



THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

ANNUAL REPORT
2009

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ANNUAL REPORT 2009

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Peter WEBER
Hewlett Packard



Vice President of Finance:
Mark GIBBINS
KPMG



George BABCOKE
U. S. Steel Košice



John BARTER
BAE Systems



Michaela BENEDIGOVÁ
SEESAME
Communication Experts



Roman BRESTOVANSKÝ
IBM Slovakia



Sonja DIVÉ-DAHL
Radisson SAS Carlton Hotel



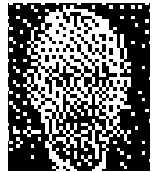
Milan FITKO
AMSLICO AIG Life



Julian JUHASZ
Squire Sanders



Eric LEMMENS
Citibank (Slovakia)



Vladimír KEŠJAR
EUFINEX



Marcel REBROŠ
Cisco Systems Slovakia



Livio VANGHETTI
Philip Morris Slovakia

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT

The American Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia
Crowne Plaza, Hodžovo nám. 2, 811 06 Bratislava

Tel: (4212) 5464 0534, Fax: (4212) 5464 0535
E-mail: office@amcham.sk, Web: www.amcham.sk

Košice Office: Hlavná 6, 040 01 Košice
Tel: (42155) 720 5218, E-mail: kosice@amcham.sk

Jake SLEGERS, Executive Director
Rastislav PUCHALA, Director of Košice Office
Alojz MACSAI, Corporate Affairs Officer
Veronika SLOVÁKOVÁ, Public Affairs Manager
Eva MAJERNÍKOVÁ, Research Coordinator
Patrik TOMEŠ, Publications and Graphic Coordinator
Sandra BLAŽOVÁ, Events Coordinator
Tomáš ZAPLETAL, Financial Coordinator
Michaela SUCHÁ, Executive Assistant



ROBERT ŠIMONČIČ
MICROSOFT SLOVAKIA
PRESIDENT OF AMCHAM

Dear Members,

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 2008 Annual Report reflects how these pillars drive the main focus of our events and activities throughout the year.

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

I am very pleased to state that the position of AmCham has been significantly strengthened, regarding its presence, visibility and impact in Slovakia. Our voices have become a factor in many important decisions in economical issues in Slovakia.

Our organization became a more relevant partner to new government and, through our relationship, we work on influencing legislation in order to create a vibrant business environment in Slovakia. In the past year, we have expanded member benefits best tailored to our members' needs in various ways.

We have further expanded our activities in Eastern Slovakia as our membership base and frequency of activities continue to grow. We hope that we have also positively influenced the business environment, helping to attract even more investors to Slovakia.

Reflecting this evaluation, we created in AmCham a future strategy focusing on these three pillars:

- *Policy / Advocacy*
- *Membership Engagement*
- *Economic Development*

The strategy also focuses on the SME sector.

There are big tasks in front of AmCham that I see as very important to enable them to have stronger voice within AmCham:

- *Continue to expand member benefits best tailored to their needs*
- *Keep expanding activities throughout Slovak regions*
- *Further positively influence the business environment to help in attracting even more investors to Slovakia*
- *Bring in high level expertise to the members through experts and speakers on a variety of topics*
- *Continuing in expanding activities in specialized working groups working on relevant issues*
- *Organizing more executive-level events with world class experts in selected topics of common interests*

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

Robert Šimončíč

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. In September 2003, a new AmCham office was opened in Košice in order to support the economic development in the Eastern Slovakia. Today, AmCham is one of the largest and most active foreign Chambers of Commerce in Slovakia, with a membership base exceeding 300 international and Slovak companies. Our member companies' investments and turnover are vital growth engines for macroeconomic expansion in Slovakia, profiting not just business, but communities and individuals as well.

The aim of AmCham is to “build bridges” among its members, non-members and many official political, diplomatic, economic and other representatives and institutions and to help fulfill goals and missions of its members much easier than on their own. It contributes to the development of a healthy business climate and to improving conditions not only for its members, but also for other businesses operating in Slovakia. Focusing on creating favorable business conditions and environment that would positively influence development of investments existing in the Slovak Republic and supporting the influx of the new investments to Slovakia, AmCham helps to increase the quality of everyday life in the country.

AmCham Slovakia is affiliated with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world’s largest business federation representing more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors and regions.

