanced, flexible, deployable, interoperable and sustainable force including land, sea, and air elements ready to move quickly to wherever needed, as decided by the Council. The NRF will also be a catalyst for focusing and promoting improvements in the Alliance's military capabilities. We gave directions for the development of a comprehensive concept for such a force, which will have its initial operational capability as soon as possible, but not later than October 2004 and its full operational capability not later than October 2006, and for a report to Defence Ministers in Spring 2003. The NRF and the related work of the EU Headline Goal should be mutually reinforcing while respecting the autonomy of both organisations.
  - b. Streamline NATO's military command arrangements. We have approved the Defence Ministers' report providing the outline of a leaner, more efficient, effective and deployable command structure, with a view to meeting the operational requirements for the full range of Alliance missions. It is based on the agreed Minimum Military Requirements document for the Alliance's command arrangements. The structure will enhance the transatlantic link, result in a significant reduction in headquarters and Combined Air Operations Centres, and promote the transformation of our military capabilities. There will be two strategic commands, one operational, and one functional. The strategic command for Operations, headquartered in Europe (Belgium), will be supported by two Joint Force Commands able to generate a land-based Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) headquarters and a robust but more limited standing joint headquarters from which

a sea-based CJTF headquarters capability can be drawn. There will also be land, sea and air components. The strategic command for Transformation, headquartered in the United States, and with a presence in Europe, will be responsible for the continuing transformation of military capabilities and for the promotion of interoperability of Alliance forces, in co-operation with the Allied Command Operations as appropriate. We have instructed the Council and Defence Planning Committee, taking into account the work of the NATO Military Authorities and objective military criteria, to finalise the details of the structure, including geographic locations of command structure headquarters and other elements, so that final decisions are taken by Defence Ministers in June 2003.

- c. Approve the Prague Capabilities Commitment (PCC) as part of the continuing Alliance effort to improve and develop new military capabilities for modern warfare in a high threat environment. Individual Allies have made firm and specific political commitments to improve their capabilities in the areas of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear defence; intelligence, surveillance, and target acquisition; air-to-ground surveillance; command, control and communications; combat effectiveness, including precision guided munitions and suppression of enemy air defences; strategic air and sea lift; air-to-air refuelling; and deployable combat support and combat service support units. Our efforts to improve capabilities through the PCC and those of the European Union to enhance European capabilities through the European Capabilities Action Plan should be mutually reinforcing, while respecting the autonomy of both organisations, and in a spirit of openness. We will implement all aspects of our Prague Capabilities Commitment as quickly as possible. We will take the necessary steps to improve capabilities in the identified areas of continuing capability shortfalls. Such steps could include multinational efforts, role specialisation and reprioritisation, noting that in many cases additional financial resources will be required, subject as appropriate to parliamentary approval. We are committed to pursuing vigorously capability improvements. We have directed the Council in Permanent Session to report on implementation to Defence Ministers.
- d. Endorse the agreed military concept for defence against terrorism. The concept is part of a package of measures to strengthen NATO's capabilities in this area, which also includes improved intelligence sharing and crisis response arrangements. Terrorism, which we categorically reject and condemn in all its forms and manifestations, poses a grave and growing threat to Alliance populations, forces and territory, as well as to international security. We are determined to combat this scourge for as long as necessary. To combat terrorism effectively, our response must be multi-faceted and comprehensive. We are committed, in co-operation with our partners, to fully implement the Civil Emergency Planning (CEP) Action Plan for the improvement of civil preparedness against possible attacks against the civilian population with chemical, biological or radiological (CBR) agents. We will enhance our ability to provide support,

when requested, to help national authorities to deal with the consequences of terrorist attacks, including attacks with CBRN against critical infrastructure, as foreseen in the CEP Action Plan.

- e. Endorse the implementation of five nuclear, biological and chemical weapons defence initiatives, which will enhance the Alliance's defence capabilities against weapons of mass destruction: a Prototype Deployable NBC Analytical Laboratory; a Prototype NBC Event Response team; a virtual Centre of Excellence for NBC Weapons Defence; a NATO Biological and Chemical Defence Stockpile; and a Disease Surveillance system. We reaffirm our commitment to augment and improve expeditiously our NBC defence capabilities.
- f. Strengthen our capabilities to defend against cyber attacks.
- g. Examine options for addressing the increasing missile threat to Alliance territory, forces and population centres in an effective and efficient way through an appropriate mix of political and defence efforts, along with deterrence. Today we initiated a new NATO Missile Defence feasibility study to examine options for protecting Alliance territory, forces and population centres against the full range of missile threats, which we will continue to assess. Our efforts in this regard will be consistent with the indivisibility of Allied security. We support the enhancement of the role of the WMD Centre within the International Staff to assist the work of the Alliance in tackling this threat.

We reaffirm that disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation make an essential contribution to preventing the spread and use of WMD and their means of delivery. We stress the importance of abiding by and strengthening existing multilateral non-proliferation and export control regimes and international arms control and disarmament accords.

5. Admitting Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia as new members will enhance NATO's ability to face the challenges of today and tomorrow. They have demonstrated their commitment to the basic principles and values set out in the Washington Treaty, the ability to contribute to the Alliance's full range of missions including collective defence, and a firm commitment to contribute to stability and security, especially in regions of crisis and conflict. We will begin accession talks immediately with the aim of signing Accession Protocols by the end of March 2003 and completing the ratification process in time for these countries to join the Alliance at the latest at our Summit in May 2004. During the period leading up to accession, the Alliance will involve the invited countries in Alliance activities to the greatest extent possible. We pledge our continued support and assistance, including through the Membership Action Plan (MAP). We look forward to receiving the invitees' timetables for reforms, upon which further progress will be expected before and after accession in order to enhance their contribution to the Alliance.

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<sup>1</sup> Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

6. We commend Albania for its significant reform progress, its constructive role in promoting regional stability, and strong support for the Alliance. We commend the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup> for the significant progress it has achieved in its reform process and for its strong support for Alliance operations, as well as for the important steps it has made in overcoming its internal challenges and advancing democracy, stability and ethnic reconciliation. We will continue to help both countries, including through the MAP, to achieve stability, security and prosperity, so that they can meet the obligations of membership. In this context, we have also agreed to improve our capacity to contribute to Albania's continued reform, and to further assist defence and security sector reform in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia through the NATO presence. We encourage both countries to redouble their reform efforts. They remain under consideration for future membership.

Croatia, which has made encouraging progress on reform, will also be under consideration for future membership. Progress in this regard will depend upon Croatia's further reform efforts and compliance with all of its international obligations, including to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

The Membership Action Plan will remain the vehicle to keep aspirants' progress under review. Today's invitees will not be the last.

7. The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and the Partnership for Peace (PfP) have greatly enhanced security and stability throughout the Euro-Atlantic area. We have today decided to upgrade our co-operation with the EAPC/PfP countries. Our political dialogue will be strengthened, and Allies, in consultation with Partners, will, to the maximum extent possible, increase involvement of Partners, as appropriate, in the planning, conduct, and oversight of those activities and projects in which they participate and to which they contribute. We have introduced new practical mechanisms, such as Individual Partnership Action Plans, which will ensure a comprehensive, tailored and differentiated approach to the Partnership, and which allow for support to the reform efforts of Partners. We encourage Partners, including the countries of the strategically important regions of the Caucasus and Central Asia, to take advantage of these mechanisms. We welcome the resolve of Partners to undertake all efforts to combat terrorism, including through the Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism. We will also continue to further enhance interoperability and defence-related activities, which constitute the core of our partnership. Participation in the PfP and the EAPC could be broadened in the future to include the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina once necessary progress is achieved, including full co-operation with the ICTY.
8. We welcome the significant achievements of the NATO-Russia Council since the historic NATO-Russia Summit meeting in Rome. We have deepened our relationship to the benefit of all the peoples in the Euro-Atlantic area. NATO member states and Russia are working together in the NATO-Russia Council as equal partners,



making progress in areas such as peacekeeping, defence reform, WMD proliferation, search and rescue, civil emergency planning, theatre missile defence and the struggle against terrorism, towards our shared goal of a stable, peaceful and undivided Europe. In accordance with the Founding Act and the Rome Declaration, we are determined to intensify and broaden our co-operation with Russia.

9. We remain committed to strong NATO-Ukraine relations under the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership. We note Ukraine's determination to pursue full Euro-Atlantic integration, and encourage Ukraine to implement all the reforms necessary, including as regards enforcement of export controls, to achieve this objective. The new Action Plan that we are adopting with Ukraine is an important step forward; it identifies political, economic, military and other reform areas where Ukraine is committed to make further progress and where NATO will continue to assist. Continued progress in deepening and enhancing our relationship requires an unequivocal Ukrainian commitment to the values of the Euro-Atlantic community.
10. We reaffirm that security in Europe is closely linked to security and stability in the Mediterranean. We therefore decide to upgrade substantially the political and practical dimensions of our Mediterranean Dialogue as an integral part of the Alliance's cooperative approach to security. In this respect, we encourage intensified practical co-operation and effective interaction on security matters of common concern, including terrorism-related issues, as appropriate, where NATO can provide added value. We reiterate that the Mediterranean Dialogue and other international efforts, including the EU Barcelona process, are complementary and mutually reinforcing.
11. NATO and the European Union share common strategic interests. We remain strongly committed to the decisions made at the Washington Summit and subsequent Ministerial meetings, in order to enhance NATO-EU co-operation. The success of our co-operation has been evident in our concerted efforts in the Balkans to restore peace and create the conditions for prosperous and democratic societies. Events on and since 11 September 2001 have underlined further the importance of greater transparency and co-operation between our two organisations on questions of common interest relating to security, defence, and crisis management, so that crises can be met with the most appropriate military response and effective crisis management ensured. We remain committed to making the progress needed on all the various aspects of our relationship, noting the need to find solutions satisfactory to all Allies on the issue of participation by non-EU European Allies, in order to achieve a genuine strategic partnership.
12. To further promote peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic Area, NATO will continue to develop its fruitful and close co-operation with the OSCE, namely in the complementary areas of conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.
13. The Alliance has played a vital role in restoring a secure environment in South-East Europe. We reaffirm our support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty



of all the countries in this strategically important region. We will continue to work with our partners in SFOR and KFOR, the United Nations, the European Union, the OSCE and other international organisations, to help build a peaceful, stable and democratic South-East Europe, where all countries assume ownership of the process of reform, and are integrated in Euro-Atlantic structures. We remain determined to see that goal become reality. We expect the countries of the region: to continue to build enduring multi-ethnic democracies, root out organised crime and corruption and firmly establish the rule of law; to cooperate regionally; and to comply fully with international obligations, including by bringing to justice in The Hague all ICTY indictees. The reform progress that these countries make will determine the pace of their integration into Euro-Atlantic structures. We confirm our continued presence in the region and we stand ready to assist these countries in the region, through individual programmes of assistance, to continue their progress. In the light of continuing progress and analysis of the prevailing security and political environment, we will explore options for a further rationalisation and force restructuring, taking into account a regional approach. We welcome the successful conclusion of Operation Amber Fox in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. We have agreed to maintain a NATO presence from 15 December for a limited period to contribute to continuing stability, which we will review in the light of the evolving situation. We note the EU's expressed readiness to take over the military operation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia under appropriate conditions.

14. NATO member countries have responded to the call of the UN Security Council to assist the Afghan government in restoring security in Kabul and its surroundings. Their forces constitute the backbone of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. We commend the United Kingdom and Turkey for their successive contributions as ISAF lead nations, and welcome the willingness of Germany and the Netherlands jointly to succeed them. NATO has agreed to provide support in selected areas for the next ISAF lead nations, showing our continued commitment. However, the responsibility for providing security and law and order throughout Afghanistan resides with the Afghans themselves.
15. We remain committed to the CFE Treaty and reaffirm our attachment to the early entry into force of the Adapted Treaty. The CFE regime provides a fundamental contribution to a more secure and integrated Europe. We welcome the approach of those non-CFE countries, which have stated their intention to request accession to the Adapted CFE Treaty upon its entry into force. Their accession would provide an important additional contribution to European stability and security. We welcome the significant results of Russia's effort to reduce forces in the Treaty's Article V area to agreed levels. We urge swift fulfilment of the outstanding Istanbul commitments on Georgia and Moldova, which will create the conditions for Allies and other States Parties to move forward on ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty.

16. As NATO transforms, we have endorsed a package of measures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the headquarters organisation. The NATO+ Initiative on human resources issues complements this effort. We are committed to continuing to provide, individually and collectively, the resources that are necessary to allow our Alliance to perform the tasks that we demand of it.
17. We welcome the role of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in complementing NATO's efforts to project stability throughout Europe. We also appreciate the contribution made by the Atlantic Treaty Association in promoting better understanding of the Alliance and its objectives among our publics.
18. We express our deep appreciation for the gracious hospitality extended to us by the Government of the Czech Republic.
19. Our Summit demonstrates that European and North American Allies, already united by history and common values, will remain a community determined and able to defend our territory, populations and forces against all threats and challenges. For over fifty years, NATO has defended peace, democracy and security in the Euro-Atlantic area. The commitments we have undertaken here in Prague will ensure that the Alliance continues to play that vital role into the future.

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## Statement by the Heads of State and Government of Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia on the Occasion of NATO Summit in Prague

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, reaffirm that political solidarity and a commitment to the democratic values will continue to be the foundation of our co-operation with each other and with NATO allies.
2. In the two and a half years since we first met in Vilnius, Lithuania, we have sought to make our own contribution to a Europe that is free and united by the fundamental principles of democracy, free market economy, and human rights. We have also set the goal of acting in solidarity in response to the new threats to the Euro-Atlantic community. To this end, we have joined NATO nations in operations from Kosovo to Kabul and have acted as members of the Alliance in the fight against terrorism.
3. We welcome the decision of the North Atlantic Council to invite Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia to begin accession talks with NATO. This decision is a success for all of our countries and a success

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\* Document provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic

for democracy. It is also a recognition of the tremendous efforts our countries put into reforms. We believe that Albania, Croatia and Macedonia are an essential part of the Euro-Atlantic community and should be invited to begin accession talks at the earliest opportunity. We are committed to accelerate the process of reform in each of our countries and to work together to support the aspiration of Albania, Croatia and Macedonia for membership in NATO.

4. We are grateful for the support of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly to the Vilnius Group since its formation and trust that it will continue to act as an engine for further NATO enlargement. We welcome the invitation of Lithuania to host in Vilnius, on 22-23 May 2003, a meeting at the level of Parliamentary speakers of our countries and the intention of Macedonia to host in 2004 a Vilnius Group Summit in Skopje.
5. We reaffirm our support for a strong Alliance at the core of Trans-Atlantic security, capable to adapt to and meet new security challenges. We shall contribute to the fullest extent possible to NATO operations and to the modernization of NATO defence capabilities. We reaffirm our commitment to continue to play an active role in the war against terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We support the goal of the international community for full disarmament of Iraq as stipulated in the UN Security Council Resolution 1441. In the event of non-compliance with the terms of this resolution, we are prepared to contribute to an international coalition to enforce its provisions and the disarmament of Iraq.
6. The process we began in Vilnius has enhanced mutual trust, solidarity and regional co-operation among our countries and strengthened democracy in Europe. We have accelerated the transformation of our civic societies and learned to work together as allies. We believe that the spirit of solidarity and responsibility has a meaningful role to play in the aftermath of the Prague Summit, in the furtherance of democracy and security in the Euro-Atlantic area. We are ready to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to succeed in joining the Euro-Atlantic institutions, and we will support the process of democratic reform in Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and the countries of Caucasus and Central Asia.

