

# AmCham Annual Report

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## Board of Directors

**Róbert ŠIMONČIČ**  
Microsoft Slovakia  
President

**Peter WEBER**  
Hewlett Packard  
First Vice-President

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U.S.Steel Košice  
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**Michele LODI-FĚ**  
KPMG  
Vice-President of Finance

**Jake SLEGERS**  
Secretary  
AmCham Executive Director  
(ex officio)

### Balance of the Board

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Ingrid MELICHEROVÁ, Amslico AIG Life  
Nataša NIKITINOVÁ, Squire Sanders  
Karel SCHÖPPEL, Xerox Slovakia  
Janine SMALL, Pfizer Luxembourg Sarl  
Peter ŠKODNÝ, Accenture  
Tomas SPURNY, Všeobecná úverová banka  
Igor THÁM, Citigroup

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**Daniela Vančová**, Event Coordinator  
**Jaroslav Janík**, Financial Coordinator  
**Patrik Tomeš**, Part-time Employee



Róbert Šimončík  
Microsoft Slovakia  
President of AmCham

Dear Members,

As each year passes, we are pleased to note that AmCham Slovakia continues to grow in size and strength with its presence in Slovakia as we focus our efforts on our three main pillars: contacts, information and advocacy. The 2005 Annual Report reflects how these pillars drive the main focus of our events and activities throughout the year.

The year 2004 was a year of celebration for AmCham Slovakia as we celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of services to the business community. We do hope that AmCham Slovakia can continue to be a great source of contacts, information and advocacy within the international and Slovak business community for a good long time to come.

Over the past year, AmCham members have had an opportunity to participate in nearly 100 activities and events organized by AmCham Slovakia. We hope that each and every member was able to find something of value in our active organization.

It has been a great privilege and honor for me to serve as president of AmCham Slovakia throughout the past year. As to the mission of the American Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia, I see it clearly defined to protect and promote the common economic interests of its members.

The mission also needs to include promoting free enterprise, market economy and ethical business practices among members and the Slovak community as well as promoting strong economic relations between Slovakia, the United States, and other democratic countries.

As Slovakia continues to gain an ever-increasing positive international reputation, I feel that AmCham Slovakia can continue to increase its importance as well. This past year has proven that we are on the right track. We have expanded member benefits best tailored to our members' needs as we introduced the AmCham Executive Business Club, a forum for fruitful exchange of ideas and issues of importance for AmCham's top level of members. We have further expanded our activities in eastern Slovakia as our membership base and frequency of activities continue to grow. We believe that we have also positively influenced the business environment, helping to attract even more investors to Slovakia.

The past year has indeed been challenging and exciting for the American Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia. We hope that this Annual Report reflects the challenges met through the past year, and the exciting challenges yet to come.

## AmCham - A VERY Active Chamber!

The American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) was founded in 1993 in Bratislava as an independent and self-supporting organization, entirely dependent on contributions from its members. Currently, its membership has reached more than 250 international and Slovak companies, including many of the largest and important firms in Slovakia.

Its effort is to "build bridges" among businesses and help them fulfill their goals and missions much easier than on their own. AmCham contributes to the development of healthy business climate to improve conditions not only for its members, but also for other businesses operating in Slovakia. Its prestige, strong positions among other foreign chambers operating in Slovakia and the wide range of activities help all the AmCham members to become a vivid business partner at the Slovak market.

Throughout the last decade, AmChams activities have significantly increased and it has become more active in various areas of the political, legislative and economic scene in Slovakia. The evidence of the AmCham expansion is the opening of the Kosice office in September 2003 to offer increased services to companies in Eastern Slovakia.

## AMCHAM'S THREE PILLARS

*Throughout the past year, AmCham Slovakia has frequently shown that it is dedicated to serving its members through the support of its three main pillars: contacts, information and advocacy.*

### 1) Contacts

AmCham members appreciate the access to a great variety of local and foreign business partners, clients, Slovak and American politicians and even other expatriates as well. AmCham organizes numerous regularly scheduled events throughout the year, including monthly Business Cocktails, Business Breakfasts and Roundtable Luncheons. By attending these events, members have an opportunity to obtain important contacts to facilitate their business activities and become more visible in the business environment.

### 2) Information

One of the most significant pillars of AmCham Slovakia is acting as a valuable, reliable and consistent source of a great variety of information. Our publications, including Connection magazine, the Membership Directory, Membership benefits and Opportunities, Slovak Brochure, Annual Report, and the web site, are just some of the ways we provide information to our members.

### 3) Advocacy

The opportunity to be part of a powerful unified and representative voice is one of the advantages of AmCham membership. Through our committees, Task Forces and other advocacy efforts, AmCham members who share common interests, issues and challenges can approach the government or other appropriate authorities as a compelling, effective voice to support continual development of the business environment in Slovakia. AmCham is supportive in the area of advocacy, particularly in:

Lobbying, Troubleshooting, Networking, Research, Cooperation with the Government on legislation drafting, Consulting with the Government on problem solving, Opportunity to work in Task Forces, Addressing comments to drafts of legislations, General and economic overviews, Letters of recommendation for members, Administrative and consulting services, Contacts with the Government representatives and VIPs, Customized mailings, etc.



## OUR ECONOMIC IMPACT - OUR ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

Over the past few years, the American Chamber of Commerce in SR has dynamically grown in size and strength to a strong membership base of 270 members. AmCham Slovakia is a well-respected organization that actively cooperates with the Slovak government and other political bodies.

- ◆ Since 2000, the number of Corporate Patrons (companies with highest level of membership) has increased from 14 to 40. These companies have a significant economic position in Slovakia and aggressively support the activities of the Chamber.
- ◆ The economic impact of AmCham's members is exponentially increased when taking into consideration the extensive network of supplies and business partners that benefit from the economic activities conducted by these companies.
- ◆ In addition, throughout the last few years, AmCham Slovakia's activities have substantially increased as it has become increasingly active in various elements of political, legislative and economic life in Slovakia.