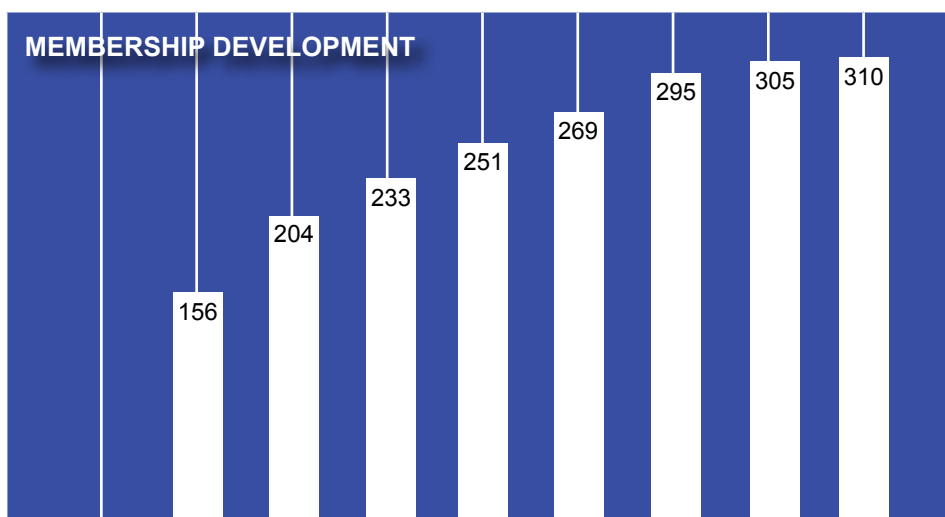
AmCham Slovakia is an active member of the he European Council of American Chambers of Commerce (ECACC) that represents the corporate interests of more than 17.000 American and European companies, based in 39 countries.

AmCam Slovakia is also member of the ChamCham, an informal meeting of the major international chambers in Slovakia.

- **TO REPRESENT**, express and manifest the views of AmCham Members in all types of issues, including economic, trade, commerce, finance and industry, among others.
- **TO INFORM** by collecting and disseminating information concerning trade, industry, agriculture, finance, banking, transportation, health care, NGOs, manufacturing, technology, professional activities, taxation and related laws, economics, and other related topics.
- **TO ASSIST** in a non-commercial, non-profit role, our Members wholly engaged in trade with, or considering trade with, enterprises in the SR or elsewhere to attain legitimate objectives.
- **TO MAINTAIN** excellent relations with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other Chambers of Commerce and commercial organizations of the USA located in the USA and elsewhere.
- **TO PROMOTE** economic relations between the Slovak Republic, the United States of America, and other countries with regard to trade, industry, agriculture, finance, transportation, health care, NGOs, manufacturing, technology, professional activities, and other related activities.
- **TO HELP** undertake all other lawful actions incidental or conducive to the attainment of these objectives.

OUR MISSION

- **TO PROTECT** and promote the common economic interests of AmCham members.



IMPORTANT ECONOMIC FIGURES REGARDING AMCHAM SLOVAKIA

“AMCHAM IN NUMBERS”

20 Percentage of Slovakia's GDP represented by AmCham members

310 Number of AmCham members*

130,000 Number of employees in AmCham membership

380,000,000,000 Total annual turnover in SKK represented by AmCham members

* From the total of AmCham members, approximately 1/3 are subsidiaries of US companies, 1/3 are Slovak companies and 1/3 are multinational companies



ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING

VGD (TAX) – SK, k.s.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES

Bella Venezia (Tempus Fugit, Mezzo Mezzo), s.r.o.
CROWNE PLAZA BRATISLAVA
EUREST, spol. s r.o.
Grand Hotel Sergijo
Grémium Holding
Kempinski Hotels
MaMaison Residence - Sulekova
McDonald's Slovakia, spol. s r.o.
MEYDAN HOTEL DANUBE
Radisson SAS Carlton Hotel
Slovak Health Spa Piešťany, Inc.
Slovenské liečebné kúpele Rajcecké Teplice, a.s.

AUTOMOTIVE

Arval Slovakia, s.r.o.
Auto-Impex, spol. s r.o.
AUTOTREND s.r.o.
Avis Slovakia, Slovak Rent a Car, a.s.
BUSINESS LEASE SLOVAKIA s.r.o.
Citroën Slovakia, s.r.o.
GEFCO Slovakia, s.r.o.
Getrag Ford Transmissions Slovakia, s.r.o.
Howe Leather
International Automotive Components Group (Slovakia)
LeasePlan Slovakia B.V., organizačná zložka
Mercedes-Benz Slovakia s.r.o.
VISTEON SLOVAKIA
VOLVO TRUCK SLOVAK spol. s r.o.