Prague, November 21, 2002

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## The Main Activities of the Slovak Republic in Foreign Policy

*January 7.* Vice-Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic P. Hrušovský paid an official visit to the People's Republic of China. P. Hrušovský held talks with the Head of the Permanent Committee of the National People's Congress Lee Pcheng. They discussed the issue of human rights and religious freedoms in China as well as the problems of the Catholic Church in China.

*January 9 – 10.* At the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Denmark A. F. Rasmussen paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. During his visit A. F. Rasmussen negotiated with the Prime Minister M. Dzurinda, the President R. Schuster and had a meeting with the members of Foreign Affairs Committee and the Committee for European Integration of the National Council of the Slovak Republic. The subjects of the negotiations were the issues of the accession of the Slovak Republic to the EU and NATO, reforms of the European institutions, activities of the parliament of the Denmark in relation to the EU as well as the common European currency EURO.

*January 9 – 10.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Figeľ took part at the meeting of the State Secretaries of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the V4 countries and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Brno. The State Secretary of the MFA of the Czech Republic for European Issues J. Telička, the State Secretary of the MFA of the Republic of Poland D. Hübner, the State Secretary of the MFA of the Republic of Hungary Zs. Németh and the State Secretary of the MFA of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland P. Hain took also part at the meeting. The main points of the meeting were the achievements of the summit in Laeken, expectations and priorities of the Spanish presidency and future of Europe.

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\* Elaborated by Peter Brezáni, Slovak institute for International Studies

*January 17 – 19.* The Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic J. Migaš paid an official visit to the Republic of Poland. During his visit he negotiated with the Marshal of Sejm of the Republic of Poland, as well as with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland.

*January 21 – 22.* At the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan and the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration M. Kadlečíková the Minister for European Affairs of the Republic of France P. Moscovici paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. During his visit P. Moscovici met the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda, the Vice-chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic M. Hrušovský, the Deputy Prime Minister for the European Integration of the Slovak Republic M. Kadlečíková, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan and the State Secretary of the MFA SR J. Figel. In the National Council of the Slovak Republic he negotiated with the members of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Committee for European Integration and Defence and Security Committee. The main topic of the negotiations were the status of the ongoing accession process of the Slovak Republic to the EU and NATO, current international situation and possibilities for wider Slovak-French political and economic co-operation.

*January 23.* Meeting of the Ministers of Defence of the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Hungary was held in Budapest. The talks were focused on co-operation of the V4 countries, NATO enlargement, activities of Alliance in the Balkans and war on terrorism.

*January 24 – 25.* High Commissioner of OSCE for National Minorities R. Ekéus paid a working visit to the Slovak Republic. During his stay R. Ekéus met the Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic P. Csáky, the Minister of Foreign Affairs E. Kukan, the Minister of Education M. Ftáčnik, as well as the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs J. Chlebo. R. Ekéus was also received by the Vice-Chairmen of the National Council of the Slovak Republic P. Hrušovský and B. Bugár and met the Government's Plenipotentiary for the Roma Community K. Orgovánová.

*January 25.* Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan received Head of the UNHCR Office in the Slovak Republic, P. M. Natta. The main topic of their discussion was the activities of UNHCR. P. M. Natta informed E. Kukan about the activities of UNHCR in the world as well as about the further planned activities of UNHCR in the Slovak Republic.

*January 28 – February 1.* Wider team of NATO, consisting of the representatives of the International Secretariat of NATO and Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe paid a visit to the Slovak Republic. The Head of the NATO delegation was the Assistant

Secretary General of NATO for Political Affairs G. Altenburg. NATO delegation was received by the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster and the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda. NATO delegation also negotiated with the Minister of Foreign Affairs E. Kukan, the Minister of Defence J. Stank, the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs J. Figeľ, the State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence R. Káčer, the Vice-Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic P. Hrušovský and the Government's Plenipotentiary for the Roma Community K. Orgovánová.

*February 7.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Chief Negotiator for the Accession to the EU J. Figeľ took part in the meeting of the chief negotiators in Brussels. Chief negotiators discussed the impacts of the EU accession from the point of view of the V4 region and defined the areas of the possible common course of action in further negotiations with the EU. J. Figeľ had a meeting with the European Commission Director General for Enlargement E. Landaburu, the Director P. Mirreli and Head of the Team of the European Commission for the Slovak Republic D. Meganck, as well as with the representatives of the Spanish presidency related to the negotiations priorities of the Slovak Republic.

*February 11 – 13.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan took part at Joint OIC (Organisation of Islamic conferences) – EU Forum in Istanbul. At the forum the further options for co-operation in fight against the terrorism were discussed.

*February 12.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chief Negotiator for the Accession to the EU J. Figeľ received the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander in Europe general D. Stöckmann. The main topics of their discussion were the issues related to the preparation of the accession of the Slovak Republic to NATO, recent relation between EU and NATO from the point of view of possible employment of the European forces in the area of South-Eastern Europe.

*February 12.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs J. Figeľ received the deputies of the House of Commons of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland M. Oaten and M. Hendrick. The key topic of their negotiations was the accession process of the Slovak Republic to the EU with the emphasis on chapters Transport, Taxation, Co-operation in Justice and Home Affairs and Agriculture.

*February 13.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chief Negotiator for the Accession to the EU J. Figeľ received the EU ambassadors to the Slovak Republic, as well as the representative of the Delegation of the European Commission in the Slovak Republic. The main aim of the meeting was to inform the

partners about the standpoint of the Slovak Republic to the financial framework of the enlargement, elaborated by the European Commission.

*February 14 – 15.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Figeľ paid a working visit to the Republic of Finland. J. Figeľ attended the conference *Slovakia on the threshold of the EU* in Helsinki. J. Figeľ took part on the working lunch and met the State Secretary of the Governmental Office for the European Affairs of the Republic of Finland A. Aalto, Deputy Director General of the political division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Finland J. store and other representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Finland.

*February 18.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan received the Chairman of the Parliament of the Republic of Cyprus D. Christofias. Topics of their talks were bilateral co-operation, ambition of the EU integration of the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Cyprus, as well as the integration efforts of the Slovak Republic to NATO.

*February 19.* The Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda paid a working visit to the Federal Republic of Germany. M. Dzurinda held talks with the Germany's Chancellor G. Schröder, the Chairman of the European Committee of the German Bundestag F. Pflüger, the Chairman of the Defence Committee of the German Bundestag H. Wiczorek, Head of the German delegation in the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO M. Meckel and the Chairman of the Christian-Democratic Union A. Merkel.

*February 19.* The Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic J. Stank paid an official visit to Ukraine. During his stay, J. Stank had a meeting with the Minister of Defence of the Ukraine V. Škidčenko. The topics of their discussion were the formation and activities of the International Sapper's Battalion in co-operation with the Republic of Hungary and Romania, the participation at the NATO programme Partnership for Peace and military and political relations of the Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

*February 22.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan received the Chairman of the Council of Republics of the Federal Parliament of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia S. Božovič. The point of the negotiations was in particular in issues of bilateral co-operation, future structure of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and current situation in Kosovo.

*February 25.* The Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic P. Weiss negotiated with the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of the Republic of Hungary and the State Secretary of



the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary. P. Weiss informed his counterparts about the standpoint of the NC SR to the Act on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries.

*February 25 – 26.* At the invitation of the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, the President of the Republic of Armenia R. Kočarian with his wife paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. He was received by the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda and Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic J. Migaš. The President of the Republic of Armenia was accompanied by the Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia who had a working breakfast with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan. The point of the negotiations was in particular in issues of bilateral co-operation.

*February 26 – 27.* At the invitation of the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil F. H. Cardoso paid a visit to the Slovak Republic. F. H. Cardoso was accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil. The main points of the programme were talks with the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster and the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil had separate negotiations with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan. The points of the negotiations were the issues of the bilateral co-operation in economic and trade field.

*February 26.* Delegation of the United States of America headed by the ambassador and permanent representative to the NATO N. Burns paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. The talks with the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan and the Minister of Defence J. Stank were focused on NATO enlargement process.

*February 27.* The Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic J. Migaš paid an official visit to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. J. Migaš was received by the Chairman of the Council of Citizens of the Federal Parliament of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia D. Mičunovič. The topic of their negotiations was the issue of bilateral co-operation.

*February 28.* The initial meeting of the Convent on Drafting the Future Design of EU was held in Brussels. The representatives of the governments and parliaments of the members and candidates countries, as well as the representatives of the other European institutions took part at the meeting. The Slovak Republic was represented by the member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic I. Belohorská.

*February 28 – March 1.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia T. Picula paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. Besides the negotiations with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan, T. Picula was received by the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster and the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda. T. Picula also met the Vice-Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic M. Andel under the presence of members of the Foreign Affairs Committee and Committee for European Integration of the National Council of the Slovak Republic. The points of the negotiations were the issues of the bilateral co-operation, as well as the co-operation in the international forums.

*February 28 – March 1.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs J. Chlebo paid a working visit to the Council of Europe. During his stay J. Chlebo met the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe. Working negotiations concentrated on the activities of the Slovak Republic in the Council of Europe.

*March 5 – 6.* At the invitation of the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster the President of the Republic of Turkey A. N. Sezer paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. A. N. Sezer was received by the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster and during his visit A. N. Sezer met the Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic J. Migaš, the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan and the Mayor of Bratislava J. Moravčík. The President of the Republic of Turkey A. N. Sezer was accompanied by the State Minister T. Toskay and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey I. Cem who held separate negotiations with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan.

*March 5.* At the invitation of the Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania M. Geoana paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. M. Geoana was received by the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, the Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic J. Migaš, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for European Integration M. Kadlečíková and the Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan. The negotiations concentrated on the issues of bilateral relations, situation in the South Eastern Europe and common integration ambitions.

*March 6 – 7.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chief Negotiator for the Accession to the EU J. Figeľ took part at the joint presentation of the V4 countries in Roma. The main aim of the presentation was to support accession of the V4 countries into the EU and to offer to the representatives of the Italian Republic, as well as wide public the information about the accession process. Within the presentation

the bilateral meeting with the Minister for European Affairs of the Italian Republic R. Buttiglione was held. R. Buttiglione expressed the full support to the EU enlargement.

*March 8.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan took part at the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs the so called Vilnius Group in Skopje. *Membership in Alliance – the basic assumption of the South Eastern Europe transformation from the conflict region to the region of prosperity and contribution to the fight against terrorism and other forms of criminal acts – one of the conditions for joining the Alliance was the topic of the meeting.*

*March 9 – 13.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Figeľ paid a working visit to Canada and the United States of America. In Ottawa he met the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada G. Lavertu, the Secretary of State for Central and Eastern Europe G. Knutson, the Assistant Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of Canada responsible for the issues of defence, NATO and security K. Calder and other representatives. During his visit to the USA J. Figeľ met the Deputy Secretary of State of the USA for European Affairs A. E. Jones and the Assistant Deputy Secretary of State of the USA for Democracy and Human Rights S. Carpenter. J. Figeľ also negotiated with the expert of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate of the USA D. Merkeley and other representatives. The content of the negotiations was focused primarily on the support of the accession of the Slovak Republic to NATO from the part of Canada and the USA, as well as on the issues of bilateral relations and multilateral co-operation.

*March 12.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan was the Head of the Delegation of the Slovak Republic at the 8<sup>th</sup>. Meeting of the Association Committee SR – EU held in Brussels. The main point of the programme was the evaluation of the progress in adoption and implementation of the Community legislation as well as the political and economic criteria defined in the Partnership for Accession and in EC Regular Report on Slovakia's Progress towards Accession.

*March 14.* The meeting of the State Secretaries and Deputies of the Ministries of Economy of the CEFTA countries was held in Bratislava. The Plan of Activities of the CEFTA Countries in 2002 was adopted.

*March 15 – 16.* Delegation of the Slovak Republic headed by the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda took part at the regular meeting of the European Council in Barcelona. Among the members of the delegation there were also the Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan, the Minister of Finance of the Slovak Republic F. Hajnovič and the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Figeľ. Economic and social reforms initiated during the Lisbon summit of the EU in March 2000 was the topic of the negotiations

of the representatives of the members' and candidates' countries. The issues of the employment, education, common energy market, liberalisation of transportation and common financial market were also discussed.

*March 18 – 19.* The Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda paid an official visit to Brussels. The aim of his visit was to inform the high representatives of the EU about the steps of the Government of the Slovak Republic taken in an effort to finish harmonisation of the legislation of the Slovak Republic with the *Acquis Communautaire*.

*March 18.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan received ambassadors of the EU Troika to the Slovak Republic. Ambassadors submitted the common document of the EU – *Memorandum on the International Criminal Court* and called the Slovak Republic to ratify the *Roma Statute* of the International Criminal Court.

*March 18 – 22.* UN International conference on Financing for Development was held in Monterrey. Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for Economy I. Mikloš was the head of the delegation of the Slovak Republic.

*March 19.* The President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster paid an official visit to the Russian Federation. During his stay he met the President of the Russian Federation V. Putin. The negotiations concentrated on the integration ambitions of the Slovak Republic, economic co-operation and cultural exchange.

*March 19.* At the invitation of the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland D. Hübner the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Chlebo paid a working visit to the Republic of Poland. During his visit, J. Chlebo was received by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland W. Cimoszewicz. The points of the negotiations included issues of bilateral co-operation, regional and cross-border co-operation, issues related to the development in V4 and some aspects of the Euro-Atlantic integration.

*March 21 – 22.* The second meeting of the Convent on Drafting the Future Design of the EU was held in Brussels. The representatives of the governments and parliaments of the member and candidates countries, as well as the representatives of the other European institutions took part at the meeting. The Slovak Republic was represented by delegates P. Hamžík and J. Figel.

*March 21.* The meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference on the Accession of the Slovak Republic to the EU on the level of the Chief Negotiators took place in Brussels. The delegation of the Slovak Republic was led by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Chief Negotiator for the Accession to the EU J. Figeľ. The negotiation chapter Taxation was closed.

*March 21.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan presented his speech as a special guest at the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on Human Rights. His speech reflected two central issues of the meeting: fight against terrorism and situation in the Middle East.

*March 22.* The joint negotiations of the North Atlantic Council on the level of ambassadors of the member states of the Alliance to the NATO with the Slovak Republic took place in Brussels. The delegation of the Slovak Republic was led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan and the Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic J. Stank. The representatives of the Slovak Republic informed about the state of preparedness for a NATO membership.

*March 25 – 26.* The Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda took part at the summit of the Prime Ministers of the NATO candidates' countries in Bucharest. The aim of the summit called *The Spring of New Allies* was a confirmation of the solidarity of the NATO candidate countries and discussion concentrated on: *New Threats, New Allies and Adaptation of NATO: Views of Future Members – The Road to Prague and Beyond*. The participants adopted a joint declaration, in which the countries of V10 expressed the decision to continue in preparing for NATO membership.

*April 3 – 5.* At the invitation of the President of the Slovak Republic the King of the Kingdom of Sweden Carl XVI Gustaf with his wife Silvia paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. The King of the Kingdom of Sweden was accompanied by the Minister of the Defence of the Kingdom of Sweden B. von Sydow. During his stay Carl XVI met the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, the Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic J. Migaš and the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda. The points of the negotiations included the issues of the bilateral relations, as well as the issue of the integration of the Slovak Republic into the EU and NATO.