### Our achievements in the past few years:

- ◆ AmCham Slovakia contributed significantly to bringing change to the Slovak Labor Legislation
- ◆ AmCham Slovakia, together with TA3, organized a live televised debate in connection with the Parliamentary Elections  
AmCham Slovakia hosted "The Slovak Elections Political Party Speaker Series" featuring major political parties in Slovakia
- ◆ AmCham Slovakia succeeded in having Róbert Šimončič, the current AmCham Slovakia President, elected as new chair of the European Council of the American Chambers of Commerce (ECACC)
- ◆ AmCham Slovakia hosted a Slovak Ministers Speakers Series called "Reforms Are Ready. Are You Ready?"
- ◆ AmCham Slovakia established a permanent presence in Eastern Slovakia and opened a new office in Košice
- ◆ 2004 was a year of celebration for the AmCham office, as the Chamber celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## IMPORTANT ECONOMIC FIGURES CONCERNING AMCHAM SLOVAKIA

AmCham Slovakia is aware of its economic potential. AmCham members are some of the most important elements in the economic development of Slovakia. Their investments and turnovers are essential engines for macroeconomic expansion in Slovakia.

- ◆ Total annual turnover represented by AmCham members is estimated to be SKK 360bn.
- ◆ AmCham members employ approximately 120,000 people.
- ◆ Out of 270 AmCham members, 92 are subsidiaries of US companies, 97 are Slovak companies and 81 are multinational companies

### The majority of AmCham companies operate in:

- ◆ Manufacturing and Production (29)
- ◆ IT (25 companies)
- ◆ Consulting and Accounting (24 companies)
- ◆ Banking and Insurance (18 companies)
- ◆ Recruiting and Executive Search (18 companies)
- ◆ Education (15 companies)

## AMCHAM EVENTS

*AmCham provide a great number of events throughout the year. The most frequent Business Breakfasts and Business Cocktails. In addition, we offer our members opportunities to participate in specially organized seminars and conferences covering a great variety of topics. AmCham Slovakia also holds special events Job and Internship Fairs, Slovak Ministers Speakers Series, EU Business Briefing Series, Roundtable Discussions with the U.S. Embassy, just to name a few. Moreover, AmCham is well known for organizing festive seasonal events, such as the last Annual 4th of July/Independence Day Celebration, the Annual Thanksgiving Gala Dinner and the Annual Spring Ball.*

### REGULAR EVENTS

#### Business Breakfasts

*Business Breakfasts are held at least once or twice a month. The aim of AmCham Business Breakfasts is to provide an opportunity for our members to meet and discuss current topics connected to the business environment with business specialists, government representatives, VIP's, special guests etc. Business Breakfasts usually start with a presentation of the invited speaker, followed by an opportunity for the attendees to ask questions. Attendance reaches 70-120 people, depending on the topic. Breakfast usually starts between 8:15 and 8:30 and lasts until 10:00 a.m.*

Those regular Business Breakfasts (not including the "Speaker Series" Breakfasts and the "EU Business Briefing Series") held during the last year are:

**April 6, 2004**

with KNO Slovensko, Topic: "Strengthening Multicultural Management Teams", Košice

**May 4, 2004**

with Rudolf Zajac,, Minister of Health Care of SR, Hotel Danube

**May 11, 2004**

Sanford Owens, Dušana Bartková and Marián Volent from U.S. Commercial Service , Košice

**May 20, 2004**

with Egon Zehnder International. Topic: Importance of Corporate Governance with the Special Focus on the Slovak and Central European Market Conditions.

**June 9, 2004**

"EU Business Briefing Series" from the initiative of the AmCham's EU Affairs Committee. Topic: "Consumer Protection" with Gabriela Meszarosová, Ministry of Justice, Miloš Lauko, Association of Consumers in SR, Hotel Danube

**June 29, 2004**

with H.E. Eric van der Linden, H.E. Laurent L. Stokvis, H.E. Thomas D. Lyons, Topic: "The EU Presidency and its Impact on EU Policy"

**October 15, 2004**

with Ján Figel', EU Commissioner. Topic: "EU-US Transatlantic Business Dialogue (TABD)", Košice

**November 18, 2004**

with Adrian Barger, Associate of Squire Sanders and Danica Paroulková, Head of Antimonopoly Office of SR, Topic: "State Aid and Competition Law"

**November 23, 2004**

sponsored by Marsh , Topic: "Risk Management" , Bratislava

**February 11, 2005**

with Roman Kuruc, General Director of Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO), Topic: "Regional Development of East Slovakia and the State Incentives Regarding FDI in the Region", Hotel Slovan Košice

**March 8, 2005**

in cooperation with Squire Sanders. Topic: "EU Accession of Slovakia: Challenges and Opportunities within Public Affairs and Lobbying Practice" with Kevin T. Connor of Squire Sanders, Alistair McLeish of Mmd Central & Eastern Europe and Mario Grassl of Holcim (Slovensko) at Hotel Danube

**March 23, 2005**

in cooperation with Pontis Foundation, Citigroup and Eurotel Bratislava. Topic: "Giving Wisely" with Lenka Surotchak of Pontis Foundation, Igor Thám of Citigroup and Juraj Droba of Eurotel Bratislava, at Hotel Danube

**January 25, 2005**

with Ludovít Kanik, Minister of Labor, Social Affairs and Family in SR. Topic: "Pension Reform in SR and Its Impact on the Private Sector" at Radisson SAS Carlton Hotel

## Business Cocktails

*AmCham Slovakia's Business Cocktails are regular monthly events for the general membership, business partners, as well as for other potential member contact. These rather festive events offer our members an opportunity to enjoy time with their business partners in a relaxed atmosphere. It is an excellent place for meeting new people, socializing and obtaining new contacts.*