BANKS, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Across Wealth Management, o.c.p., a.s.
ALLIANT
Allianz - Slovenská poisťovňa
AMSLICO AIG Life poisťovňa
Aon Slovensko, s.r.o.
CALYON S.A., pobočka zahraničnej banky
Citibank (Slovakia) a.s.
EUFINEX s.r.o.
First Title CEE
ING BANK N.V., pobočka zahraničnej banky
ISTROBANKA, a.s.
Komerčná banka Bratislava, a.s.
MARSH EUROPE – organizačná zložka Slovensko
Privatbanka, a.s.
Provident Financial s.r.o.
QBE poisťovňa, a.s.
SALVE GROUP a.s.
Slovak American Enterprise Fund
Slovenská sporiteľňa, a. s.
Sympatia Financie, o.c.p., a.s.
Tatra banka, a.s.
Tatra-Leasing, s.r.o.
UniCredit Bank Slovakia a. s.
VB LEASING SK, spol. s r.o.
VOLKSBANK Slovensko, a. s.
Všeobecná úverová banka, a.s.

CONSULTING AND CORPORATE ADVISORY

Accenture, s.r.o.
BCG Bratislava Consulting Group
BMB Leitner, k.s.
The Brooks Group Slovakia s.r.o.
Candole Partners
Capgemini Slovensko, s.r.o.
Capital Partners Group, a.s.
Deloitte
ECENTER
The Edison Consulting Group
EQ ENGINEERS SLOVAKIA, s.r.o.
Ernst & Young Slovakia
IB Grant Thornton Consulting, k.s.
infintax products s.r.o.
Innovative Management Partner Consulting s.r.o.
IS Consulting, s.r.o.
Jacob Fleming, s.r.o.
KPMG
Kraft Foods European Business Services Centre
Mazars Slovensko, s.r.o.
McKinsey & Company
PDI Slovensko s.r.o.
PERSPECTA
PNO Consultants
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency SARIO
TEAMCONSULT SR
TMF Services Slovakia s.r.o.

Trade Commission of Denmark (Embassy of Denmark)
VVMZ s.r.o.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

ACADEMIA ISTROPOLITANA NOVA (AINova)
The Association for Culture, Education and Communication
British International School Bratislava
City University of Seattle, spol. s r.o.
CMC Graduate School of Business o.p.s.
Comenius University in Bratislava Faculty of Management
EDUKA, s.r.o.
Forel International School
GINGERS s.r.o.
Junior Achievement Slovakia
KNO Slovensko spol. s r.o.
NM MANAGEMENT s.r.o.
QSI, International School of Bratislava
Trenkwalder, a.s.
University of Pittsburgh

FOUNDATIONS AND NGOS

The Children of Slovakia Foundation (CSF)
The Emília Kováčová Foundation
INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
International Green Cross Organization
Pontis Foundation

HEALTH CARE AND PHARMACEUTICALS

AstraZeneca AB
Eli Lilly Slovakia s.r.o.
GE International (Slovensko), s.r.o.
GlaxoSmithKline Slovakia s.r.o.
INFORAMA a. s.
Johnson & Johnson
Medtronic Slovakia
Merck Sharp & Dohme IDEA, Inc.
PFIZER Luxembourg SARL, o.z.
Unomedical s.r.o.
WEST Pharma Logistics, s.r.o.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER

Kulichová, Mária

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

CISCO Systems Slovakia, s.r.o.
CSC Computer Sciences, spol. s r.o.
CSI Leasing Slovakia, s.r.o.
DELL, s.r.o.
DITEC, a. s.
ecomVia a.s.
Epicor Software Slovakia, s.r.o.
ErasData – Pro, Ltd.
Eset, s.r.o.
Gratex International, a.s.
GTECH Slovakia Corporation
Hewlett-Packard Slovakia s.r.o.
IBM Slovakia, spol. s r.o.
Lenovo (Slovakia) s.r.o.
Macquarie Capital GmbH
Microsoft Slovakia s.r.o.
NESS Slovensko, a.s.
NET & WEB SERVICES (NWS)
Novitech a.s.
Oracle
PosAm Bratislava spol. s r.o.
PROCESNÁ AUTOMATIZÁCIA a.s. Košice
S&T Varias, s. r.o.
SAP Slovensko s.r.o.
SAS Institute GmbH, o.z.
scanservice Slovakia a.s.
Siemens IT Solutions and Services, s.r.o.
Soltron, a.s.
Sun Microsystems Slovakia, s.r.o.
SunGard System Access (Slovakia) spol. s r. o.
Virtual Reality Media, a.s.
Xerox Limited, o.z.