*April 8 – 10.* The President of the Hellenic Republic C. Stephanopoulos paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. During his visit he negotiated with the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster. C. Stephanopoulos also met the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda.

*April 12.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan paid a working visit to the Czech Republic. The issues of bilateral relations, development

in the Central Europe and actual foreign policy issues was the point of the negotiations with the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic J. Kavan.

*April 14.* The Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan paid an official visit to the Republic of Iceland. E. Kukan met the Prime Minister of the Republic of Iceland D. Odsson, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iceland H. Asgrímsson, Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament M. Stefansson and the Minister of Trade and Industry V. Sveris. The main points of the negotiations covered issues of bilateral relations, issue of the EU and NATO enlargement and progress of the Slovak Republic in the accession process. The Ministers signed the Convention between the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Iceland for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital.

*April 16 – 17.* At the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark P. S. Moller the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Denmark. E. Kukan held talks with his counterpart, as well as with the Minister for European Integration B. Haarder. E. Kukan was also received by the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Denmark A. F. Rasmussen and the Queen Margarethe II. He also met the Chairman and the members of the European Committee.

*April 17.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Chlebo paid a working visit to the Republic of France. During his visit he met the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of France L. Hennekin.

*April 20 – 22.* The President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster paid an official visit to the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria. The President was accompanied by the members of the government of the Slovak Republic, the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic and the representatives of the enterprise subjects. Deepening of bilateral relations in the field of economy was the main point of the negotiations.

*April 22.* The meeting of the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference on the Accession of the Slovak Republic to the EU took place in Brussels. The delegation of the Slovak Republic was led by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Chief Negotiator for the Accession to the EU J. Figeľ. The negotiation chapter Transportation was preliminary closed.

*April 22 – 23.* The President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster paid an official visit to the Republic of Cyprus. R. Schuster was received by the President of the Republic of Cyprus G. Klerides, the Mayor of Nicosia M. Zampelas and visited the demilitarized zone of the divided island.

*April 24.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Chlebo had the bilateral consultations in Romania. During the consultations J. Chlebo was received by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania for Bilateral Issues C. Diaconescu and the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania for Multilateral Issues M. Motoc. The main aim of the negotiations was an exchange of opinions at the issue of the Act on Hungarians Living in the Neighbouring Countries, as well as the aspects of bilateral relations.

*April 25 – 26.* At the invitation of the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, the President of the Republic of Poland A. Kwasniewski with his wife Jolanta paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. During his visit he negotiated with the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda and the Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic J. Migaš. The main point of the negotiations focused on bilateral relations, development in the Central European region, Euro - Atlantic integration and other aspects of the international issues.

*April 29 – 30.* At the invitation of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for European Integration M. Kadlečíková the Minister for European Affairs of the Republic of Italy R. Buttiglione paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. During his visit R. Buttiglione was received by the Vice-Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic P. Hrušovský, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan, the Chairman of the Committee for European Integration of the National Council of the Slovak Republic F. Šebej and the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Figeľ. The talks concentrated on the enlargement and reform of the EU, the role of NATO in a changing geopolitical conditions and integration of the Slovak Republic into the EU and NATO.

*April 29 – May 2.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Chlebo paid an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran and to the Republic of India. The main point of the visit was to hold bilateral inter-ministerial consultations with counterparts. In both countries the negotiations concentrated on the issues of bilateral relations of regional character and deepening of the co-operation in the UN.



*May 1 – 3.* At the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda, European Commission Commissioner for Enlargement G. Verheugen paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. G. Verheugen held talks with the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, the Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic J. Migaš, the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan.

*May 7.* At the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Spain J. Piqué paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. Beside negotiations with E. Kukan, he met the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda. The points of the negotiations included the issues of the bilateral relations, tasks resulting from the Spanish Presidency and the state of the accession process of the Slovak Republic into the EU and NATO. The Ministers signed the Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Kingdom of Spain on the Scientific and Technological Co-operation.

*May 8 – 10.* The Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda received the member of the European Parliament and the former President of the European Commission J. Santer. The talks concentrated on the integration process in Europe, actual international situation and ambition of the Slovak Republic to finish the negotiations until the end of 2002.

*May 9 – 10.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea S. H. Choi paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. During his visit he was received by the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster and Deputy Prime Minister for Economy I. Mikloš. S. H. Choi negotiated with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan. The points of the talks covered issues of deepening of bilateral relations in the field of economy, trade and investments.

*May 14.* The Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda paid an official visit to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. He met the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland T. Blair, the Chairman of the House of Lords of the Parliament and Minister of Justice of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Irvin of Lairg and the Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party M. Ancram. The talks concentrated on the integration ambitions of the Slovak Republic and bilateral agenda.

*May 15.* The delegation of the Slovak Republic took part at the regular meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Euro - Atlantic Partnership Council in Reykjavik. The delegation was led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the future of the EAPC and to prepare



the themes for the negotiations of the Presidents and the Prime Ministers for the Prague Summit.

*May 15. – 16.* At the invitation of the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, the President of the Republic of Macedonia B. Trajkovski with his wife paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. Beside the negotiations with the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, B. Trajkovski was received by the Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic J. Migaš, the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda and the Mayor of Bratislava J. Moravčík. The Presidents expressed their opinions and standpoints on the options to deepen bilateral co-operation and discussed the actual international issues.

*May 15 – 17.* The Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for European Integration M. Kadlečíková took part at the international conference *Euromontana* held in Inverness. The topics of the conference focused on the regional policy and agriculture in the mountainous areas.

*May 16.* The Permanent State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark F. A. Petersen paid a working visit to the Slovak Republic. During his visit he held consultations with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Figeľ. The main points of the talks were the integration process, oncoming Denmark's Presidency, NATO enlargement, bilateral relations and regional co-operation.

*May 16 – 20.* The Governor of Michigan J. M. Engler paid a visit to the Slovak Republic. During his stay he met the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic I. Mikloš, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan and other representatives of the Government, allowance receiving organisation SARIO and business circles.

*May 19 – 20.* At the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic M. Zeman, the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda paid an official visit to the Czech Republic. The aim of the visit was to continue in the trend of an expanding co-operation and to strengthen the extraordinary relationships between the Czech and the Slovak Republics. During his visit M. Dzurinda met representatives of the political and social life of the Czech Republic, with whom he evaluated the four - year period of co-operation between both countries.

*May 25.* At the invitation of the Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia D. Rupel, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan paid an official visit to the Republic of Slovenia. Beside the negotiations with his

counterpart, E. Kukan was received by the President of the Republic of Slovenia M. Kučan. The priority points of the talks concentrated on issues of balanced bilateral relations. They informed about the steps in fulfilling the integration aims and judged the actual international issues. E. Kukan was also received by the Vice-Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia M. Brejc.

*May 21.* The Council of Europe Secretary General W. Schwimmer paid a working visit to the Slovak Republic. He took part at the *8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the European Ministers responsible for Social Security in Bratislava*. W. Schwimmer was received by the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan.

*May 22.* On the initiative of the Republic of Poland a historical meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the candidate countries and Laeken Group took place in Warsaw. Delegation of the Slovak Republic was led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan. Issues of the accession process and efforts to harmonise their position in this process was the main discussed topic. The Ministers were received by the President of the Republic of Poland A. Kwasniewski.

*May 23 – 24.* At the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland L. Miller paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. Beside the negotiations with the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda, L. Miller was received by the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster and the Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic J. Migaš. The topics of the talks focused on issues of bilateral co-operation, economic and cross-border co-operation, as well as the co-operation of the countries of Central Europe and issues of Euro - Atlantic integration.

*May 23. – 24.* The fourth meeting of the Convent on Drafting the Future Design of the EU was held in Brussels. The Slovak Republic was represented by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Figeľ, members of National Council P. Hamžík, I. Belohorská, O. Keltošová and the Head of the Permanent Mission to the European Communities J. Migaš. The main points of the programme included issues of realization of tasks and mission of the EU from the aspects of efficiency and legitimacy and establishment of the working groups.

*May 24.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria B. Ferrero-Waldner paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. B. Ferrero-Waldner negotiated with her counterpart and was received by the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster and the Deputy Prime Minister for Legislation L. Fogaš. The negotiations concentrated on the issues of bilateral co-operation, cross border and regional co-

-operation in Central Europe, as well as integration of the Slovak Republic into the EU and NATO.

*May 24 – 25.* On the initiative of the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda, the second meeting of the Prime Ministers of the V4 countries and Benelux was held in Trenčín. The meeting was aimed at the exchange of experience in the field of regional co-operation and integration into the EU and implementation of experience in the transforming countries of V4.

*May 26.* The Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic J. Migaš took part at the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Chairman of the European Parliament with the Chairmen of the candidate countries' parliaments in Riga.

*May 28 – 30.* At the invitation of the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster Heir Apparent Prince Albert paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. He was accompanied by the governmental counsellor for finance and economy of the Government of the Principality of Monaco F. Biancheri and group of entrepreneurs. During his visit he was received by the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster with his wife. Prince Albert met the Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic J. Migaš, the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda and the Mayor of Bratislava J. Moravčík.

*May 29 – 30.* At the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda, the Prime Minister of the Belgian region Flanders P. Dewael paid a visit to the Slovak Republic. P. Dewael held talks with the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda, the Deputy Prime Minister for the European Integration of the Slovak Republic M. Kaldečiková and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan. The main points of the talks covered issues of deepening of co-operation between the Slovak Republic and Flanders, economic and trade exchange and the options for increase of the Flemish investments in Slovakia. During the visit the *Co-operation Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of Flanders* was signed.

*May 29 – June 1.* At the invitation of the Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea H. K. Kim, the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Chlebo paid an official visit to the Republic of Korea. The points of negotiations included issues of further development of bilateral co-operation in the field of economy, trade and investment.

*May 31.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia G. Svilanovič paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. He was received by the

Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic J. Migaš, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan and the Minister of the Defence J. Stank. The main points of the programme included issues of bilateral co-operation in the political, economic, consular, cultural and educational field, as well as the situation in Kosovo.

*May 31 – June 1.* The President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster took part at the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Presidents of the Central European countries in the Republic of Slovenia. At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Slovenia M. Kučan, 16 Presidents met in the cities of Bled and Brdo to discuss the role of Central Europe as an integrator of the unified Europe and to evaluate achievements of the transition process in this region.

*June 3 – 5.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore S. Jayakumara paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. He was received by the Deputy Prime Minister for Economy of the Slovak Republic I. Mikloš and held talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan and the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Chlebo. The talks concentrated on issues of bilateral political, economic, consular, cultural and educational co-operation.

*June 4 – 10.* The President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster paid the first official visit to Canada. He held talks with the Governor General A. Clarkson, the Prime Minister of Canada J. Chrétien, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada W. Graham, the Minister of International Trade P. Pettigrew, the Chairman of the House of Commons of the Parliament of Canada P. Milliken and the Chairman of the Senate D. Hays. The members of the official delegation, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Slovak Republic P. Csáky, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan, the Minister of Culture M. Kňažko and the State Secretary of the Ministry of Education M. Fronc held separate negotiations with their counterparts.

*June 7.* The President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster interrupted the visit of Canada to pay an official visit to the United States of America. R. Schuster met the President of the USA G. Bush, Senator T. Lotto and representatives of Capitol. He also met the members of American Committee for NATO. The talks focused on the strengthening of integration ambitions of the Slovak Republic and assuring the American representatives about continuation of the democratic development and reforms after the elections.

*June 6. – 7.* The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Convent on the Drafting Future Design of EU was held in Brussels. The Slovak Republic was represented by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Figeľ, members of the National Council P. Hamžík, F. Šebej, I. Belohorská, O. Keltošová and the Head of the Permanent

Mission to the European Communities J. Migaš. The topics of the discussion were focused on *The Area of Freedom, Security and Justice and the Role of the National Parliaments in the EU*.

*June 10 – 13.* The Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration of the Slovak Republic M. Kadlečíková took part at the World Food Summit of Food and Agricultural Organisation as a Head of the Delegation of the Slovak Republic.

*June 10 – 11.* The 12<sup>th</sup> Conference on the Accession of the Slovak Republic to the EU on the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs took place in the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg. The negotiation chapters *Co-operation in Justice and Home Affairs and Institutions* were closed.

*June 12.* The extraordinary meeting of the Stability Pact's Regional Table took place in Bucharest. The Regional Table confirmed and welcomed inclusion of the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic and the Republic of Poland as full participants in the Stability Pact.

*June 12 – 13.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus I. Kasoulides paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. During his visit, he held talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan. He met the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration M. Kadlečíková, the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic P. Weiss, the Chairman of the Committee for European Integration of the National Council of the Slovak Republic F. Šebej and the Mayor of Bratislava J. Moravčík. The talks concentrated on issues of bilateral co-operation, integration process of both countries and actual international issues.

*June 13.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan received the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Slovak Republic A. Aksenyonko. The points of the talks included issues of bilateral co-operation in the economic field, international issues related to the ongoing world and European integration, as well as the issue of international security.

*June 13 – 14.* The 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Slovak – Bavarian Commission took place in Bratislava. Representatives of the individual ministries headed by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Figeľ held negotiations with their Bavarian counterparts on concrete projects of mutual co-operation. The Head of the Bavarian delegation was the Head of the Bavarian State Office W. Schön.

*June 17 – 19.* The President of the Republic of Bulgaria G. Parvanov paid a reciprocal official visit to the Slovak Republic. During his visit, G. Parvanov was received by the

President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, the Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic J. Migaš and the Mayor of Bratislava J. Moravčík. The talks concentrated on aspects of mutual relations in the context of relations of Danubian countries, as well as issues of economic co-operation in the field of power engineering, railroads and infrastructure.

*June 18.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan paid a working visit to the Russian Federation. During his stay he met the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation I. Ivanov and the Minister of the Government of the Russian Federation, Head of the Governmental Office of the Russian Federation and the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Commission for economic, scientific, technological and cultural co-operation between the Slovak Republic and the Russian Federation I. Šuvalov.

*June 19.* At the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia D. Rupel the meeting of the State Secretaries of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Regional Partnership countries took place in Ljubljana. The points of the programme focused on the EU enlargement, expectations of the Seville Summit results, as well as on the future European organisation. The delegation of the Slovak Republic was led by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Figeľ.

*June 19 – 21.* The President of the Republic of Indonesia D. P. M. S. Soekarnoputri paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. Besides the negotiation with the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, she negotiated with the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda. The points of the talks included issues of perspectives of deepening the bilateral co-operation in the political, cultural, contracting field and the options for co-operation between the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Indonesia on multilateral forums. D. P. M. S. Soekarnoputri was also received by the Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic J. Migaš.

*June 20 – 21.* The President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster paid a two-day working visit to the Russian Federation. He took part at the IV<sup>th</sup> St. - Peterburg Economic Forum. The trade Russian-Slovak relations was the main point of the programme also the topic of his speech at the forum. During his visit R. Schuster had a working breakfast with the Chairman of the Federal Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation S. M. Mironov, negotiated with the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry J. Primakov and Russian entrepreneurs. R. Schuster had a dinner with the St. Peterburg Govenor V. A. Jakovlev.

*June 21 – 22.* The Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda led the Delegation of the Slovak Republic at the meeting of the European Council in Sevilla.