*AmCham Business Cocktails are some of the most popular AmCham events. They are usually held at different venues in order to present different places and different styles of refreshments. The venue can be also chosen according to the preference of the sponsor. Attendance reaches 120-150 people.*

*Business Cocktail is sponsored by one or more member companies that can present their products, services, and management structure during a short presentation. The Business Cocktails held during the past year are:*

**May 12, 2004**

AmCham Business Cocktail in Košice sponsored by U.S.Steel Košice at TeleDom, Košice

**June 10, 2004**

Business Cocktail – On the Road with AmCham! Sponsored by Motor-Car Bratislava, s.r.o., Bratislava

**June 17, 2004**

Business Cocktail sponsored by Philip Morris Slovakia at Reštaurácia Pohoda, Bratislava

**June 23, 2004**

Business Cocktail in Košice sponsored by IBM Slovensko at the Rokoko Garden, Košice

**August 5, 2004**

Business Cocktail – “Mid-Summer Party“ sponsored by Hewlett-Packard, Restaurant U mamičky

**September 8, 2004**

Business Cocktail – “Welcome Back to Work“ sponsored by Capgemini and Tatra banka, Čadca & Kriváň boats

**October 27, 2004**

Halloween Business Cocktail sponsored by KPMG and S&T Slovakia at Film Cocktail Bar, Bratislava

**November 18, 2004**

Business Cocktail and Seminar “Success 2004“ sponsored by Procesná automatizácia, Košice.

**December 16, 2004**

Christmas Business Cocktail in Košice sponsored by TTC Telecom. TTC Telecom, Košice

**March 31, 2005**

Business Cocktail in Košice sponsored by Molex Slovakia and S&T Slovakia at Hotel Slovan - Restaurant, Košice

**April 6, 2005**

"Meet the Candidates" Business Cocktail, sponsored by SAP Slovensko at Restaurant Tempus Fugit



## Seminars and Conferences

*Seminars and Conferences are focused on specific issues and topics for a specific audience. The speakers are usually international visitors, politicians, businesspersons, government representatives, diplomats, etc. Seminars and Conferences are organized on an irregular basis according to the schedule of the visiting guest or the requests of the sponsor or co-organizer. The Seminars and Conferences held in the last year are:*

**June 3, 2004**

in cooperation with The Economist, Economist Conferences: "Seventh Business Roundtable with the Government of the Slovak Republic", Radisson SAS Carlton

**August 31, 2004**

"Top-ranked MBA and Executive Education programs" in cooperation with CMC Graduate School of Business. Hotel Danube, Bratislava.

**October 28, 2004**

A Regional HR Conference "Moving Forward in Human Resources: Strategies, Roles and Issues". Main sponsor: Luger & Maklér. Hotel Danube, Bratislava

**February 7, 2005**

in cooperation with KPMG. Topic: "Accounting and Tax Legislation in Slovakia for 2005", Radisson SAS Carlton Hotel

## SPECIAL EVENTS

*Besides the Regular Events, AmCham Slovakia organizes many special events. The major special events are Thanksgiving Gala Dinner, 4th of July Independence Day Celebration, Job and Internship Fair, Spring Ball. In addition, there are smaller special events that are held for a special occasion, for example the Patron's Luncheon, Tours & Trips, Sports Day, Trade Missions, the Thanksgiving Charity Drive, Government Reforms Speaker Series etc.*

**April 23, 2004**

General Assembly and official part of 10th Anniversary of AmCham, Reduta

**May 8-9, 2004**

3rd Annual Garden Party organized by UNICEF, Bratislava Castle Garden

**June 4-5, 2004**

in cooperation with NESS Slovakia: "NESS Golf Tour", Tále

**August 7, August 14, 2004**

Open Golf Days, Golf Depot at Hotel Kamila Resort, Čierna Voda

**August 9 – 11, 2004**

AmCham Training in High Tatras with other AmChams

**September 11, 2004**

Qualification Round for Arthur Hunt Cup – Sports Day

**September 16, 2004**

AmCham Member Tour to Košice

**October 13, 2004**

Board of Directors & Patrons Luncheon, Luxor Business Center

**November 2-3, 2004**

U.S. Presidential Election 2004 Gala, Hotel Carlton

**November 25, 2004**

Press Conference – Charity Drive 2004, Hotel Danube

**December 6, 2004**

Farewell Cocktail Reception for outgoing US Ambassador, Ronald Weiser, Cafe Reduta, Bratislava

**March 10, 2005**

AmCham Executive Business Club. Topic: "Building Confidence in Europe" with Liz Padmore, Accenture, David Nobles of U.S.Embassy, Martin Bruncko of Ministry of Finance of SR and Ingrid Brocková of World Bank. Penati Club, Bratislava



## MAJOR EVENTS

Seasonal events are the most appreciated and colorful of all the AmCham events. One of the largest and most anticipated casual events (with many surprises) is the Annual 4th of July/Independence Day Celebration. The Annual Thanksgiving Gala Dinner is the most festive event, full of delicious food, beautiful outfits and musical performances. The Annual Spring Ball attracts those in formal dress and ready for an evening of dancing and entertainment. Moreover, AmCham participates in other events such as Sports Day and the UNICEF Garden Party, which are organized together with other Chambers of Commerce operating in the Slovak Republic. In addition, AmCham organizes events orientated to the job market, such as the Job and Internship Fair (spring).

June 26, 2004

### ANNUAL 4th OF JULY INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

The last Saturday in June was again dedicated to AmCham's annual Independence Day Celebration, which took place at the Bratislava Castle grounds. Despite of the weather the rainy day before the event, Saturday 26, 2004, appeared to be a beautiful sunny day. The traditional, Old West atmosphere was introduced by the "Welcome to AmCham City!" gate at the entrance to the festivities. All the attendees could again "taste the Americana spirit" in AmCham Citya western town with authentic-looking facades. More than 700 guests could enjoy the festive parade, various attractions, traditional American food and drinks including the popcorn and cotton candy, and musical performances full of American flair. Moreover, kids enjoyed the jumping castle, trampolines, face paintings and had an opportunity to see up close animals from the Bratislava Zoo.