LAW FIRMS

Advokátska kancelária JUDr. Jaroslav Ružička
ALLEN & OVERY BRATISLAVA, s.r.o.
B & S Legal s.r.o.
Baranik & Co.
CVD, spol. s r.o.
DLA PIPER WEISS-TESSBACH Rechtsanwälte
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Krivak & Co, Associated Lawyers
Linklaters
Masnyk Legal s.r.o.
Nachman & Associates, P.C.
Nörr Stiefenhofer Lutz s.r.o.

PETERKA & PARTNERS	
Salans	
Squire Sanders s.r.o.	
Weinhold Legal, v.o.s.	
White & Case	
Zukalova Counselors At Law	
MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTION	
3PLUS s.r.o.	
Amylum Slovakia spol., s.r.o.	
AVENT SLOVAKIA, s.r.o.	
BAE SYSTEMS	
BLIKA, s.r.o.	
Canessa Worthington Slovakia s.r.o.	
Chemko, a. s. Strážske	
Embraco Slovakia s.r.o.	
EMERSON a.s., divízia BRANSON	
HORNEX, a.s.	
HSM Slowakei, s.r.o.	
Intersteel Slovakia, s.r.o.	
Istroenergo Group, a.s.	
Jaysons Industries, Inc.	
Johnson Controls International, s.r.o.	
LPH Vranov n./T., s.r.o.	
Mazak Slovakia, s.r.o.	
Molex Slovakia, a.s.	
Newco, a.s.	
On Semiconductor Slovakia, a.s.	
Pivovary Topvar, a.s.	
Plastipak Holdings	
PPI Adhesive Products (C.E.) s.r.o.	
Saver Manufacturing	
SEPS spol. s r.o.	
SHELL SLOVAKIA, s.r.o.	
Slovbuild Group spol. s r.o.	
Slovenské lodnice Komárno, a.s.	
Taylor-Wharton Slovakia s.r.o.	
TEAM INDUSTRIES, s.r.o.	
U. S. Steel Košice, s.r.o.	
Uniform Color Company EU, s.r.o.	
Van Geel Slovakia s.r.o.	
Washington Penn Plastics Co., EU, s.r.o.	
WHC, s.r.o.	
WHIRLPOOL SLOVAKIA spol. s r.o.	
MARKETING AND PROMOTION	
101 %, s.r.o.	
A&D Global Business Relations	
APPLE PIE, s.r.o.	
Coca-Cola Beverages Slovakia	
Connex CEE s.r.o.	
Effectivity s.r.o.	
GfK Slovakia, s.r.o.	
HERIAL, s.r.o.	
Linea Directa Communication s.r.o.	
Mmd Corporate, Public Affairs & Public Relations Consultants	
Omnipublic s.r.o.	
Promea Communication s.r.o.	
Rádio Expres	
SEESAME Communication Experts	
ST Trade	
Wiktor Leo Burnett, s.r.o.	
MEDIA AND INFORMATION AGENCIES	
eBizguides	
EurActiv.sk	
SITA Slovenská tlačová agentúra, a. s.	
MISCELLANEOUS / OTHER SERVICES	
ABC Klima, Ltd.	
AVON Cosmetics, spol. s r.o.	
Bekaert Slovakia, s.r.o.	
Bonul, s.r.o.	
Dalkia a.s.	
Dolphin Slovakia, s.r.o.	
E.R.I. s.r.o.	
Els Philips Service, spol. s r.o.	
Entrans, s.r.o.	
G4S Security Services (SK)	
MARKÍZA - SLOVAKIA, LTD.	
Neulogy	
OBAL-SERVIS, a.s. Košice	
Slovenská pošta, a.s., Banská Bystrica	
Traser spol. s.r.o.	
Tube City IMS Košice, s.r.o.	
Via Perfecta SK	
Východoslovenská energetika a.s.	
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SWAN, a.s.	