The main points of the talks were the fight against illegal migrants, accession of the new members into the EU and the future of the EU. The participants also paid attention to the issues of the EU and external relations of the member states.

*June 24 – 26.* The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Convent on Drafting the Future Design of EU was held in Brussels. The Slovak Republic was represented by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Figeľ, Head of the Permanent Mission to the European Communities J. Migaš and members of the National Council F. Šebej, I. Belohorská. The dialogue with representatives of the civil society was the main point of the programme.

*June 25 – 26.* At the invitation of the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, the President of the Lebanese Republic E. Lahoud paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. E. Lahoud held talks with the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda and the Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic J. Migaš. The main points of the talks focused on actual international issues and deepening of mutual co-operation in the cultural field and options for co-operation in the multilateral forums.

*June 25 – 26.* The meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the member states of the Central European Initiative (CEI) took place in Ohrid. Delegation of the Slovak Republic was led by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Chlebo. The main point of the meeting was evaluation of the current political and economic development in the region of Central Europe. The Ministers adopted the Final Document, in which they confirmed the role of the CEI as an instrument for co-operation and stability consolidating the democratic, political and social structure in the member states. During the visit in Ohrid, J. Chlebo held bilateral negotiations with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine I. Charčenko and the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary A. Barsony.

*June 27.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Figeľ paid a working visit to the Czech Republic. During his visit he took part in the discussion related to the activities of the Slovak Republic within the Membership Action Plan named *Slovakia and Membership Action Plan – Experience and Challenges*. Evaluation of the three-year experience of the Slovak Republic with the MAP process and conclusions for another round of enlargement was the main point of discussion.

*June 29.* The Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda took part at the V4 countries Prime Ministers summit in Ostrihom. The programme focused on evaluation of the Hungary Presidency and activities of the International Visegrad Fund during



the same period. The Prime Ministers also discussed the issue of the oncoming Prague Summit.

*July 1 – 3.* The King of the Kingdom of Spain Juan Carlos I with his wife Sofia paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. Juan Carlos I. was accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Spain. Juan Carlos I with his wife Sofia were received by the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster with his wife. They met the Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic J. Migaš, the Chairmen of the political parties and the Mayor of Bratislava J. Moravčík. In honour of Juan Carlos I and his wife Sofia the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda organised the festive lunch. The talks concentrated on the actual issues of the Slovak-Spanish relations, international politics, and integration of the Slovak Republic into the EU and NATO and options for deepening mutual economic co-operation.

*July 3.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Chief Negotiator for the Accession to the EU J. Figeľ led the delegation of the Slovak Republic at the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Association Committee SR – EU in Brussels. On the floor of the European Commission J. Figeľ met the delegation of the EU, led by the Chief of the Negotiation Team for Slovakia from the EC Directorial General for Enlargement D. Meganck. During the negotiations the level of the preparation of the Slovak Republic as well as the state of implementation of the European Agreement were judged.

*July 5 – 6.* The Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda paid a working visit to the Republic of Latvia. M. Dzurinda took part at the summit of the Prime Ministers of the V10 countries. The aim of the summit, named *Riga 2002: the Bridge to Prague*, was to express the mutual solidarity of the candidate countries and confirmation of the interest to contribute to the formation of the zone of security and stability in Europe.

*July 9 – 10* At the invitation of the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster the President of the Italian Republic C. A. Ciampi paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. During his stay, C. A. Ciampi was received by the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, the Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic J. Migaš and the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda. The main points of the negotiations focused on issues of bilateral co-operation and support of the Republic of Italy for the integration ambitions of the Slovak Republic.

*July 10.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland J. Straw paid a working visit to the Slovak Republic. He was received by the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan. The talks concentrated on the issues of



bilateral co-operation, actual international issues, the development of the relations in the region and fight against the terrorism.

*July 10.* UNESCO Director General K. Matsuura paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. He was received by the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan, the Minister of Culture of the Slovak Republic M. Kňažko, the Minister of Education of the Slovak Republic P. Ponický and the Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic L. Miklós. The negotiations were focused on development of relations between the UNESCO and the Slovak Republic in the field of cultural and natural heritage, inscription of the properties of the Slovak Republic to the World Heritage List, establishment of the UNESCO Departments, UNESCO Institution, development of the scientific UNESCO programmes in the Slovak Republic and employment of experts in UNESCO projects.

*July 11.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan received the FAO Director General J. Diouf. E. Kukan appreciated activities of J. Diouf and expressed readiness of the Slovak Republic to participate at FAO activities, declared interest of the Slovak Republic to develop co-operation and contacts with FAO on the level of the Heads of the state on government and thus support, efforts of non-governmental organisations.

*July 13.* The President of the European Parliament J. Cox paid a working visit to the Slovak Republic. J. Cox was received by the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda. The main points of the talks involved issues of the EU enlargement, accession process of the candidate countries to the EU and current international issues.

*July 15.* The Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium L. Michel paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. During his visit he held talks with the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda. During a working lunch the issues of bilateral relations, ongoing integration process, ambitions of the Slovak Republic to become a member of the EU and NATO and current international issues were discussed. Besides the talks with the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda, L. Michel met the Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Regional Development P. Csáky, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan, the Minister of Interior I. Šimko and the Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for Economy I. Mikloš.

*July 16.* The Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for European Integration M. Kadlečíková paid a visit to the Republic of Turkey. She held talks with the President of the Republic of Turkey A. N. Sezer, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey M. Yılmaz and the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Turkey H. Y.

Gokalp. The main points of the talks covered issues of bilateral and European co-operation, as well as integration of the Slovak Republic to the EU and NATO.

*July 29.* The 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference on the Accession of the Slovak Republic to the EU on the level of the State Secretaries took place in Brussels. The Delegation of the Slovak Republic was led by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Figeľ.

*July 29.* The Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic I. Šimko and the Director of the National Security Authority of the Slovak Republic J. Mojžiš met in Stará Ľubovňa the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration of the Republic of Poland. The aim of the meeting was to sign the Agreement between the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Poland Concerning the Course of the State Boundary and the Approvement of the Boundary Documentation and the Agreement between the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Poland on the Mutual Protection of the Classified Information.

*July 30.* The EC Commissioner for the Regional Policy M. Barnier paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. During his visit he met the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Regional Development P. Csáky, the Minister of Construction and Regional Development I. Harna and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan.

*August 18.* At the invitation of the Germany's Chancellor G. Schröder the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan took part at the meeting of the Prime Ministers of Central European countries suffering from floods with the representatives of the European Commission in the Federal Republic of Germany. The Germany's Chancellor, the Prime Ministers of the Republic of Austria, and the Czech Republic, the EC President and the EC Commissioner for Regional policy took also the part at the meeting.

*August 22.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan received the Senators of the US Congress J. McCain and F. Thompson. The main points of the talks included issues of bilateral co-operation and integration of the Slovak Republic to the EU and NATO.

*August 28.* The Head of the Permanent Mission to the UN P. Tomka signed the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts, Components and Ammunition supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

*September 4.* At the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic C. Svoboda paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. Besides the negotiations with his counterpart, C. Svoboda was received by the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, the Vice-Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic P. Hrušovský, the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda and held talks with the Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic J. Stank.

*September 4.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chief Negotiator for the Accession to the EU J. Figeľ met the EC Director for Enlargement E. Landaburu. Besides the talks with E. Landaburu, J. Figeľ met the representative of the Danish Presidency. The aim of the visit was to submit and discuss the Amendment to the templates of the EC Regular Report, as well as other negotiations towards conclusion of the negotiation chapter Competition Policy.

*September 6.* The Minister of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic I. Harna with the Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic J. Rusnok signed an Agreement between the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic on the Methods and Conditions of Usage of the Certificates of Conformity Attestation of Construction Products and Approving the Tests Results.

*September 9. – 10.* The President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster paid an official visit to the Romania. R. Schuster signed the Programme for Co-operation in the field of culture and negotiated on the integration ambitions of Romania.

*September 9 – 10.* The Prime Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg J. C. Juncker paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. J. C. Juncker met the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan. The main points of talks concentrated on issues of bilateral co-operation between the Slovak Republic and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in the field of economy, creating options for wider co-operation and closer coordination of the V4 and Benelux countries' activities in the economic, political and social field.

*September 13 – 14.* The meeting of the Prime Ministers of the CEFTA countries took place in Bratislava. The meeting was aimed at the accession process to the EU and mutual exchange of experience stemming from it, as well as evaluation of the CEFTA activities. At the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda, Commissioner of the EC responsible for Trade Negotiations P. Lamy took part at the working dinner. The participants were also received by the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster.

*September 18 – 19.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan took part at the 57<sup>th</sup> meeting of the General Assembly of the UN. During his stay in New York, E. Kukan met the UN Secretary General K. Annan and the President of the 57<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting J. Kavan.

*September 19.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Figeľ took part at the final meeting of the Working Group Subsidiarity existing within the framework of Convent on Drafting the future Design of EU in Brussels. Besides the participation on the Convent meeting, J. Figeľ held talks with the representatives of the EC Directorates General for Agriculture and EU Enlargement.

*September 24.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan received the UN Deputy Secretary General and the Director of the UNDP Regional Centre K. Miszei who as a host took part at the discussion *Slovakia and Region: what next?*

*September 24.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan received the Head of the Election Observation of the OSCE in the Slovak Republic M. Wygant. E. Kukan thanked M. Wygant for the activities of the Election Observation of the OSCE

*September 25.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chief Negotiator for the Accession to the EU J. Figeľ took part at the meeting of the Ministers for European Affairs of candidate countries the so called Laeken Group in Warsaw. Countries adopted the Joint Declaration which confirmed the interest of the candidate countries to finish negotiations with the EU until the end of 2002 and to join the EU from to January 1, 2004. On the initiative of the Slovak Republic the Joint Declaration to the Nice Treaty was adopted, aimed at support of its ratification in Ireland.

*September 30.* The Slovak Republic submitted the National Programme PRENAME for 2003 and thus opened the fourth part of the dialogue with the NATO team.

*October 1.* The meeting of the Council of the European Union for General Affairs and External Relations was held in Brussels. On this occasion the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference on the Accession of the Slovak Republic to the EU took place. The delegation of the Slovak Republic was led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan. The main point of the programme was evaluation of the progress achieved since the last conference in July.

*October 3.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan received the Vice President of the Republic of Guatemala J. F. Reyes López. Both representatives

expressed their willingness to intensify bilateral relations in the fields of trade and economy.

*October 8.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan received Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the North Atlantic Council, Ambassador E. J. Parry. The main point of the talks focused on evaluation of the progress towards accession to NATO. E. Kukan informed E. J. Parry about the current development of the interior policy in the Slovak Republic. The talks also focused on some aspects of the current international issues.

*October 9.* The President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster received the US Ambassador to NATO N. Burns and the US Ambassador to the Slovak Republic R. Weiser and other members of the delegation. The ambassador paid a visit to the Slovak Republic within the visits of the NATO candidate countries. N. Burns appreciated the progress of the Slovak Republic towards the accession of NATO. Besides the talks with the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, N. Burns was received by the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda. The talks focused on the elections results in the Slovak Republic, integration of the Slovak Republic to NATO and oncoming Prague Summit.

*October 10.* The President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster received the Head of the EC Delegation and Ambassador of the EC in the Slovak Republic E. van der Linden. The main topic of their talks was the EC Regular Report. E. van der Linden informed R. Schuster about positive and negative issues, which resulted from the Report. E. van der Linden appreciated the progress of the Slovak Republic achieved since 1997.

*October 14.* The meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Regional Partnership (RP) countries took place in the Republic of Slovenia. The delegation of the Slovak Republic was led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan. The points of the programme focused on the evaluation of activities within the RP and emphasise the necessity of co-operation of the RP countries, as well as the co-operation in the context of the EU enlargement.

*October 18 – 20.* The meeting of the International Organisation for Francophony – IX Conference of the Head of State and Government took place in Beirut. The Slovak Republic received the observer status at the meeting. The Slovak Republic was admitted into IOF as an observer. The delegation of the Slovak Republic was led by the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan and the State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence R. Káčer.

*October 22.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan took part at the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Laeken Group countries in

Prague. Among the main points of the programme there were exchange of opinions to the published Strategic Document and EC Regular Reports, co-operation of the candidate countries in the final stage of negotiations with the EU and standpoints to the proposed financial framework of the EU enlargement. The joint declaration was adopted, focused on the financial aspects of the accession of the new countries into the EU.

*October 24.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan received the EC Delegation and the Ambassador of the EC in the Slovak Republic E. van der Linden. The talks concentrated on development of the accession process.

*October 24.* The meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference on the Accession of the Slovak Republic to the EU on the level of the Chief Negotiators took place in Brussels. The delegation of the Slovak Republic was led by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Chief Negotiator for the Accession to the EU J. Figeľ. The negotiation chapter Competition Policy was preliminary closed.

*October 25.* At the invitation of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic C. Svoboda, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan paid an official visit to the Czech Republic. E. Kukan was received by the President of the Czech Republic V. Havel, the Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic L. Zaorálek and the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic V. Špidla. The talks concentrated on bilateral relations, development in the Central Europe, integration of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic into Euro Atlantic structures and current international issues.

*October 27 – 28.* The President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster paid an official visit to the Holy See on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence of the Slovak Republic. The delegation consisted of representatives of the Head of the Office of the President, the National Council, the Government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic. The main points of the programme covered: an audience with the Pope John Paul II, exchange of instruments of ratification of the *Agreement on religious assistance to the Catholic Faithful in the Armed Forces and Police of the Slovak Republic*.

*October 28.* The Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan and the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Chief Negotiator for the Accession to the EU J. Figeľ took part at the meeting of the Prime Ministers of the candidates countries in Copenhagen. The meeting of the Heads of States and the Prime Ministers of the 13 candidate countries with the Danish Presidency took place on the initiative of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Denmark A. F. Rasmussen. The President of the European Commission R. Prodi, the EC Commissioner for Enlargement

G. Verheugen and the EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy J. Solana took part at meeting.

*October 29 – 30.* The Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic L. Zaorálek paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. During his visit he was received by the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. Among the main points of the talks there were issues of bilateral relations, future of bilateral relations and integration of both countries into the EU. The co-operation within the V4 and issues of the security co-operation in the region in respect to the integration ambitions of the Slovak Republic to become a member of NATO were also discussed.

*November 4.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan received the Head of the Governmental Office of the Russian Federation I. Šuvalov. The talks concentrated on issues of bilateral relations. E. Kukan informed his counterpart about priorities of the Slovak Republic in foreign policy as far as the final stage of the accession process to NATO and the EU were concerned. I. Šuvalov met the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda. The talks focused on evaluation of the bilateral agenda, options for deepening of co-operation and current international issues.

*November 4.* The informal meeting of the representatives of the Danish Presidency and the European Commission with the representatives of the Slovak Republic to the open issues of the negotiations took place in Brussels. The delegation of the Slovak Republic was led by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Chief Negotiator for the Accession to the EU J. Figel. It was the first meeting on which the Slovak Republic had an option to present and formulate priorities in the open negotiation chapters.

*November 6.* The Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda received the Minister of Transport of Ukraine M. Kirpa and the Minister of Economy, Minister for European Integration of Ukraine and the Chairman of the Ukrainian part of the Intergovernmental Slovak-Ukrainian Commission for trade-economic and scientific-technical co-operation O. V. Shlapak. The main points of the talks covered options for wider mutual relations between the Slovak Republic and Ukraine in the economic field, evaluation of the level of bilateral co-operation and issues of the integration.