The American styled parade was led off by a contingent of US Marines bearing the flag and seal of the United States. The colorful Kleopatra Majorettes followed. Former Slovak President Michal Kováč with his wife Emília, the VIP couple that attended all the big AmCham events, were sitting in one of the historical cars. Róbert Šimončič, the President of AmCham, had the honor of riding in the horse-drawn carriage, followed by a motorcade of historical cars with VIP guests as passengers, and much more. The program also included public addresses from AmCham President Róbert Šimončič, U.S. Steel Košice President Christopher Navetta and Sandy Owens, Head of U.S. Commercial Service.



Those who came to celebrate Independence Day enjoyed not only the food and drinks but also the country music and dance performances by Country Mostik Group, Peter Uličný & New Country band, special musical guest: Liam Griffin from USA, and Country Line Dance Club of Bratislava. The highlight of the evening was a magnificent display of fireworks, supported by rousing renditions of classic American music. The celebration lasted until late at night. AmCham sincerely thanks the main sponsor U.S. Steel Košice, and other sponsors, for their generous contributions!

November 26, 2004

### ANNUAL THANKSGIVING GALA DINNER

**“Welcome to the Cabaret!”** That was a theme of one of the largest and most festive events that AmCham organizes throughout the year - Thanksgiving Gala Dinner. The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Gala Dinner took place in the Incheba exhibition center on November 26, 2004. This year's celebration was more than fit the bill of a gala evening, with a traditional American dinner of roast turkey, tasty stuffing, cream corn, steamed broccoli, mashed potatoes with gravy, cranberries and sweet potatoes, with brownies topped with ice cream for dessert.



All the 500 invited guests from American, Slovak, and International community gathered and shared the traditional American customs, spirit and food. Moreover, they all experience the Cabaret atmosphere provided by Zuzana Mauréry, her cancan and top hat dancers, along a with magic show.

Emcees of the evening were Jake Slegers, the Executive Director of AmCham, together with Nataša Nikitinová, the AmCham Member of the Board of Directors. After the welcome reception, Mr. Slegers, Róbert Šimončíč, President of AmCham and Scott Thayer, Deputy of US Ambassador to Slovakia addressed all the guests with the opening announcements. Diamond Sponsors Accenture, SteelTrans and BratCarl were personally thanked by Mr. Slegers. Pastor David Schick gave the traditional blessing before the guests were allowed to “dig in”. An annual part of the program, the AmCham Award, honoring those who have assisted the AmCham office in special ways, was given to Marek Gešo from Accenture, who has contributed tirelessly over the past year to the efforts of AmCham Slovakia.



### AmCham Thanksgiving Charity Drive 2004

Since 1998 AmCham Slovakia has distributed more than 4 million SK to approximately 50 different organizations all over Slovakia. This year we have collected 755 000 SK and distributed the money to 10 different organizations. AmCham members contributed 673 000 Sk directly and during 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Gala Dinner tombola, another 82 000 SK was collected.

At the press conference, a day before the Annual Thanksgiving Gala Dinner, on November 25, 2004 Jake Slegers, the Executive Director of AmCham Slovakia said: “Thanksgiving is one of the biggest celebrations in the U.S. It puts a lot of emphasis on the family bounds and family traditions. It is a time for all of us to share what we have with others. US businesses are active members of their communities. Many support local or national charities and encourage their employees to do the same. At AmCham, we continue that American tradition, but abroad.”

This year, the Board of Directors identified ten projects that have a remarkable impact on the living conditions of many people in this society and, therefore, AmCham is proud to support the following organizations:

This year, the Board of Directors identified ten projects that have a remarkable impact on the living conditions of many people in this society and, therefore, AmCham is proud to support the following organizations:

70 000,-	◆ Betánia Senec n.o.
60 000,-	◆ Civil Association Barlička, Prešov
20 000,- ,PC, printer	◆ Union of ZŠI Friends for the Blind and Sight Impaired, Levice
100 000,-	◆ Pensioner House and House of Social Services for Adults, Sered'
70 000,-	◆ Civil Association "World of Silence," Bratislava
100 000,-	◆ Diagnostic Center for Children, Bratislava
100 000,-	◆ Orphanage, Nové Mesto nad Váhom
100 000,-	◆ Special Elementary School with Dormitory, Medzilaborce
100 000,-	◆ Orphanage "Lienka," Veľké Kapušany
20 000,-	◆ Mother Theresa Missionaries of Charity, Bratislava

**Amount distributed in Charity Drive (in Sk):**

1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
350 000	360 000	505 000	577 500	680 000	835 000	757 000

March 1, 2004 - Bratislava

March 9, 2004 - Košice

**JOB AND INTERNSHIP FAIRS**

On March 1, 2005, AmCham organized its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Job and Internship Fair at the Radisson SAS Carlton Hotel in Bratislava with an attendance in excess of 500 students. AmCham also held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Job and Internship Fair in Košice, where an equal number of students took part. Nineteen companies in Bratislava and 21 companies in Košice participated in the event. The aim of the Job and Internship Fair is to help prepare students who are entering the job market and showcase their qualifications to companies. On the other hand, companies and firms have a unique opportunity to expand their database of young and talented job seekers, as well as promoting and marketing themselves among prospective employees.

This year's topic for the event was **"EU Accession Impact on the Slovak Labor Market"**. All companies who had an opportunity to present were asked to speak about the labor market from a European perspective and discuss the most significant effects on the Slovak labor market after EU accession. Additionally, AmCham offered students special seminars both in Bratislava and Košice. Lugera & Maklér and Hudson prepared two seminars in Bratislava, which focused on interviewing skills, preparing a resumé, applying for an open position and writing a motivational letter. IQ Servis conducted the same kind of seminar in Košice.