AMCHAM'S PATRONS

AmCham's Corporate Patrons, representing the highest level of membership, lend special active and financial support, thereby supporting the success of the American Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia. This special section of members consists of 52 Corporate Patrons. As a sincere expression of thanks for their past and current support, AmCham Slovakia hosted a festive Luncheon for its Corporate Patrons on Monday October 15, 2007 in the luxurious Au Café restaurant.

Guests listened to short speeches by AmCham Executive Committee Member Robert Šimončič, General Manager of Microsoft Slovakia and President of AmCham Slovakia, and Jake Slegers, AmCham's Executive Director. His Excellency, Rodolphe M. Vallee, U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia, kindly accepted our invitation and briefly addressed those who attended. In the pleasant and friendly atmosphere, top-level managers had an opportunity for networking and open discussions on the strategic direction of our organization.

The generosity of our Patron Member companies provides the foundation for AmCham's ability to meet the needs of its members and promote a healthy business environment for all businesses. AmCham Slovakia is grateful for their support!

GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND BOARD ELECTIONS

All members in good standing (i.e. all those that have paid their membership dues) have the right to nominate candidates to the AmCham Board of Directors and take part in voting.

The timeline of the annual Board Elections is usually as follows:

- March – Nomination Period
- Beginning of April – “Meet the Candidates” Business Cocktail
- April – Voting Period
- End of April – Annual General Assembly

NOMINATION PERIOD AND CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD ELECTIONS

The criteria for submitting a nomination for the elections to the Board of Directors are as follows:

- Only employees of member companies and individual members are allowed to nominate and be nominated; self-nominations are accepted.
- Nomination must be supported by the following documentation:
 1. Official nomination of the candidate on company letterhead;
 2. Curriculum Vitae of the nominee;
 3. High-quality picture;
 4. Short personal statement of the candidate, outlining his/her vision of the future of the Chamber and intended role on the AmCham Board of Directors.
- Late or incomplete nominations are not valid.
- Nominations from the floor are not possible at the General Assembly; all nominations must be submitted within the official Nomination Period (in March; start and end date of the Nomination Period are officially announced to all members in advance).

To ensure that our members are able to make an informed decision when casting their ballots, AmCham Slovakia prepares a special brochure with profiles of candidates for the Board of Directors. This brochure is released shortly after the end of the Nomination Period and distributed to all member companies together with ballots.

Shortly after the end of the Nomination Period, AmCham Slovakia also organizes the “Meet the Candidates” Business Cocktail. All AmCham members are invited to attend this cocktail reception which provides an excellent opportunity

to meet the candidates for the Board Elections. At the same time, the candidates have a chance to outline their visions for the future of the Chamber and to seek support for their candidacy.

VOTING PERIOD

At the start of the Voting Period, AmCham sends official ballots together with voting procedures and profiles of all candidates for the Board Elections by registered mail to all its members. Members then mail their ballots using the self-addressed envelope sent with the ballot(s) or bring the completed ballots to the General Assembly.

Voting procedures differ slightly depending on a particular company’s membership level:

- AmCham PATRON members can cast four ballots
- AmCham CORPORATE members can cast three ballots
- AmCham GENERAL members can cast two ballots
- AmCham INDIVIDUAL or NON-PROFIT INSTITUTION members can cast one ballot

AmCham Secretariat together with an officially approved independent auditing firm collects and counts all ballots received before and at the General Assembly. The outcome of the voting is announced at the General Assembly, shortly after the official closure of the Voting Period.

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AmCham’s Annual General Assembly is devoted to the evaluation of AmCham’s activities and achievements during the past year, and their contribution to the business environment in Slovakia. The program of the General Assembly includes:

- Keynote address of a special guest (Government representative, Ambassador, etc.)
- Report of the Board of Directors
- Short video presentation: Overview of AmCham’s activities and major achievements in the past year
- Announcement of major AmCham advocacy successes
- Financial Report
- Announcement of AmCham’s three most supportive member companies
- Announcement of results of the Board Elections
- Cocktail reception, incl. musical performance



The American Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic

invites you to the

AmCham General Assembly

Thursday, April 24, 2008
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

R.S.V.P. by April
Fax: +421-2-54



The American Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic



"Meet the Candidates" Business Cocktail

Thursday, April 3, 2008

from 6 pm to 8 pm
Steam & Coffee Restaurant
Hviezdoslavovo nám. 6, Bratislava

Entrance fee is your business card!
Please make your reservation by April 2, 2008 at cocktail@amcham.sk

Come speak with each candidate
for the 2008 Board Election

Come hear the
contributions and

AMCHAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Until 2007, the AmCham Board of Directors consisted of thirteen Members elected for a two-year term, with the possibility of re-election. Six Members were elected at the Annual General Assembly of each even-numbered year and the remaining seven Members were elected at the Annual General Assembly of each odd-numbered year. Beginning with an initial expansion of the Board of Directors by two seats in 2007, and an additional two seats in 2008, the Board of Directors - "Full Board" - consists of seventeen Members elected by the General Assembly.