*November 6 – 7.* The delegation of the Slovak Republic led by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Berényi took part at the 111<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The main points of the programme included issues of fight against the terrorism, the 3<sup>rd</sup> summit of the Council of Europe, increase of efficiency of the European Court on Human Rights in Strasbourg and accession of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the Council of Europe.



*November 7 – 8.* At the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland L. Miller, the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda paid an official visit to the Republic of Poland. During his visit M. Dzurinda negotiated with his counterpart, was received by the President of the Republic of Poland A. Kwaśniewski, and met the Marshal of Sejm M. Borowski and the Marshal of Senate of the Republic of Poland L. Pastusiak and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland W. Comoszewicz. The topics of the talks covered issues of bilateral co-operation with emphasis on the cross-border co-operation and forcing the trade exchange. Besides this issue the negotiation concentrated on integration of both countries to the EU, V4 co-operation and the accession of the Slovak Republic to NATO.

*November 7 – 8.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and Government's Statutory Deputy in the Convent on Drafting the Future Design of EU I. Korčok took part at the general meeting of the Convent. The members of Convent from the National Council of the Slovak Republic J. Figeľ and I. Belohorská, as well as the Alternate Government's Statutory Deputy in the Convent, H. E. J. Migaš took part at the meeting.

*November 11.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic I. Korčok paid an official visit to the Czech Republic. The talks with the Czech representatives were held in the context of the Prague NATO Summit. During his visit, I. Korčok met the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic J. Kohout, the First Deputy Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic Š. Füle and Deputy and Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Czech Republic for NATO Summit A. Vondra.

*November 11.* The Chief Negotiator for the Accession to the EU J. Figeľ took part at the meeting of the V4 countries' chief negotiators focused on coordination of the steps in the final stage of the negotiation process with the EU. The second informal meeting with the representatives of the Danish Presidency and the European Commission to the open negotiation chapters took place as well.

*November 12 – 14.* At the invitation of the Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg, the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster paid a visit to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Besides the talks with the Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg, R. Schuster met the Chairman of the Parliament of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg J. Spautz, the Prime Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg J. C. Juncker, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg L. Polfer and the Mayor of Luxembourg P. Helminger. The President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster was accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan and the Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic J. Stank who held the separate talks with their counterparts. The content of the negotiations included



issues of bilateral co-operation and EU and NATO issues. The Ministers of Defence agreed on development of interministerial co-operation agreement.

*November 13 – 14.* The 92<sup>nd</sup> Special Session of the Executive Committee of OECD took place in Paris. The Delegation of the Slovak Republic was led by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Berényi.

*November 14 – 15.* The delegation of the Slovak Republic led by the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda took part at the summit of the Prime Ministers of the Central European Initiative countries in Skopje. During the summit, M. Dzurinda held separate talks with Prime Minister of the Italian Republic S. Berlusconi, the Prime Minister of the Ukraine A. Kinach, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Macedonia S. Crvenkovski as well as with the President of the Republic of Macedonia B. Trajkovski. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan held separate talks with his counterparts.

*November 15.* On the initiative of the Republic of Poland the meeting of the Prime Ministers of the Laeken Group countries took place in Warszawa. The Slovak Republic was represented by the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda. The meeting was aimed at exchange of opinions on the current situation of the negotiations with EU, coordination of the procedures in the final stage of the negotiations and approval of the joint statement.

*November 18.* The meeting of the Accession Conference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Laeken Group countries took place in Brussels. The Slovak Republic was represented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan. The meeting concentrated on exchange of opinions, focused on horizontal issues of the negotiation closure.

*November 21 – 22.* The session of the North Atlantic Council and Euro Atlantic Partnership Council on the level of the Heads of States and Prime Ministers took place in Prague. The official delegation of the Slovak Republic was led by the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster accompanied by the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan, the Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic I. Šimko and extraordinary, the plenipotentiary ambassador of the Slovak Republic to NATO P. Burian, the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic I. Korčok and the State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic R. Káčer. The main points of the Prague NATO Summit covered new abilities and resources and new members and new relations. The Slovak Republic, as a member state of the EAPC, took part at the EAPC summit and at the session of the NAC with the invited countries on which the 7 aspirant countries were informed about the decision of the Alliance to start the accession talks with these countries.

*November 26.* The Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda paid a working visit to the Republic of Hungary. M. Dzurinda held talks with his counterpart P. Medgyessy about changes related to the Act on Hungarians Living in the Neighbouring Countries.

*November 26.* The 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the informal bilateral meeting of the representatives of the Slovak Republic with the representative of the Danish Presidency to the final open negotiation chapters took place in Brussels. The delegation of the Slovak Republic was led by the Chief Negotiator for the Accession to the EU J. Figeľ. The meeting focused on presentations of new proposals in the field of agriculture and budget from the part of the Danish Presidency.

*November 26 – 28.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic J. Berényi held talks with the Minister for the European Integration of the Kingdom of Denmark B. Haarden during his working visit to the Kingdom of Denmark. The main points of the talks were the current issues of the final stage of the accession negotiations with the EU in respect to the conclusions of the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of meetings. J. Berényi negotiated with the Chairman and the members of the European Committee of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Denmark about the current enlargement issues, activities of the European Convent and attitude of the parliaments of both countries towards the ratification of the accession agreements on the accession of the new members to the EU. J. Berényi also discussed with the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Danish Export Council principles of providing the official development assistance and strengthening of the economic dimension of foreign policy.

*November 27 – 29.* The Deputy Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China Li Langing paid a working visit to the Slovak Republic. Li Langing was received by the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda. The talks concentrated on options for further development of bilateral co-operation in the economic, trade and scientific field. The issue of investment opportunities in the Slovak Republic and in the People's Republic of China was discussed.

*November 29.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic I. Korčok received the representatives of the Austrian-Slovak Association headed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chairman of the National Council of the Republic of Austria W. Fasslabend. The partners discussed issues related to development of the infrastructure between the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Austria which is the important assumption of further development of the cross-border co-operation and expressed interest for intensified co-operation in the cultural field and in the presentation of the natural heritage of the Slovak Republic in the Republic of Austria.

*November 30.* The Prime Minister of the Czech Republic V. Špidla paid an official visit to the Slovak Republic. During his visit he met the President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster, the Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic P. Hrušovský and negotiated with the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda. The topic of the talks covered issues of bilateral relations in the political and economic field, issues of regional relations and issues connected with integration process of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic to the EU, development in Central Europe, co-operation in enlarging NATO and current international issues. During the visit the Treaty between the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic on the Amendment of the Article 38 of the Treaty Establishing the Custom Union signed on 29 October 1992 was signed. The aim of the treaty is to maintain the existence and advantages of the custom union between the Slovak and the Czech Republics until the EU accession of both Republics.

*December 1 – 3.* The President of the Slovak Republic R. Schuster with his wife and the accompaniment paid an official visit to Ukraine. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan, the Minister of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications P. Prokopovič, the State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic L. Pomóthy, the State Secretary of the Ministry of Education F. Tóth were the members of the official delegation. The main points of the meeting included development of the partnership linkage with Ukraine in the field of trade and mutual support of the investment programmes.

*December 3.* The 4<sup>th</sup> round of the informal bilateral meeting of the Delegation of the Slovak Republic with the representatives of the Danish Presidency to the final stake of the open negotiation chapters took place in Brussels. The meeting was led by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to the EU. The delegation of the Slovak Republic was led by the Chief Negotiator for the Accession to the EU J. Figeľ. The meeting was aimed at presentation of the standpoint of the Slovak Republic to the negotiation stake offered by the Danish Presidency at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and progress in the negotiations on the open chapters.

*December 4.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan received the deputy of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the rapporteur to the Committee for Legal Affairs and Human Rights for the issue of the Act on Hungarians Living in the Neighbouring Countries E. Jurgens. Within the frame of discussion the partners exchanged their opinions on the Act on Hungarians Living in the Neighbouring Countries, as well as on its amendment.

*December 5 – 6.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Government's Statutory Deputy in the Convent on Drafting the

Future Design of EU I. Korčok took part at the meeting of the Convent. The members of the Convent from the National Council of the Slovak Republic J. Figeľ and I. Belohorská, as well as the Alternate Government's Statutory Deputy in the Convent, H. E. J. Migaš took part at the meeting.

*December 6 – 7.* At the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda the informal summit of the Prime Ministers of the V4 countries took place in the Slovak Republic. The negotiations concentrated on evaluation of the completing the tasks of the Slovakia's Presidency in V4, coordination of the negotiations position of the V4 countries in the final stage of the negotiations with the EU, the discussion on the Convent on Drafting future Design of EU, the co-operation of the V4 countries in the military and security field and the future of V4 in the context of the EU enlargement.

*December 6 – 7.* The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic E. Kukan took part at the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE in Europe in Porto. In his speech E. Kukan expressed his support to the OSCE Strategy focused on fighting the threats to the security and stability in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He appreciated the activities of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities R. Ekeus in respect to the Act on Hungarians Living in the Neighbouring Countries. During the meeting of the Ministerial Council several decision were made related to the completing the tasks of the OSCE member states, tolerance, non-discrimination, as well as reforms of the OSCE.

*December 10.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic I. Korčok received the State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland A. Ingram. I. Korčok informed his counterpart about results of the first round of the accession negotiations between the Slovak Republic and NATO, as well as about the progress, the Slovak Republic achieved in the accession process and emphasised the success of the ongoing reform of the military of the Slovak Republic. Both partners highly appreciated intensity of bilateral co-operation in the field of security at all levels.

*December 12.* The Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda took part at the European People's Party summit in Copenhagen. M. Dzurinda discussed with his partners the position of the Slovak Republic in the final stage of negotiations with the EU.

*December 12 – 13.* The meeting of the Prime Ministers of the V4 countries took place in Budapest. The delegation of the Slovak Republic was led by the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda. The meeting was aimed at coordination of common procedures at the Copenhagen Summit.

*December 13.* The Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda took part at the meeting of the European Council in Copenhagen which took place at the end of the Danish Presidency in the EU. The Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic M. Dzurinda together with the other Prime Ministers of the candidate countries met representatives of the member states with which he negotiated the EU enlargement process, as well as further process of negotiations with Romania and the Republic of Bulgaria. Further activities of the Council of the European Union after the EU enlargement as stated in Conclusions of the Seville Summit were a subject of mutual negotiations.

*December 20.* The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Statutory Deputy I. Korčok took part at the last meeting in 2002 of the Convent on Drafting the Future Design of EU in Brussels. The Final Reports of the last two (out of initial 10) Working groups: WG VII – External Relations and WG VIII – Defence were main points of discussion. In his speech to the Final Report of the WG Defence, I. Korčok expressed support to formation of the European Security and Defence Policy as an integral part of the common Foreign and Security Policy and called for maintenance of the balance in the Trans Atlantic partnership between NATO and the EU. The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic I. Korčok submitted the declaration of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Convent on Drafting the Future Design of EU from 17 December 2002, which was published as a part of the Convent on Drafting the Future Design of EU.



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# The List of Treaties and Agreements Concluded between the Slovak Republic and Other Countries in 2002

## *Presidential agreements*

1. Convention between the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital  
(Bratislava, March 26, 2002)
2. Convention between the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Iceland for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital  
(Reykjavik, April 15, 2002)
3. Air Service Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia  
(Bratislava, May 15, 2002)
4. Agreement between the Slovak Republic and the Kingdom of Spain on Social Welfare  
(Bratislava, May 22, 2002)

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\* Source: International Law Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic

5. Agreement between the Slovak Republic and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on Social Welfare  
(Bratislava, May 23, 2002)
6. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on International Transport of Passenger and Goods by Road  
(Bratislava, June 14, 2002)
7. Agreement between the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Poland on Facilitation of the Border Execution in Transport Passenger and Goods by Rails  
(Stará Ľubovňa, July 29, 2002)
8. Agreement between the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Poland Concerning the Course of the State Boundary and the Approvement of the Boundary Documentation  
(Stará Ľubovňa, July 29, 2002)
9. Agreement between the Slovak Republic and the Holy See on Religious Assistance to the Catholic Faithful in the Armed Forces and Police of the Slovak Republic  
(Bratislava, August 21, 2002)
10. Agreement between the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic on the Amendment of the Article 38 of the Agreement between the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic on Establishing the Custom Union signed in Prague on October 29, 1992  
(Bratislava, November 30, 2002)

### ***Inter-Governmental Agreements***

1. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Colombia on Mutual Abolition of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic or Service Passports of the Slovak Republic and for Holders of Diplomatic or Official Passports of the Republic of Colombia  
(Bratislava, January 17, 2002)
2. Mutual Abolition of Visa Requirements for the Citizens of Japan and the Citizens of the Slovak Republic – by notes exchange  
(Bratislava, January 22, 2002)



3. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of Romania on Early Notification of Nuclear Accidents and Information Exchange on Nuclear Facilities  
(Bucharest, February 19, 2002)
4. Decision No. 1/2002 of the Joint Committee of the Free Trade Agreement between the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Lithuania  
(Vilnius, March 7, 2002)
5. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the United Mexican States on Co-operation in Trade and Economy  
(Monterrey, March 2002)
6. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Italian Republic on Co-operation in Fight against Terrorism, Organised Crimes and Illicit Trade with Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances  
(Bratislava April 19, 2002)
7. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on Abolition of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic and Service Passports  
(Minsk, April 22, 2002)
8. Trade agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
(Amman, April 29, 2002)
9. Decision No. 2/2001 of the Joint Committee of the Free Trade Agreement between the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Turkey amending the Protocol 3 concerning the Definition of the Concept of “originating products” and Methods of Administrative Co-operation  
(Bratislava, May 3, 2002)
10. Memorandum of Understanding between the Slovak Republic and Maintenance and Supply Organization on logistic co-operation  
(Luxembourg, May 6, 2002)
11. Agreement between the Slovak Republic and the Kingdom of Spain on the Scientific and Technological Co-operation  
(Bratislava, May 7, 2002)

12. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Governments of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands on Readmission of Persons Residing Without Permission (Bratislava, May 21, 2002)
13. Co-operation Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of Flanders (Bratislava, May 30, 2002)
14. Co-operation Programme between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the field of Culture, Education, Youth and Sport for Years 2002 – 2005 (Bratislava, May 31, 2002)
15. Audio-visual Co-production Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of Canada (Ottawa, June 5, 2002)
16. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on International Transport of Passengers and Goods by Road (Bratislava, June 17, 2002)
17. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Austria on Readmission of Persons Residing without Authorisation (readmission agreement) (Vienna, June 20, 2002)
18. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Czech Republic on Early Notification of Nuclear Accidents (Prague, June 28, 2002)
19. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Czech Republic on the Handing Over and Accepting the Persons on the Common Border (Bratislava, July 2, 2002)
20. Decision No. 1/2002 of the Joint Committee of the Free Trade Agreement between the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Latvia (Bratislava, July 17, 2002)

21. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Poland on Mutual Protection of the Classified Information (Stará Ľubovňa, July 29, 2002)
22. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on Refunding the Debt of the Republic of Belarus against the Slovak Republic (Minsk, August 5, 2002)
23. Protocol between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on the Amendment of the Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on Mutual Employment of the Citizens from the February 12, 1999 (Budapest, August 8, 2002)
24. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Croatia about the Settlement of Mutual Claims and Obligations under Clearing Payment System (Zagreb, August 23, 2002)
25. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on the Scientific and Technological Co-operation (Budapest, September 10, 2002)
26. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on the Readmission of the Persons on the Common Border (Budapest, September 12, 2002)
27. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on Facilitation of the Vitaly Important Cross-borders Civil Transports (Bratislava, September 12, 2002)
28. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (The World Bank) concerning the Establishment of an Office in Bratislava (Washington, September 28, 2002)

29. Executive Programme towards the Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Italian Republic in the Field of Culture for years 2001 – 2005  
(Roma, September 30, 2002)
30. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on Co-operation in Trade and Economy  
(Chisinau, October 10, 2002)
31. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Czech Republic on Shared Ownership, Management and Usage of Exhibition Pavilion in Venezia  
(Prague, October 31, 2002)
32. Amendment of the Article 1 of the Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China on Abolition of Visa Requirements, signed in Beijing October 14, 2002  
(Beijing August 7, 2002, Hong Kong November, 18, 2002 – by notes exchange)
33. Air Service Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Tunisia  
(Tunis, November 26, 2002)
34. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Tunisia on Abolition of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic, Ad Hoc or Service Passports  
(Tunis, November 26, 2002)
35. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the Scientific and Technological Co-operation  
(Kiev, December 2, 2002)
36. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Hungary Concerning the Cessation of Execution of the Agreement between the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Government of the People's Republic of Hungary on Regulation of the Cross-border Relations  
(October 30, 2002, December 4, 2002 – by notes exchange)
37. Financial Memorandum between the European Communities and the Government of the Slovak Republic "Horizontal Programme preparing candidate countries for

Extended Decentralisation (EDIS) in the Management of Pre-accession Funds in Slovakia”

(Bratislava, November 19, 2002)

38. Agreement on the Republic of Croatia’ joining the Central European Free Trade Agreement

(Zagreb, December 5, 2002)

39. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Czech Republic on Mutual Recognition of Test Results of Agricultural and Food Products

(Bratislava, December 13, 2002)

40. Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Russian Federation on the Sell of the Buildings and Estates for the Purposes of the Diplomatic Representation of the Russian Federation in the Slovak Republic.