Both events started at 9:00 a.m. and lasted until 4:30 p.m. Throughout the day, students in Bratislava and Košice had an opportunity to speak with HR representatives, gather information about requirements for specific jobs and internships, and generally get to know the culture of the company, their missions and objectives. In addition, students were offered applications to fill out onsite.

Presentations were also offered to the attendees during the event. Several participating companies prepared interactive presentations, giving students a better insight into each company. In Bratislava, these companies included AT&T, Accenture, Allianz, DELL, Philip Morris, Tatra Banka, Mondi Business Paper, Trenkwalder Management Partners and Calyon Bank, while in Košice, U.S.Steel Košice, Ness, Tatra Banka, Accenture, AT&T, Philip Morris, VSE, Hewlett-Packard, Mondi Business Paper and Trenkwalder Management Partners were among the participants.





April 24, 2004  
**10th ANNIVERSARY of AMCHAM SLOVAKIA**

*A decade to evaluate, a decade to celebrate!*

A festive red carpet welcomed guests to AmCham's gala celebration of its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Slovakia's EU membership on April 24, 2004.

Over 350 guests attended the event, which was held in Bratislava's Stará Tržnica. This traditional market hall was seemingly magically transformed into an attractive and festive venue fit for a truly memorable celebration.

After a welcome reception, guests enjoyed an unforgettable and mesmerizing fire show performance. As traditional dances are for many cultures the spirit of their nation, traditional American country music and dances were mixed with traditional Slovak folk songs and dances for a unique combination of the cultures. Without question, the star of the evening was Elvis Presley who appeared amid a burst of fanfare to please the audience with some of Presley's rock and roll hits from the past. The real surprise of the evening was a stunning laser show, which transformed the market hall into dazzling spectacle of sound and light.



After a delicious dinner of Slovak and American culinary selections, the Beat Boys got everyone on their feet with a fine collection of Beatles hits. Guests also had an opportunity to enjoy the cigar and whiskey bar, as well as have their pictures taken in various costumes. Dancing went well into the morning.



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**In-Kind Sponsors**  
JAMESON, XEROX

The American Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic  
A festive celebration of  
The 10th Anniversary  
of AmCham Slovakia  
and  
Slovakia's Entry into the EU  
April 24, 2004  
7 pm - 2 am Stará Tržnica, nám. S'pit'ov, Bratislava

## CONNECTION MAGAZINE

*The AmCham Connection magazine is one of the most appreciated services that AmCham members regularly use. According to the Membership survey 2003, Connection ran away with the top evaluation with a surprising 96% readership (the top two readership categories include 50% who read Connection frequently and 36.7% who identify themselves as reading it from time to time).*



### General information and readership

The AmCham magazine “Connection” is the official monthly news publication of the American Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic. It is distributed free of charge throughout Slovakia to over 270 AmCham members, affiliated companies, NGOs, government and governmental organizations, VIPs, economic, political and diplomatic authorities, foreign companies, biggest Bratislava's hotels, organizations and all embassies in Slovakia. Connection is also circulated in the business community, both Slovak and foreign, including foreign chambers of commerce in Slovakia, sister chambers of commerce in Europe and the headquarters of the American Chamber of Commerce in Washington. Some copies of each issue are sent to the Slovak Embassy in the USA and US political representatives as well. Besides other recipients, both members and non-members, include attendees of all AmCham events.

### Content

This full color, business-oriented publication in English language, with a professional layout, was first published in 1996. It has gradually become a respected and highly regarded source of information for top managers, decision-makers, and economic, political and diplomatic elites, and VIPs, due to its focus on topics that are of crucial interest to this community.

Since November 2003 AmCham has extended the magazine to 40 pages (from 36) and since January 2004 it has started with new layout and graphics.

The total print run is 850 to 900 copies. Every issue focuses on one basic topic/cover story. The topics covered in the last year include Banking and Insurance Trends, Telecom, and IT, AmCham Anniversary, Welcome to a New Europe, Focus on PR and Advertising, Travel and Tourism, Regional Development, Workforce Performance, Health Care, Focus on Education, Foreign Direct Investment, Industrial parks, and more. The magazine features crucial aspects of business life in Slovakia, especially the mutual commercial relations between Slovakia and U.S. Articles on international and domestic economic topics are prepared by specialists on economic, political, legislative, social issues, providing a deep insight and respectful views and opinions. The magazine also includes the reports from the events organized by the AmCham office in Bratislava and the AmCham office in Košice.

The editorial content also includes many other sections and special interest columns - up-to-date Member News, list of new and current AmCham members, Letter to Members, Success in Slovakia, Member Profile, Interviews with politicians, economists or other experts, Profiles, Legislative focus, Questionnaires among members on different topics, etc.

## DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS

The American Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic (AmCham) publishes an annual Directory of Members in the English language, a comprehensive list of member companies with all-important contacts, addresses, description of their business activities and other facts about them. The main purpose for publishing the Directory of Members is to further increase membership benefits through providing our members more complex and detailed information. This will hopefully enhance networking opportunities within AmCham membership as well as improving their image within membership as well. Moreover, the better image our members have, the better the position for AmCham.



The Directory of Members presents detailed descriptions of the main business activities of all member organizations and individuals. Our members have an opportunity to write a brief (up to 100 words) description of their core business activities together with contact information. In addition, the company profile may contain the history of a company, its industry strength, objectives and future plans. The presentation space of every member company will include the present address, telephone and fax number, email and name(s) of the contact person(s). In addition, all Corporate Patrons have, besides their company profile, their logos published as Patrons.