March 14, 2007

Due to the fact that over 50% of the membership base of AmCham Slovakia are small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs), and in order to provide a balanced composition of the Board of Directors that reflects the composition of the AmCham membership, two seats on the Board are reserved for SMEs/General Members company representatives.

The "Full Board" meets quarterly. Its meetings deal with top-level issues of interest to the organization, addressing strategic concerns and overseeing the institution's performance. The President and Vice Presidents form the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee supervises operational issues and actively works with the Executive Director to implement strategy, provide feedback on operations and advise on approaches to best achieve strategic goals.

In addition to the Executive Committee, the Board maintains three Standing Committees with a focus on the primary purposes of AmCham Slovakia. These are Policy/Advocacy, Membership Engagement, and Economic Impact and Development. Each Board Member is assigned to one of these three committees, which meet on a bi-monthly basis.

AMCHAM STAFF

The AmCham Staff is led by the Executive Director who fulfills the strategic vision of the Board and is empowered to carry out operational matters under the guidance of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Director is supported by a professional staff working in support of the three primary Board standing committees (Policy/Advocacy, Membership Engagement, Economic Impact and Development) and providing cross-cutting support to the organization in the functional areas of communications, event management, research and administration.

STATUTES OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

http://ekonomika.sme.sk/clanok.asp?cl=3246755
Zákonník práce podľa AmCham ovplyvní ekonomiku ako celok

BRATISLAVA 15. apríla (SITA) - Novelizácia Zákonníka práce podľa Americkéj obchodnej komory v Bratislave má byť výrazným spôsobom ovplyvní pružnosť pracovného trhu, podnikateľské prostredie a celok. Komora vo svojom stanovisku k novele Zákonníka práce (ZP) upozornila, že doteraz neboli zverejnené konkrétne makroekonomické dopady danej legislatívy, pretože krajina stráca

lovensko musí zintenzívniť budovanie znalostnej ekonomiky



01.02.2008 15:39 - BRATISLAVA
Slovensko musí zintenzívniť budovanie znalostnej spoločnosti. Zhodli sa na tom účastníci diskusie, ktorú zorganizovala Americká obchodná komora v Slovenskej republike (AmCham). Výkonný riaditeľ Americkéj obchodnej komory v SR Jake Slegers, je presvedčený, že Slovensko má obrovský potenciál ďalej sa transformovať z krajiny lacnej pracovnej sily na konkurencieschopnú ekonomiku, postavenú na sektoroch s vyššou pridanou hodnotou.

Svedčí o tom okrem iného aj veľký rozmach IT priemyslu a servisných centier na Slovensku. Jedným z príkladov takýchto investícií je podľa AmCham aj firma Dell, ktorá na Slovensku otvorila prvé centrum v Bratislave v roku 2002. V roku 2007 bolo Dell Bratislava, ktoré integruje širokú škálu služieb v oblastiach

otvorené nové Európske obchodné centrum v Bratislave, ktoré zahŕňa služby v oblastiach manažmentu, ľudských zdrojov, marketingu, technickej podpory a predaja pre región Európy, zkeho východu a Afriky.

tuálne tu pracuje viac ako 1 500 ľudí. Podľa podporedu vlády SR Dušana Čaploviča je práve modernizácia a inovácia jeho prepojenie s praxou prvo, základnou a z pohľadu budovania vedomostnej spoločnosti kľúčovou oblasťou.