### ***Ministerial Agreements***

1. Agreement on Co-operation in the Area of Mutual Recognition of Test Results and Certificates between the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic and the Yugoslav Accreditation Body – JUAT of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia  
(Bratislava, January 16, 2002)

2. Working plan between the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic and the Federal Ministry of Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection of the Republic of Austria for years 2002 – 2004  
(Bratislava, January 24, 2002)

3. The first Amendment to the Agreement between the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of France Concerning the Bilateral Co-operation in the field of Defence signed on June 21, 1994  
(Bratislava, January 24, 2002)

4. Programme of Co-operation between the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Education and Research of Romania for years 2001 – 2004  
(Bratislava, February 19, 2002)

5. Protocol between the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic on co-operation in the field of Exchange of the

Translations of the Standardised Documents

(Prague, February 7, 2002, Bratislava, February 19, 2002)

6. Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Soil Management of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Agriculture of Burkina Faso on co-operation in the field of agriculture and water economy  
(Bratislava, March 1, 2002)
7. The Agreement between the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports of the Kingdom of Spain on Establishing the Bilingual Sections on the Secondary Grammar Schools in the Slovak Republic for years 2002-2004  
(Madrid, April 5, 2002)
8. Protocol between the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic on Mutual Usage of Capacities for Transport of Passengers, Machinery and Materials by Road  
(Bratislava, April 21, 2002)
9. Protocol between the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic on Using of the Part of the Documentation Originated before the dissolution of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic  
(Bratislava, April 21, 2002)
10. Memorandum of Understanding on Recommendations to Mutual Acceptance of Equity with Documents confirming University Education between the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic and the Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture of the Republic of Austria  
(Vienna, April 25, 2002)
11. Co-operation Programme between the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Youth and the Ministry of Sport of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for years 2002 – 2004  
(Luxembourg, May 27, 2002)
12. Agreement between the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria on Co-operation in the field of Posts and Telecommunications  
(Bratislava, June 17, 2002)

13. Co-operation Agreement between the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the British Council in the Slovak Republic for the period since April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2006.  
(Bratislava, June 20, 2002)
14. Agreement between the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic on Methods and Conditions of Usage of Certificates of the Conformity Attestation of Construction Products and Mutual Recognition of the Tests Results of the Products that are the subject of the trade between the entrepreneur subjects of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic  
(Prague, September 6, 2002)
15. Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland Concerning the Co-operation in the field of Defence  
(Helsinki, September 9, 2002)
16. Co-operation Programme between the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Culture and Cults of Romania for years 2002 – 2005  
(Bucharest, September 9, 2002)
17. Agreement between the Ministry of Soil Management of the Slovak Republic and the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation Concerning the Financing of the Preventive Measures in the Areas Suffering from Floods  
(Bratislava, December 16, 2002)
18. Co-operation Programme between the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of National Education and Sport of the Republic of Poland for years 2003 – 2006  
(Warsaw, December 20, 2002)

### ***Multilateral Agreements***

1. European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages  
(Strasbourg, November 5, 1992)  
note.: dep.: SG CE  
signature of the SR February 20, 2001

IR the SR submitted on September 5, 2001  
valid for the SR from January 1, 2002  
doc. No. 148

2. Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Mobile Satellite Organization  
(London, December 1, 1981)  
note.: dep.: IMSO  
the SR admission document stored on December 3, 2001  
valid for the SR from January 2, 2002
3. UN Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Droughts and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa  
(Paris, June 17, 1994)  
note.: dep.: SG UN  
the SR admission document stored on January 7, 2002  
valid for the SR from April 7, 2002
4. Fourth Amendment of the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund  
(Hong Kong, September 23, 1997)  
note.: dep.: IMF  
the SR acceptance documents stored on January 10, 2002
5. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary, the Government of Romania, the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the Establishment of a Multinational Engineer Battalion  
(Budapest, January 18, 2002)
6. Convention of the International Labour Organization concerning the Revision of the Maternity Protection Convention (Revised), 1952 No. 183  
(Geneva, June 15, 2000)  
note.: dep.: ILU  
IR the SR stored on December 12, 2002  
valid for the SR and internationally from February 7, 2002  
ILO Convention No. 183
7. Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents  
(Haag, October 5, 1961)  
note.: dep.: MFA of the Kingdom of the Netherlands  
the SR admission document stored on June 6, 2001  
valid for the SR from February 18, 2002



8. Additional Protocol No. 7 to the Central European Free Trade Agreement  
(Prague, December 10, 1998)  
note.: dep.: the Republic of Poland  
the SR ratified on May 20, 1999  
executed from January 1, 1999  
valid from March 30, 2002
  
9. Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court  
(Roma, July 17, 1998)  
note.: dep.: SG UN  
signature of the SR on December 23, 1998  
IR the SR stored on April 11, 2002  
valid for the SR and internationally from July 1, 2002
  
10. Convention on the Grant of European Patents  
(Munich, October 5, 1973)  
note.: dep.: MFA The Federal Republic of Germany  
the SR admission document stored on April 17, 2002  
valid for the SR from July 1, 2002
  
11. Act Revising the Convention on the Grant of European Patents  
(Munich, November 29, 2000)  
note.: dep.: MFA of the Federal Republic of Germany  
the SR admission document stored on April 17, 2002  
valid for the SR from July 1, 2002
  
12. Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer  
(Beijing, December 3, 1999)  
note.: dep.: SG UN  
internationally valid from February 25, 2002  
IR signed by the President of the SR on April 24, 2002
  
13. Decision No. 1/2002 of the Association Council between the European Union and  
the Slovak Republic Adopting the Terms and Conditions for the Participation of  
the Slovak Republic in Community Programmes  
(Brussels, February 18, 2002)  
note.: validity beginning March 1, 2002
  
14. Certified Copy Modifications of Article 22 of the Patent Co-operation Treaty (PCT),  
Amendments of the Regulations Under the PCT and Decisions Relating to Entry  
into Force and Transitional Arrangements  
(Geneva, October 3, 2001)

note.: WIPO  
validity beginning April 1, 2002

15. Agreement among the Government of the Slovak Republic, the Government of the Czech Republic, the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of the Republic of Poland concerning Co-operation during the Mi-24 Helicopter Modernisation  
(Piešťany, May 30, 2002)
16. Convention of the International Labour Organization concerning Equal Opportunities and Equal Treatment for Men and Women Workers: Workers with Family Responsibilities No. 156  
note.: dep.: ILO  
IR the SR stored on June 14, 2002  
valid for the SR from June 14, 2003  
ILO Convention No. 156
17. Convention of the International Labour Organization concerning Safety and Health in Agriculture No. 184  
(Geneva, June 21, 2001)  
note.: dep.: ILU  
IR the SR stored on June 14, 2002  
valid for the SR from June 14, 2003  
ILO Convention No. 184
18. Convention on International Access to Justice  
(Haag, October 25, 1980)  
note.: dep.: the Netherlands  
signature of the SR on September 19, 2002
19. International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism  
(New York, December 9, 1999)  
note.: dep.: SG UN  
signature of the SR on January 26, 2001  
IR the SR stored on September 13, 2002  
valid for the SR from October 13, 2002  
internationally valid from April 10, 2002
20. European Charter of Local Self-Government  
(Strasbourg, October 15, 1985)  
note.: dep.: SG CE  
Signature of the SR on February 23, 1999

IR SR stored on February 1, 2000  
valid for the SR from June 1, 2000  
publ. No. 336/2000  
doc. No. 122

Article 6, Paragraph 2 – IR SR stored on July 31, 2002  
valid for the SR from November 1, 2002

21. International Cocoa Agreement, 2001  
(New York, May 1, 2001)  
note: dep.: SG UN  
signature of the SR on December 4, 2002
  
22. Additional Protocol No. 12 to the Central European Free Trade Agreement  
(Zagreb, December 5, 2002)  
note.: dep.: the Republic of Poland  
preliminary executed from January 1, 2003



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# Structure of the State Administration Authorities Acting in International Affairs and European Integration Field

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*4. Territorial Department, States of Middle East, Asia, Australia, Oceania, Africa and Latin America*

Head of the Department: Radomír Boháč, tel. 59783531, radomir\_bohac@foreign.gov.sk

*Department of Cultural Relations*

Head of the Department: Lubomír Golian, tel. 59783611, lubomir\_golian@foreign.gov.sk

***Division for International Law and Consular Affairs***

Director General: Igor Grexa, tel. 59783701, igor\_grexa@foreign.gov.sk

*International Law Department*

Head of the Department: Drahošlav Štefánek, tel. 59783711, drahoslav\_stefanek@foreign.gov.sk

*Human Rights Department*

Head of the Department: Peter Prochacka, tel. 59783731, peter\_prochacka@foreign.gov.sk

*Consular Department*

Head of the Department: Vladimír Urban, tel. 59783256, vladimir\_urban@foreign.gov.sk

***Slovak Institute for International Studies***

Director: Alena Kotvanová

Drotárska cesta 46, 811 02 Bratislava 1

Tel.: 02 62 80 24 51

Fax: 02 62 80 25 17

www.sims.sk

**Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic**

Mierová 19, 827 15 Bratislava

tel.: 02 48 54 1111

fax: 02 43 33 7827

www.economy.gov.sk

**Minister**

Robert Nemcsics

*Office of the Minister*

tel. 48541409

**State Secretary**

Eva Šimková, tel. 48541402, esimkova@economy.gov.sk

**State Secretary**

László Pomothy, tel. 48542121, pomothy@economy.gov.sk

**Section of European Integration**

Director General: Ján Ježo, tel. 43426924, jezo@economy.gov.sk

**Section of Trade Relations and Consumer Protection**

Director General: Alexandra Valachová, tel. 48542113, valachova@economy.gov.sk

*Institute of International Trade and Education*

Director: Anna Nemethyová, tel. 49100200, nemethyova@izov.sk

Nobelova 16

836 14 Bratislava

tel. 49100200

**Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic**

Kutuzovova 8, 832 47 Bratislava

tel.: 02 44 25 0320

fax: 02 44 25 3242

www.mod.gov.sk

**Minister**

Ivan Šimko

*Office of the Minister*

Head of the Office: Peter Ošváth, tel. 44258790, osvathp@mod.gov.sk

**Defence Policy and International Affairs Department**

Director General: Rudolf Lesňák, tel. 44258781, lesnakr@mod.gov.sk

*Department of Foreign Affairs*

Head of the Department: Anton Šeroň, tel. 44250701, serona@mod.gov.sk

*Department of Security Policy*

Head of the Department: Marián Božík, tel. 44256250, bozikm@mod.gov.sk

*Institute of Defence and Security Policy*

Director: Leopold Bilčík, chalupovae@mod.gov.sk

Kutuzovova 8, 832 47 Bratislava

tel. 44462837



**Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic**

Pribinova 2, 812 72 Bratislava

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fax: 02 50 94 4017

www.minv.sk

**Minister**

Vladimír Palko

*Office of the Minister*

Director General: Vladimír Pčolinský, tel. 50944225, colinsk@minv.sk

*Department for European Integration and Foreign Affairs*

Head of the Department: Marian Hujo, tel. 50944452, hujo@minv.sk

**Section for Public Administration**

*Department of Organisation and International Co-operation*

Head of the Department: Eva Chmelová, tel. 43338660, eva.chmelova@mvsr.vs.sk

**Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic**

Štefanovičova 5, 817 82 Bratislava

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**Minister**

Ivan Mikloš

*Office of the Minister*

Head of the Office: Eva Štricová, tel. 59582210, estricova@mfsr.sk

**Section for European Affairs**

Director General: Marcela Zubriczká, tel. 59582429, mzubriczka@mfsr.sk

*Department for EU Relations Coordination*

Head of the Department: Jaroslav Náhlik, tel. 59582137, jnahlik@mfsr.sk

*Department of Paying Authority for the Structural Funds*

Head of the Department: Marcela Zubrická, tel. 59582429, mzubricka@mfsr.sk

*Department of Budgetary Relations to the EU*

Head of the Department: Marcela Havranová, tel. 59582327, mhavranova@mfsr.sk

**Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic**

Námestie SNP č. 33, 813 31 Bratislava

tel.: 02 59 39 1111

fax: 02 54 41 9671

www.culture.gov.sk

**Minister**

Rudolf Chmel

*Office of the Minister*

Head of the Office: Miriam Grófová, tel. 54410978, m\_grofova@culture.gov.sk

*Department for Bilateral Relations*

Head of the Department: Ivan Hromada, tel.: 59391312, ivan\_hromada@culture.gov.sk

*Department for European Integration*

Head of the Department: Božena Krížiková, tel. 59391323, bozena\_krizikova@culture.gov.sk

***Section for Minorities Cultures***

Director General: Klára Csókaová, tel. 59391445, klara\_csokaova@culture.gov.sk

*House of Foreign Slovaks*

Jakubovo nám. 12, 811 09 Bratislava 1

tel.: 02 57 26 3102

fax. 02 52 93 1829

www.dzs.sk

Director: Karol Palkovič, tel. 52931559, palkovic@dzs.sk

**Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic**

Limbová 2, 837 52 Bratislava 37

tel.: 02 59 37 3111

fax: 02 54 77 7983

www.health.gov.sk

***Minister***

Rudolf Zajac

*Office of the Minister*

Head of the Office: Dagmar Uvačeková, tel. 59373228, dagmar.uvacekova@health.gov.sk