- Comprehensive listing of AmCham Members
- Contact information, contact persons, description of business activities of member companies
- Information on AmCham Slovakia
- Contact information for AmChams in Europe
- General Information, basic economic and statistic data on Slovakia
- Listing of representation of Slovakia in USA and USA in Slovakia
- Free to all members of AmCham Slovakia
- 

To be part of the listing in Directory of Members, all AmCham members are given a great chance to promote themselves in the community, being offered to present their company, its brief characteristics, history, successes, actual business activities and contacts on space limited by 100 words.

MEMBERS DECEMBER	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Corporate PATRONS	10	14	18	23	38	37
Corporate PERMANENT	38	49	50	50	47	54
Corporate ACTIVE	47	59	104	127	135	156
Non-profit Institutions	14	17	20	23	21	18
Individuals	13	17	15	10	10	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>269</b>

## WEB SITE

AmCham Slovakia launched its first website about five years ago. The growth of information technologies and usage of the Internet led to major changes on our website, [www.amcham.sk](http://www.amcham.sk). In addition to the information service that it provides, AmCham has also changed its website into a marketing and promotional tool. AmCham continuously improves its website: [www.amcham.sk](http://www.amcham.sk). A visitor of the official AmCham web site can easily find all kinds of information:

- ◆ Daily update of news related to economic and political events, foreign direct investments, statistical data etc. (source- SITA online service)
- ◆ Adhoc updates of the AmCham calendar
- ◆ Monthly update of the three major articles from the newly released Connection magazine
- ◆ Quarterly update of the publication "Destination: Lisbon" (the previous name: "The Road to Brussels") - Since September 2003, Working Group experts on EU accession in the American Chambers of Commerce in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary have jointly produced a quarterly "Road to Brussels" (nowadays "Destination: Lisbon") report, which address the practical impact of the accession processes and the relevant legislative changes in Slovakia in specialized articles. Providing a regional perspective, the articles are a collaborative effort of all three contributing AmChams. The bulletin also contains general information focused on the most important enlargement related issues, a calendar of upcoming EU related events, and information regarding EU policy changes.
- ◆ Adhoc updates of all the speakers presentations from events organized by AmCham
- ◆ Updates of the section called "How to start a business" information is provided by Allen & Overy
- ◆ All the advertisement information in a section called "Advertisement" contains information and a price list for advertisements in Connection magazine, banners on the web site and advertisements in the Directory of Members
- ◆ Section called "Opportunities", which contains: Trade Opportunities (with space for AmCham members and non-member companies to promote their business, products, services etc.), Job positions (providing space for companies, individual and students to look for new employees) and Community Bulletin Board (serves to any visitor that is for example looking for an au-pair, cleaning lady, English teacher or has an items to buy, sell or donate).
- ◆ Section "Business": any visitor can get an updated information regarding the legislative changes in Slovakia
- ◆ Membership Section: includes information about membership, benefits, criteria for becoming an AmCham member etc. The section also includes a list of all AmCham member companies. All the AmCham members have a login name and password in order to be able to open the information concerning the "Members Area Only". The password allows any of the AmCham members to access information about AmCham companies, complete committee reports etc.



If you have any questions concerning the official AmCham website or you are interested in promoting your company on [www.amcham.sk](http://www.amcham.sk), please, contact Zuzana Lysáková, AmCham PR & Marketing Coordinator via phone: 00421-2-54 64 0535 or send e-mail to [zuzana@amcham.sk](mailto:zuzana@amcham.sk).

## AmCham COMMITTEES

*AmCham's committees, working groups and task forces are the "backbone" of AmCham's real activities. AmCham's committees monitor legislative, business, social and other issues in the Slovak Republic, collecting comments and concerns of the members of AmCham Slovakia on these issues, summarizing and formulating them into the official position of AmCham Slovakia and delivering and presenting it to the institutions and organization that have the ability to influence the given issues.*

### EU Affairs Committee

When Slovakia joined the EU in May 2004, the original mission of the EU Accession Working Group had come to its end and the Working Group was shut down. Realizing that the integration process hadn't been finished at all, especially for entrepreneurs, it was decided that an EU Affairs Committee (EUAC) would be established for the members of AmCham SR. The Committee was given the mandate of informing and advocating on behalf of AmCham SR members with respect to the ongoing challenges of membership in the EU and providing committee members and sponsors with continuing related networking and promotional opportunities. **Mr. Andrew Sandor of Squire, Sanders & Dempsey has remained as Chair, with Mr. Michal Krištúfek of UPC Slovensko as Deputy Chairman.**

The agenda of the Committee has remained almost identical. The committee has continued the joint project of "Visegrad" AmCham's, *The Road to Brussels*, but since EU accession brought a new challenge, The Lisbon Treaty, the project has been renamed **Destination: Lisbon**. This **quarterly EU report** has always contained important EU affairs-related news as it informs AmCham members about recent EU policy developments and legislation processes. It also contains a calendar of interesting events related to EU Competitiveness. As each issue has been focusing on two selected topics, analyzed always at the EU level, as well as at the level of "Visegrad Four" countries, this report has brought these interesting topics last year:

- "Custom duties and data protection"
- "European Company"
- "Public Private Partnerships"
- "Emissions Trading in the Visegrad Four"
- "Contraband in Central Europe"
- "Combating Money Laundering in the Enlarged Europe"
- "Corporate Taxation - European Aspects"

The EUAC has also continued in initiating the **EU Business Briefing Series**, which have been very successful among AmCham members, as well as other EU related events:

- "Consumer Protection" on June 9, 2004
- "The EU Presidency and its Impact on EU Policy" on June 29, 2004
- "State Aid and the Competition Law" on September 14, 2004
- "EU-US Transatlantic Business Dialogue (TABD)" on October 15, 2004

In November 2004, members of the EUAC have initiated organization of a **Member Tour to Brussels**. That project has been so far the most extensive and demanding policy oriented project ever organized by AmCham SR, with the assistance of EUAC members. Participants of the tour visited AmCham EU, one of the most acknowledged lobbying institutions in Brussels. They were also hosted by the U.S. Mission to the EU as well as the Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU, to find out how each of these institutions can assist companies active in Slovakia and the EU market. An informal evening dinner was spent with the Slovak members of the European Parliament and European Council, representatives of the Slovak Permanent Representation to the EU, and with the representatives of AmCham EU. They had a chance to tour the premises of the European Parliament and then discuss the prepared legislation on Unfair Commercial Practices at the Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection of the European Commission. At the end of the Tour to Brussels, a "Lawyer's View" of how companies can really make their case in the EU was provided by the Squire, Sanders & Dempsey office.

The EUAC was also involved in shaping European legislation, gathering comments and proposals from its member companies to a particular issue. At the end of March 2004, American Chambers of Commerce of the Visegrad countries joined together to deliver a common "AmCham's of Visegrad" position paper to the EU Commission, about the possibility to transfer the registered offices of a company from one member state to another, and in November 2004, the committee was approached by the Ministry of Economy in SR to comment a document from the EC on how to strengthen the EU-US Economic Partnership.

As lobbying has been strongly related to the agenda of EUAC members, AmCham decided to coordinate its activities in commenting the Draft of the Act on Lobbying, published for preview stage by the Minister of Justice in SR, Daniel Lipsic, through this Committee. At a special meeting, EUAC members reviewed the comments of AmCham member companies and submitted an official letter with proposed changes to the Draft to the Ministry of Justice. We hope these comments will be successfully implemented into the Draft of the act and contribute to transparency in the relations among the private, public and government sector in SR.

## AmCham COMMITTEES

### Health Care Committee

The Health Care Committee has continued in its intensive activities towards establishing a productive and perspective dialog with the Ministry of Health in SR. On May 4 2004, members of AmCham had a chance to hear about the "New Healthcare" Reform directly from the Minister of Health in SR, Mr. Rudolf Zajac. The Minister was then available to the members of the Committee at a Roundtable discussion, where he was addressed several issues regarding ethical behavior of medical companies on the Slovak market, future cooperation in protecting the intellectual property as well as transparency in pricing and reimbursement of mainly pharmaceutical products. On May 26, 2004, thanks to the close cooperation with the U.S. Embassy, members of the committee had an opportunity to meet with Mr. Frank Mermoud, Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, and part of the U.S. advocacy delegation, to discuss the business environment on the Slovak market for pharmaceutical companies.

In summer of 2004, **Miroslav Lednár of Merck Sharp & Dohme became the Chair of the Committee**, replacing Raj Airey of Pfizer Luxembourg Sarl. The Health Care Committee has focused on addressing issues concerning the "New Healthcare Reform" that passed into the second reading in the Slovak National Council. The Committee continued its monitoring and analysis of the proposed legislation, focusing on the area of transparency in pricing, and reimbursement as well as the categorization of drugs and new molecules in the Slovak pharmaceutical market. In October "New Health Care Reform" was passed in the parliament and thus the focus of the Committee was turned back to its main long-term areas concerning ethical conduct in the pharmaceutical industry, IPR and data protection, as well as transparency in pricing and reimbursement.

The committee evaluated the final version of the "Act on the Extent of Health Care" as it had been ratified by the Parliament and as it was rather a step back from the EU Transparency Directive (89/105/EEC), it has become a great concern to all pharmaceutical companies on the Slovak market. Slovakia also remained on the Special 301 Report Watch List, because of a deficit in the enforcement of IPR and Data Protection on the Slovak market.

### Human Resource Committee

The Human Resource Committee held its "expansion" meeting on June 17, 2004. The purpose of the meeting was to activate the full AmCham HR Committee (HRC), and to elaborate the mission, supporting objectives and outputs, organization, and administration of the committee. **Don Bauza, who initiated the reactivation of the committee, is the chair.**

In order to enable the Committee to function more effectively, it was decided to form a Legislative Subcommittee, Publications Subcommittee, and Special Events Subcommittee.

On October 28, 2004 AmCham Slovakia held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual HR Conference, on the topic: ***Moving Forward in Human Resources: Strategies, Roles and Issues.*** It not only included businesses and HR professionals from Slovakia, but also professionals from throughout Central and Eastern Europe, giving this year's conference a more regional approach. The committee plans to maintain this character of the conference also for the upcoming years, as it is especially after EU accession that an international character of the event is absolutely inevitable in order to make it attractive for the audience.

After the HR Conference, the Committee focused more on legislative issues, particularly on developing a position statement on gaining and renewing work visas in Slovakia and in the US, as well as on the professional development of the HRC members.

### The Legislative Committee

AmCham's Legislative Committee has been seeking to have an important influence on the lobbying activities of AmCham Slovakia, as well as the operation of its current and future committees. **Kenneth D. Johnson, Head of Practice of Weinhold Legal, v.o.s. has remained its chairman.**

Each member of Legislative Committee has designated responsibilities for monitoring a specific industrial sector and for proposing possible targets for LC efforts within that sector. The last document brought to the Committee for comment was the "Draft of the Act on Proving One's Property Legitimacy", initiated by a group of Parliamentarians. We are currently in the process of gathering the comments from the Committee members and formulating a Position Paper on behalf of AmCham SR. We hope our comments will again help in shaping the legal document into an effective tool in fight against unfair commercial practices and unethical behavior in the private, as well as public sector.