*Department of European Integration*

Head of the Department: Anna Holéciová, tel. 59373123, anna.holecyova@health.gov.sk

**Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic**

Špitálska 4-6, 816 43 Bratislava

tel.: 02 59 75 1111

www.employment.gov.sk

***Minister***

Ludovít Kaník

*Office of the Minister*

Head of the Office: Stanislav Šotník, tel. 59751710, sotnik@employment.gov.sk

***Section for International Affairs***

Director General: Igor Kosír, tel. 59752215, kosir@employment.gov.sk

***Section for Strategy and Coordination***

Director General: Elena Michaldová, tel. 59751055, michalda@employment.gov.sk

*Department of European Integration and Foreign Relations*

Head of the Department: Ľubica Gajdošová, tel. 59752210, gajdos@employment.gov.sk

*Department of Managing Unit of European Social Fund*

Head of the Department: Jarila Tomšová, tel. 59752916, tomsova@employment.gov.sk

*International Centre for Family Studies*

Director: Erika Kvapilová, bicfs@bicfs.sk

Drotárska cesta 46, 811 04 Bratislava 1

tel.: 02 62 80 2592

fax: 02 62 80 2692

**Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic**

Stromová 1, 813 30 Bratislava

tel.: 02 59 37 4111

www.education.gov.sk

**Minister**

Martin Fronc

*Office of the Minister*

Head of the Office: Mária Blahová, tel. 54774252, blahova@education.gov.sk

**Section for International Co-operation and European Integration**

Director General: Dagmar Hupková, tel. 69202216, dhupkova@education.gov.sk

*Department of Foreign Affairs*

Head of the Department: Dagmar Hupková, tel. 69202224, dhupkova@education.gov.sk

*Department of European Integration and Multilateral Co-operation*

Head of the Department: Vladimír Belovič, tel. 69202222, belovic@education.gov.sk

**Section of Science and Technology**

*Department for International Science-Technical Co-operation*

Head of the Department: Soňa Straková, tel. 69202212, strakova@education.gov.sk

**Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic**

Župné námestie 13, 813 11 Bratislava

tel.: 02 59 35 3111

fax: 02 59 35 3600

www.justice.gov.sk

**Minister**

Daniel Lipšic

*Office of the Minister*

Head of the Office: Anton Chromík, tel. 59353254, anton.chromik@justice.sk

**Section for International Law and European Integration**

Director General: Peter Báňas, tel. 59353248, iveta.kupkova@justice.sk

*Department of International Law and Private Legal Relation with Abroad*

Head of the Department: Miloš Haťapka, tel. 59353349, milos.hatapka@justice.sk

*Department of Foreign Relations and Human Rights*

Head of the Department: Eva Rupcová, tel. 59353187, rupcova@justice.sk

*Department of European Integration*

Head of the Department: Branislav Boháčik, tel. 59353240, branislav.bohacik@justice.sk

**Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic**

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tel.: 02 59 56 1111

fax: 02 59 56 2031

www.lifeenv.gov.sk

**Minister**

László Miklós

*Office of the Minister*

Head of the Office: Katarína Haramiaová – Kubiková, tel. 59562415, hovorca@enviro.gov.sk

**Section for European Integration and International Co-operation**

Director General: Kamil Vilinovič, tel. 59562015, vilinovic.kamil@enviro.gov.sk

**Ministry of Soil Management of the Slovak Republic**

Dobrovičova 12, 812 66 Bratislava

tel.: 02 59 26 6111

fax: 02 52 96 8510

www.mpsr.sk

**Minister**

Zsolt Simon

*Office of the Minister*

Head of the Office: Tibor Katocs, tel. 59266308, katocs@land.gov.sk

**Section for European Integration, Structural Policy and Countryside Development**

Director General: Karol Zimmer, tel. 59266275, opalkova@land.gov.sk

*Department of European Integration*

Head of the Department: Ján Husárik, tel. 52965137, husarikj@land.gov.sk

**Ministry of Transport, Post Offices and Telecommunication of the Slovak Republic**

Námestie slobody č. 6, 810 05 Bratislava

tel.: 02 59 49 4111

fax: 02 52 49 4794

www.telecom.gov.sk

**Minister**

Pavol Prokopovič

*Office of the Minister*

Head of the Office: Eva Benešová, tel. 52498756, eva.benesova@telecom.gov.sk

**Section for European Integration and Foreign Affairs**

Director General: Dušan Rizek, tel. 52731446, dusan.rizek@telecom.gov.sk

**Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic**

Špitálska 8, 816 44 Bratislava

tel.: 02 59 75 1111

fax: 02 52 93 1203

www.build.gov.sk

**Minister**

László Gyurovszky

*Office of the Minister*

Head of the Office: Liliana Bolemant, tel. 59753715, bolemant@build.gov.sk

**Section for Regional Policy**

Director General: Emil Jamrich, tel. 59753815, jamrich@build.gov.sk

*Department of European Integration*

Head of the Department: Stela Krivdová, tel. 59753820, krivdova@build.gov.sk

**Supreme Control Office of the Slovak Republic**

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www.controll.gov.sk

*Department of Foreign Affairs*

Head of the Department: Július Molnár, tel. 55424628, molnar@controll.gov.sk

**Antimonopoly Office of the Slovak Republic**

Drieňová 24, 826 03 Bratislava

tel.: 02 43 33 7305

fax: 02 43 33 3572

www.antimon.gov.sk

*Department of Legislation and Law and European Integration*

Head of the Department: Katarína Fodorová, tel. 48297363, fodorova@antimon.gov.sk

**Statistical office of the Slovak Republic**

Miletičova 3, 824 67 Bratislava

tel.: 02 50 23 6111

fax: 02 55 42 4587

www.statistics.sk

*Department of International Co-operation*

Head of the Department: Magdaléna Holubová, tel. 50236330, magdalena.holubova@statistics.sk

## The List of the Embassies EU, NATO Countries and Some Other Countries

Country	Start of Diplomatic Relations	Address of Embassy	In charge of Embassy (LoC - Letter of Credence)
The Republic of Angola	30.9.1993	Mudroňova 47 811 03 Bratislava 1	<b>Domingos Culolo</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 18. September 2002
The Kingdom of Belgium	1.1.1993	Fraňa Kráľa 5 811 05 Bratislava 1	<b>François del Marmol</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 30. September 1999
The Republic of Belarus	1.1.1993	Kuzmányho 3/A 811 06 Bratislava 1	<b>Valery Voronetsky</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 20. February 2002
Bosnia a Herzegovina	1.1.1993	Tivoligasse 54 1120 Viedeň	<b>Amira Kapetanović</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 29. January 2003
The Republic of Bulgaria	1.1.1993	Kuzmányho 1 811 06 Bratislava 1	<b>Yaroslav Assenov Golev</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 12. March 2002
The Republic of Cyprus	1.1.1993	Parkring 20 A - 1010 Viedeň	<b>Stavros A. Epaminondas</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 16. April 2002
The Czech Republic	1.1.1993	Hviezdoslavovo námestie 8 811 02 Bratislava 1	<b>Rudolf Slánský</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 15. January 1997
The Peoples Republic of China	1.1.1993	Jančova 8 811 02 Bratislava 1	<b>Yuan Guisen</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 9. December 1999
The Kingdom of Denmark	1.1.1993	Panská 27 816 06 Bratislava	<b>Berno Kjeldsen</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 16. October 2001

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The Arab Republic of Egypt	1.1.1993	Ferienčiková 14 P.O. Box 322 814 99 Bratislava	<b>Essam Saleh Awad</b> <i>chargé d'affaires</i>
The Republic of Estonia	1.1.1993	Wohlebengasse 9/13 A - 1040 Viedeň	<b>Mart Laanemäe</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 11. May 1999
The Republic of Finland	1.1.1993	Gonzagagasse 16 A-1010 Vienna	<b>Tom Carl Ernst Grönberg</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 12 April 2001
The Republic of France	1.1.1993	Hlavné námestie 7 P.O.Box 152, 810 00 Bratislava 1 812 83 Bratislava 1	<b>Georges Vaugier</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 14. October 1999
The Hellenic Republic	1.1.1993	Hlavné námestie 4 811 01 Bratislava 1	<b>Efstathios Daras</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 18. January 2002
The Kingdom of Netherlands	1.1.1993	Fraňa Kráľa 5 811 05 Bratislava 1	<b>Laurent Louis Stokvis</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 3. September 2002
The Republic of Croatia	1.1.1993	Mišíkova 21 811 06 Bratislava 1	<b>Andrea Gustović-Ercegovac</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 26. June 2002
The Republic of India	1.1.1993	Radlinského 2 811 02 Bratislava 1	<b>Upendra Chandra Baro</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 1. February 2001
The Republic of Indonesia	1.1.1993	Mudroňova 51 811 03 Bratislava 1	<b>Bintang Parlindungan Simorangkir</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 28. November 2002
Ireland	1.1.1993	Carlton Savoy Building Mostová 2 811 02 Bratislava	<b>Thomas Lyons</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC:5. December 2002

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Japan	1.1.1993	Hlavné nám. 2 811 01 Bratislava	<b>Toyojiro Soejima</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 24 June 2002
Canada	1.1.1993	Muchova 6 160 00 Praha 6	<b>Margaret Huber</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 7. December 2000
The Republic of Cuba	1.1.1993	Somolického 1/A 811 05 Bratislava 1	<b>Caridad Yamira Cueto Milian</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 18. September 2002
The Republic of Latvia	1.1.1993	Stefan Esders Platz 4 A - 1190 Viedeň	<b>Elita Kuzma</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 12. April 2001
The Republic of Lithuania	1.1.1993	Löwengasse 47/4 A - 1030 Viedeň	<b>Jonas Rudalevičius</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 4. July 2002
The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg	1.1.1993	Sternwartestrasse 81 A-1180 Viedeň	<b>Jacques Reuter</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 22. July 1999
The Republic of Macedonia	1.1.1993	Maderstrasse 1/10 A - 1040 Viedeň	<b>Ognen Maleski</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 11. May 1999
The Republic of Malta	1.1.1993	Opernring 5/1 A - 1010 Viedeň	<b>Noel Buttigieg-Scicluna</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 2. March 2000
The Republic of Moldova	1.1.1993	Budafoki ut. 9-11 1111 Budapešť	<b>Mihail Laur</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 23. May 2002
The Republic of Hungary	1.1.1993	Sedlárska 3 814 25 Bratislava 1	<b>Csaba Györffy</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 18. December 2002



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The Kingdom of Norway	1.1.1993	Reisnerstrasse 55/57 A-1030 Viedeň	<b>Arne R. Walther</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 20. February 2003
The Republic of Poland	1.1.1993	Hummelova 4 811 03 Bratislava 1	<b>Jan Komornicki</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 17. April 1997
The Republic of Portugal	1.1.1993	Opernring 3/1/1 A-1010 Vienna	<b>Carlos Neves Ferreira</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 17. May 2001
The Republic of Austria	1.1.1993	Ventúrska 10 811 01 Bratislava 1	<b>Martin Bolldorf</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 18. January 2002
Romania	1.1.1993	Fraňa Kráľa 11 811 05 Bratislava 1	<b>Valerica Epure</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 3. September 2002
Russian Federation	1.1.1993	Godrova 4 811 06 Bratislava 1	<b>Alexey Nikolaevič Borodavkin</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 28. November 2002
The Republic of Slovenia	1.1.1993	Moyzesova 4 813 15 Bratislava 1	<b>Ada Filip Slivnik</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 7. September 2000
The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1.1.1993	Panská 16 811 01 Bratislava 1	<b>Damien Roderic Todd</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 5. December 2001
The United States of America	1.1.1993	Hviezdoslavovo námestie 5 811 02 Bratislava 1	<b>Ronald Weiser</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 5. December 2001
The Federal Republic of Germany	1.1.1993	Hviezdoslavovo námestie 10 811 02 Bratislava 1	<b>Uta Mayer-Schalburg</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 8. July 2002

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The Holy See	1.1.1993	Nekrasovova 17 811 04 Bratislava 1	<b>Henryk Józef Nowacki</b> <i>apostolic nuncius</i> LoC: 10. May 2001
The Kingdom of Spain	1.1.1993	Prepoštská 10 811 01 Bratislava 1	<b>Alfonso Díez Torres</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 20. February 2003
Swiss Confederation	1.1.1993	Tolstého 9 811 06 Bratislava 1	<b>Rudolf Staub</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 3. September 2002
The Kingdom of Sweden	1.1.1993	Úvoz 13 P.O.Box 35 160 12 Praha 612	<b>Harald Fälth</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 5. December 2001
The Republic of Italy	1.1.1993	Červeňova 19 811 03 Bratislava 1	<b>Luca Del Balzo</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 15. February 2001
The Republic of Turkey	1.1.1993	Holubyho 11 811 03 Bratislava 1	<b>Inci Tümay</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 26. September 2000
Ukraine	1.1.1993	Radvanská 35 811 01 Bratislava 1	<b>Jurij Olexandrovyč Rylač</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 9. February 1999
Serbia and Montenegro	1.1.1993	Búdkova 38 811 04 Bratislava 1	<b>Miroslav Kopečni</b> <i>extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador</i> LoC: 15. February 2001
The Sovereign Military Order of Malta	1.1.1993	Na Vřšku 8 811 01 Bratislava 1	<b>Paul Friedrich von Fuhrherr</b> <i>chargé d'affaires</i>
Delegation of the European Commission		Panská 3 - 5 810 11 Bratislava	<b>Eric Jacob van der Linden</b> <i>ambassador of EC to SR</i> LoC: 12. March 2002

## The List of the Consulates in the Slovak Republic

Country	Address of the Consulate in the SR	Konzul
The Republic of Albania	Púpavová 61 841 04 Bratislava	<b>Juraj Kolesár</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Bangladesh	Juraja Hronca 44 841 01 Bratislava	<b>Štefan Petkanič</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
Burkina Faso	Zámocké schody 811 01 Bratislava	<b>Erik Kovács</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Czech Republic	Rázusová 13 P.O. BOX E-10 040 40 Košice	<b>Vítězslav Pivoňka</b> <i>general consul</i>
The Republic of Chile	Laurinská 2 815 08 Bratislava 1	<b>Jaroslav Šoltys</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Kingdom of Denmark	Ventúrska 12 815 16 Bratislava	<b>Michal Lörincz</b> <i>honorary general consul</i>
The Republic of Finland	Moyzesova 5 811 05 Bratislava 1	<b>Karol Kállay</b> <i>honorary general consul</i>
Grenada	Priemyselná 6 824 90 Bratislava 2	<b>Juraj Široký</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Guinea	Devínska cesta 108/A 841 04 Bratislava	<b>Jozef Oleš</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Iceland	Mlynské nivy 42 821 09 Bratislava 2	<b>Otto Halás</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Kazakhstan	J. C. Hronského 1 P. O. BOX 155 960 01 Zvolen	<b>Peter Pázmány</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Colombia	Nadácia Slovak Gold Dostojevského rad 3 P. O. BOX 16108/A 814 99 Bratislava	<b>Miroslav Behúň</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Costa Rica	Prepoštská 6 811 01 Bratislava	<b>Tomáš Chrenek</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Korea	Hviezdoslavovo nám. 20 811 02 Bratislava 1	<b>Marián Mojžiš</b> <i>honorary general consul</i>
The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg	Bajkalská 25 827 18 Bratislava 2	<b>František Fitoš</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Hungary	Hlavná 67 040 01 Košice	<b>György Varga</b> <i>general consul</i>