CORPORATE PATRONS 2005

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		 ON Semiconductor	
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A Investment	GEFCO Slovakia	PriceWaterhouseCoopers
ABC Klima	GfK Slovakia	Printec Slovakia
Academia Istrompolitana Nova (AINova)	Gilbos Slovensko	Private Health Centre Hippokrates
Accenture	Golf Depot	PROCESNÁ AUTOMATIZÁCIA
ACCOR Services Slovakia	Gratex International	The Professional Development Center
Agentúra Alex	Green Cross	at Webster University
AGS Bratislava International Movers	Grémium Holding	Promea Communication
Ahrend Profesionální Interiery	Group 4 Falck Slovensko	Provident Financial
Air Products Slovakia	GTECH Slovakia Corporation	QBE Poistovňa
AJS Management Slovakia	HBO Česká Republika	QSI, International School of Bratislava
Alcatel Slovakia	Hewlett-Packard Slovakia	Quadia DTC
ALLEN & OVERY Bratislava	Honeywell	Radisson SAS Carlton Hotel
ALLIANT	Hudson Global Resources	Regus Business Centre
Allianz - Slovenská poisťovňa	H & T Holz	relocation
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Amway Slovensko	IILE	SAP Slovensko
Amylum Slovakia	Immorent Slovensko	Sauer-Danfoss
Aon Slovensko	Inforama	Saver Manufacturing
Arthur Hunt	ING Bank	Scala Slovakia
The Association for Culture, Education & Communication	Inspecta Slovakia (FedEx)	SEPS
AstraZeneca AB	Institute for Public Affairs	Servodata Bratislava
AT&T Global Network Services Slovakia	Interdean InterconexInternational Movers	Siemens Business Services
Auto-impex	Interel	SITA
AVENT SLOVAKIA	IPEC - Management	SkyEurope Airlines
AVIS Slovak Rent a Car	IQ Servis	Slovak American Enterprise Fund
AYS Placement & Wokrshops	Istroconti Consulting	Slovak Committee for UNICEF
BAE Systems	Istroenergo Group	Slovak Parcel Service /UPS
Bekaert Slovakia	Jaysons Industries	The Slovak Spectator
Bella Venezia	Johns Manville	Slovak Telecom
Best Western Hotel Sergijo	Johnson & Johnson	Slovak Television Company
Bliss	Johnson Controls International	Slovenergo
Boehringer Ingelheim	Key 6 Business Solutions	Slovenská pošta
Bonul	KNO Slovensko	Slovenská Sportel'ňa
Bristol - Myers Squibb Export	Komerční Banka Bratislava	Solidita
British Airways	KPMG	Solo Grace - Petra Geržéniová
British International School	Krivak & Co. Associated Lawyers	Sovtek Corporation
Buckingham Thomas, M.D.	Lear Corporation Slovakia	Spiller Farmer
Business Communication	Lease Plan Slovakia B.V.	Squire Sanders
Business Lease Slovakia	Lexxus	ST trade
Calyon Bank Slovakia	Limousine Services	Sun Microsystems Slovakia
Capgemini Slovensko	Linklaters	Sympatia Finance
The Children of Slovakia Foundation	LPH Vranov n/T.	System Access Slovakia
Chemes	Ludová Banka	T-Mobile Slovensko
CFM Slovakia	Lugera & Makler	Tacoma Consulting, Tacoma Auditing
Cisco Systems	M - Invest	Target SK
Citibank (Slovakia)	M + W Zander	Tatra banka
City University, Bellevue USA	Maersk Agency	Tatra-Leasing
CMC Graduate School of Business	MaMaison Residence Sulekova	Taylor-Wharton Harsco
CMS Cameron McKenna	Manpower Slovensko	TEAMCONSULT
Coca- Cola Beverages Slovakia	MARSH	Technopol International
Comenius University in Bratislava	Masnyk Rastislav	TMF RERO
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CP Consult	Medicina	Trenkwalder Management Partners
CROWNE PLAZA BRATISLAVA	Medtronic Slovakia	Tronet
CSC Computer Sciences	Merck	TTC Telecom
Csekés, Világi, Drgonec & Partners	Merck Sharp & Dohme	U.S.Steel Košice
CWS Slovensko	Meydan Hotel Danube	UPC Slovensko
Československá obchodná banka	Microsoft Slovakia	van der Net, Martin
DaimlerChrysler Automotive Slovakia	Mikula Tibor	Variakov
Dalkia	MmD Public Relations Slovakia	VB - Leasing
Deloitte	Molex Slovakia	VGD, Podzimek a Šuma
DITEC	Motorola GmbH	Vincent Doprava
DocuGuard Slovakia	Nadácia City University Bratislava	Virtual Reality Media
Dolphin Slovakia	Neopublic Porter Novelli	Volvo Truck Slovakia
Dynargie Slovakia	NESS Slovakia	VSE - Východoslovenská energetika
Eagle Global Investment Services	Net & Web Services (NWS)	Všeobecná úverová banka
ECENTER	Newco	VVMZ
The Edison Consulting Group	Nordic Sun Worldwide	Weinhold Legal
Egon Zehnder International	Norr Stiefenhofer Lutz	WEST Export Import Company
EIC Slovakia	Novell Slovensko	Whirlpool Slovakia
Ekofet	Novitech	White & Case
Elegant Interiors	OBAL - SERVIS	World Lodging Resources
Eli Lilly	Ochotnický Partners	Xerox
EMERSON	Office Direct	Zephyros
The Emília Kováčová Foundation	Omnipublic	Zoznam
Ensafe Slovakia	ON Semiconductor Slovakia	World Lodging Resources
Enterprise Resource International	One Eu Solutions	Xerox
Entrans	Oracle	Zephyros
Eras Data - Pro	P&Bert Management Consulting Group	Zoznam
Ernst & Young	PD Vinohrady Choňkovec	
ESCORR	PDI Slovensko	
ESET	Peterka & Partners	
eTel Slovensko	Pfizer Luxembourg Sarl	
Euro RSCG New Europe	Philip Morris Slovakia	
European Management Consulting Institute	Pioneers First	
EuroView	Plastic Molding Technology Slovakia	
EuroWeb Slovakia	Plastipak Slovakia	
	PMC International	