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The Kingdom of Morocco	Krajná 86 821 04 Bratislava 2	<b>Eubomír Šídala</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Nicaragua	Fedinova 6 851 01 Bratislava	<b>Vladimír Kašák</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Kingdom of Norway	Jašíkova 2 826 05 Bratislava 2	<b>Igor Junas</b> <i>honorary general consul</i>
The Republic of Peru	Tuhovská 5 831 07 Bratislava	<b>Andrej Glatz</b> <i>honorary general consul</i>
The Republic of Poland	Nám. osloboditeľov 1 031 01 Liptovský Mikuláš	<b>Tadeusz Frackowiak</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Portugal	Štefánikova 14 811 05 Bratislava 1	<b>František Vizváry</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Senegal	Na kopci 24 010 01 Žilina - Trnové	<b>Souleymane Seck</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Seychelles	c/o Rádio TWIST, Šalviova 1 P. O. BOX 77 830 00 Bratislava 3 Liptovský Mikuláš	<b>Andrej Hryc</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	Podunajská 24 821 04 Bratislava	<b>Eubomíra Károlyiová</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Syrian Arab Republic	Vysoká 15 811 06 Bratislava	<b>Mustafa Al Sabouni</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Kingdom of Spain	Hutnícka 1 040 01 Košice	<b>Daniel Lučkanič</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Kingdom of Sweden	Lermontovova 15 811 05 Bratislava	<b>Ruben Kemény</b> <i>honorary general consul</i>
The Kingdom of Thailand	Viedenská cesta 3 851 01 Bratislava	<b>Alexander Rozin</b> <i>honorary consul</i>

**The List of the Embassies of the Slovak Republic, Permanent Missions, Consulates General, Slovak Institutes Abroad**

<b>Embassy</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>In charge of the embassy</b>
Abbu Dhabi	The United Arab Emirates	<i>Peter Zsoldos, ambassador</i>
Abuja	The Federal Republic of Nigeria	<i>Igor Hajdušek, ambassador</i>
Algeria	The Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria	<i>Ján Dömök, CDA</i>
Ankara	The Republic of Turkey	<i>Ján Lišuch, ambassador</i>
Athens	The Hellenic Republic	<i>Jaroslav Chlebo, ambassador</i>
Baghdad	The Republic of Iraq	<i>Ing. Jaroslav Čaniga, CDA</i>
Bangkok	The Kingdom of Thailand	<i>Marián Tomášik, ambassador</i>
Beograd	Serbia and Montenegro	<i>Miroslav Lajčák, ambassador</i>
Berlin	The Federal Republic of Germany	<i>Ján Foltín, ambassador</i>
Bern	The Swiss Confederation	<i>Andrej Tabačík, CDA</i>
Brasilia	The Federative Republic of Brazil	<i>Jozef Adamec, ambassador</i>
Brussels	The Kingdom of Belgium	<i>František Lipka, ambassador</i>
Budapest	The Republic of Hungary	<i>Milan Kurucz, CDA</i>
Buenos Aires	The Argentine Republic	<i>Ján Jurišta, ambassador</i>
Bucharest	Romania	<i>Ján Šoth, ambassador</i>
Canberra	The Commonwealth of Australia	<i>Anna Tureničová, ambassador</i>
Damascus	The Syrian Arab Republic	<i>Ivan Zachar, ambassador</i>
Delhi	The Republic of India	<i>Ladislav Volko, ambassador</i>
Dublin	Ireland	<i>Vladimír Halgaš, ambassador</i>
Haag	The Kingdom of the Netherlands	<i>Ján Kuderjavý, ambassador</i>
Hanoi	The Socialist Republic of Vietnam	<i>Anton Hajduk, ambassador</i>
Harare	The Republic of Zimbabwe	<i>Ján Valko, ambassador</i>
Havana	The Republic of Cuba	<i>Ivan Puškáč, ambassador</i>
Helsinki	The Republic of Finland	<i>Emil Kuchár, ambassador</i>
Jakarta	The Republic of Indonesia	<i>Milan Lajčiak, ambassador</i>
Cairo	The Arab Republic of Egypt	<i>Jozef Cibula, ambassador</i>
Copenhagen	The Kingdom of Denmark	<i>Roman Bužek, ambassador</i>
Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia	<i>Milan Tancár, ambassador</i>
Kiev	Ukraine	<i>Vasil Grivna, ambassador</i>
Lima	The Republic of Peru	<i>Marián Masarik, ambassador</i>
Lisbon	The Republic of Portugal	<i>Peter Rusiňák, ambassador</i>

continued

London	The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	<i>František Dlhopolček, ambassador</i>
Ljubljana	The Republic of Slovenia	<i>Roman Paldan, ambassador</i>
Madrid	The Kingdom of Spain	<i>Ján Voderadský, ambassador</i>
Mexico City	The United Mexican States	<i>Branislav Hitka, ambassador</i>
Minsk	The Republic of Belarus	<i>Jozef Mačišák, CDA</i>
Moscow	The Russian Federation	<i>Igor Furdík, ambassador</i>
Nairobi	The Republic of Kenya	<i>Štefan Morávek, ambassador</i>
Nicosia	The Republic of Cyprus	<i>Ján Varšo, ambassador</i>
Oslo	The Kingdom of Norway	<i>Andrej Sokolík, ambassador</i>
Ottawa	Canada	<i>Štefan Rozkopál, CDA</i>
Paris	The Republic of France	<i>Mária Krasnohorská, ambassador</i>
Beijing	The People's Republic of China	<i>Peter Paulen, ambassador</i>
Prague	The Czech Republic	<i>Ladislav Ballek, ambassador</i>
Pretoria	The Republic of South Afrika	<i>František Hudák, ambassador</i>
Riga	The Republic of Latvia	<i>Jozef Dravecký, ambassador</i>
Roma	The Italian Republic	<i>Jozef Mikloško, ambassador</i>
Santiago de Chile	The Republic of Chile	<i>Pavol Šípka, ambassador</i>
Sofia	The Republic of Bulgaria	<i>Ján Kováč, ambassador</i>
Seoul	The Republic of Korea	<i>Ján Chládek, CDA</i>
Stockholm	the Kingdom of Sweden	<i>Teodora Chmelová, ambassador</i>
Tashkent	The Republic of Uzbekistan	<i>Peter Juza, CDA</i>
Tehran	The Islamic Republic of Iran	<i>Ján Jursa, ambassador</i>
Tel Aviv	The State of Israel	<i>Ján Bratko, ambassador</i>
Tokyo	Japan	<i>Július Hauser, ambassador</i>
Tripoli	The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	<i>Ján Bóry, ambassador</i>
Warsaw	The Republic of Poland	<i>Magdaléna Vášáryová, ambassador</i>
Vatikan	The Holy See	<i>Dagmar Babčanová, ambassador</i>
Vienna	The Republic of Austria	<i>Eubor Bystrický, ambassador</i>
Washington	The United States of America	<i>Martin Bútora, ambassador</i>
Zagreb	The Republic of Croatia	<i>Ján Petrík, ambassador</i>

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**The List of the Consulates of the Slovak Republic Headed by the Honorary Consuls**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Consulate</b>	<b>Consul</b>
The Republic of Albania	Tirana	<b>Faik Dizdari</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Argentine Republic	La Platta	<b>Eduardo Kabát</b> <i>honorary general consul</i>
The Commonwealth of Australia	Melbourne	<b>Vojtech Michael Markuš</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The People's Republic of Bangladesh	Dhaka	<b>Reza Ali</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Kingdom of Belgium	Gent	<b>Arnold Vanhaecke</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Kingdom of Belgium	Namur	<b>Fernand Halbart</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Federative Republic of Brazil	Sao Paulo	<b>Peter Pauliček</b> <i>honorary general consul</i>
The Federative Republic of Brazil	Recife	<b>Joao Alixandre Neto</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Federative Republic of Brazil	Belo Horizonte	<b>Gécio Cardoso de Britto</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Federative Republic of Brazil	Joinville	<b>Ernesto Heinzelmann</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Cyprus	Limassol	<b>George Vassos Hadjitheodossiou</b> <i>honorary general consul</i>
The People's Republic of China	Hongkong	<b>Willy Sun Mo Lin</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Kingdom of Denmark	Aarhus	<b>Štefan Peto</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Arab Republic of Egypt	Port Said	<b>Ibrahim Ahmed Gomma El Zeiny</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Ecuador	Quito	<b>Andreas Knoll Snegewitz de Gloede</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Philippines	Manila	<b>Robert Chin Siy</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Philippines	Cebu City	<b>Antonio N. Chiu</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The French Republic	Lyon	<b>Kathy Bayoud-Vidal</b> <i>honorary consul</i>

continued

The French Republic	Nantes	<b>Philippe Pouquet</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The French Republic	Saint Pol De León	<b>Yan Mélenec</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Hellenic Republic	Thessaloniki	<b>Konstantinos Mavridis</b> <i>honorary general consul</i>
The Kingdom of the Netherlands	Rotterdam	<b>Jacob Ten Hoope</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Kingdom of the Netherlands	Amsterdam	<b>Marc Jan Bolland</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of India	Calcutta	<b>Patra Sadham Bosé</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Iceland	Reykjavik	<b>Runolfur Oddsson</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The State of Israel	Beer Sheva	<b>Samuel David Sax</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The State of Israel	Ha Sharon	<b>Karol Nathan Steiner</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The State of Israel	Haifa	<b>Dan Mandel</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The State of Israel	Jerusalem	<b>Dr. Martin Rodan</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Yemen	Saná	<b>Adel Mohamed Al Huraibi</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Amman	<b>Khaldun A. Abuhassan</b> <i>generálny honorárny konzul</i>
Canada	Calgary	<b>Eudovít Zanzotto</b> <i>honorary general consul</i>
Canada	Montreal	<b>Mark Kmec</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
Canada	Toronto	<b>John Vojtech Stephens</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
Canada	Vancouver	<b>Stanislav Lišiak</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
Canada	Winnipeg	<b>Jozef Kiška</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Kenya	Mombasa	<b>Christoph Modigell</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Korea	Busan	<b>Bok Soon Ha (Seung Hee, Ha)</b> <i>honorary consul</i>

continued

The Lebanese Republic	Beirut	<b>Roy Antoine Samaha</b> <i>honorary general consul</i>
The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg	Luxembourg	<b>Blanche Mourtrier</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Macedonia	Skopje	<b>Vlade Tome Stojanovski</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Malawi	Blantyre	<b>Salim David Bapu</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Malta	Mellieha	<b>Joseph Alfred Caruana</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Moldova	Kishinev	<b>Iurie Grigore Popovici</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Principality of Monaco	Monaco	<b>Cristine Noghés - Ménio</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
Mongolia	Ulanbaatar	<b>Munchijn Enchtajvan</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Kingdom of Nepal	Kathmandu	<b>Chatur Dhoj Karki</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Nicaragua	Managua	<b>Francisco Cifuentes</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Kingdom of Norway	Drammen	<b>Zuzana Opavská Wahl</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Kingdom of Norway	Bergen	<b>Morten L. Gjesdahl</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Kingdom of Norway	Trondheim	<b>Erik Frederiksen</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
New Zealand	Auckland	<b>Peter Kiely</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Federal Republic of Germany	Hamburg	<b>Ursula Meyer-Waarden</b> <i>honorary general consul</i>
The Federal Republic of Germany	Stuttgart	<b>Christoph Goeser</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Federal Republic of Germany	Hannover	<b>Dirk Bettels</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Federal Republic of Germany	Bad Homburg	<b>Imrich Donath</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Federal Republic of Germany	Wuppertal	<b>Ivan Koval</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Islamic republic of Pakistan	Karachi	<b>Abdula Sikander Ghulamali</b> <i>honorary consul</i>

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The Republic of Panama	Panama	<b>Julio César Benedetti</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Paraguay	Asunción	<b>Ricardo Moreno Azorero</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Poland	Sopot	<b>Jerzy Leśniak</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Poland	Katowice	<b>Marian Czerny</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Poland	Poznań	<b>Piotr Stanisław Styczynski</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Poland	Rzeszow	<b>Adam Góral</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Poland	Szczecin	<b>Roman Pomianowski</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Portugal	Porto	<b>Manuel de Sá Bastos</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Austria	Innsbruck	<b>Jurgen Bodenseer</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Austria	Linz	<b>Ernst Papesch</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Austria	Vienna	<b>Walter Hildebrand</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of El Salvador	San Salvador	<b>Nicolas Antonio Salume Babun</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Seychelles	Victoria	<i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Singapore	Singapore	<b>Chio Kiat Ow</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The United States of America	Denver	<b>Gregor James Fasing</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The United States of America	Chicago	<b>Thomas Kenneth Klinek Ward</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The United States of America	Los Angeles	<b>Leopold Danihels</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The United States of America	Miami	<b>Robert J. Petrik</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The United States of America	Minneapolis	<b>John J. Luknic</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The United States of America	Pittsburgh	<b>Joseph T. Senko</b> <i>honorary consul</i>

continued

The United States of America	San Francisco	<b>Barbara M. Pivnicka</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The United States of America	Cleveland	<b>Edward George Keshock</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The United States of America	Detroit	<b>Edward Zelenak</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The United States of America	Kansas City	<b>Ross Marine</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The United Mexican States	Guadalajara	<b>Jorge Gutiérrez Orvañanos</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The United Mexican States	Monterrey	<b>Dr. Atalo Luévano Bueno</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	Colombo	<b>Mahen Roshan Andrew Kariyawasan</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Sudan	Khartom	<b>Nasreldin Ibrahim Shulgami</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Syrian Arab Republic	Lattakia	<b>Anas Dib Joud</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Kingdom of Spain	Barcelona	<b>Joan Ignacio Torredemer</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Kingdom of Spain	Zaragoza	<b>Jean-Pol Jules Marie Bastiaans</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Swiss Confederation	Zürich	<b>Michal Čierny</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Kingdom of Sweden	Falkenberg	<b>Karl-Gustaf Gustafsson</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Kingdom of Sweden	Malmö	<b>Pavol Miklian</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Italian Republic	Terst	<b>Miljan Todorovič</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Italian Republic	Florenca	<b>Massimo Sani</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Italian Republic	Palermo	<b>Roberto Helg</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
Tožská republika	Lomé	<b>Vivoto James Victor Sossou</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Turkey	Edirne	<b>Coskun Molla</b> <i>honorary consul</i>
Ukraine	Uzhhorod	<b>Ivan Julievič Šufrič</b> <i>honorary consul</i>

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The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	Caracas	<b><i>Dušan Poloni</i></b> <i>honorary consul</i>
The Republic of Zambia	Lusaka	<b><i>Jaroslav Kulich</i></b> <i>honorary consul</i>







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## Editorial Commentary

Background materials for annexes (except for the Main Activities of the Slovak Republic in Foreign Policy in 2002 and the Structure of the State Administration Authorities Acting in International Affairs and European Integration Field) and documents were provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. Importance of an individual event for the Slovak foreign policy was the main criterion for selection of record in chronology of main foreign policy activities of the Slovak Republic. In the text of Annexes, names of the states, international organisations and other institutions are given in their shortened versions and instead of full names, only first names initials and surnames are used noting extend of annexes.

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# **YEARBOOK**

## **OF FOREIGN POLICY**

## **OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

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