Made in USA po slovensky

Aj malý trh, akým disponuje 5,4 miliónov Slovensko, môže Spojených štátov amerických. Svedčia o tom aj posledné štatistiky spoločností do našej krajiny. Podľa výkonného riaditeľa americkéj obchodnej komory v SR Jake Slegersa pôsobí o nás už viac ako 120 amerických spoločností. Medzi podnikaním na Slovensku a v Spojených štátoch amerických rozdielov. Predstavitelia firiem združených v Americkéj obchodnej komore na Slovensku existuje stále veľmi veľa legislatívnych bariér počiatkový kapitál a rozbehnutie malých firiem tu trvá dlhšie druhej strane je vďaka ekonomickým reformám, kombinácii systém, členstva v Európskej únii a pozitívnemu hospodárskemu zahraničných investícií veľmi zaujímavá. Slovensko má obrovský potenciál, povedal pre HN výkonný riaditeľ Americkéj obchodnej komory v SR Jake Slegers.

HN

Trh práce na Slovensku. Ziaľajú si inžinieri, hadani automobiloví inžinieri.

Fabriky vstúpia do školských osnov

Na trhu práce sú najzaujímavejší inžinieri a už niekoľko rokov chýbajú absolventi technických smerov všeobecne. A to napriek tomu, že počty vysokoškolských študentov sa zvyšujú. Ich zameranie však nezodpovedá potrebám praxe.



Práca vo výrobnom priemysle sa stále viac presúva do výrobných procesov na otvorených a vypočítaných štádiách, aby bolo možné rýchlo a efektívne reagovať na zmeny v dopyte. Preto sa výrobní inžinieri snažia viac zapájať do výrobných procesov na otvorených a vypočítaných štádiách, aby bolo možné rýchlo a efektívne reagovať na zmeny v dopyte.

Príprava štátnej osnovy pre školstvo v SR, ktorá sa v súčasnosti pripravuje, by mala byť v súlade s potrebami praxe. Preto sa výrobní inžinieri snažia viac zapájať do výrobných procesov na otvorených a vypočítaných štádiách, aby bolo možné rýchlo a efektívne reagovať na zmeny v dopyte.

HOSPODÁRSKE NOVINY | 21

SÚ AŽ O KNIHU

Viete, kto to píše? Nie dychtivých narozdiel je veľa, že práve táto kniha, ktorá prináša do našich...

Viete, kto to píše? Nie dychtivých narozdiel je veľa, že práve táto kniha, ktorá prináša do našich... Viete, kto to píše? Nie dychtivých narozdiel je veľa, že práve táto kniha, ktorá prináša do našich...

O čo dnes hovoríme

Viete, kto to píše? Nie dychtivých narozdiel je veľa, že práve táto kniha, ktorá prináša do našich... Viete, kto to píše? Nie dychtivých narozdiel je veľa, že práve táto kniha, ktorá prináša do našich...

24hodin.sk - spravodajská stránka s rôznymi sekciami: Správy, Kultúra, Šport, TV program, Blog, Práca, Autobazár, Dovoľenka, Ubytovanie, Kápele, Lacné letenky, Kontakt, Elektro, Turistika, Horoskopy, Počasie, Aukcie, Zvonenia, Posli kvety, Inzercia. Tak to som z toho Mac.

EKONOMIKA: Americká obchodná komora má nových členov správnej rady

Komora sa chce sústrediť na ďalšie rozvíjanie činnosti súvisiacej s podporou podnikateľského prostredia a rozvojom podnikateľského prostredia.

BRATISLAVA 26. apríla (SITA) - Valné zhromaždenie Americkéj obchodnej komory v SR (AmCham) dnes vyhlásilo novú správnu radu komory. Sú medzi nimi generálny manažér Philip Morris Slovakia Kirk Collingwood, So AIG Life, Nataša Nikitinová z firmy Squire Sanders, generálny manažér spoločnosti Accenture. Ako ďalej informovala Veronika Slovákova kandidovalo deväť predstaviteľov členských spoločností komory.

Podľa ministra hospodárstva Ľubomíra Jahnátka aktivity AmCham v SR etablovaných zahraničných investorov v SR. Podľa amerického veľvyslanca v Bratislave Jake Slegersa, v priateľskom rozvoji vzťahov, ktorá sa prejavuje aj vo sfére hospodárskej spolupráce. Americká obchodná komora má v budúcnosti sústrediť na ďalšie rozvíjanie činnosti členských spoločností, ktoré smerujú k rozvoju zdravého podnikania na Slovensku.

D. Štrofová prijala

02.05.2007 - [správa]

Štátna tajomníčka Ministerstva školstva SR so sídlom v Bratislave Jake Slegersa. V priateľskom rozvoji vzťahov, ktorá sa prejavuje aj vo sfére hospodárskej spolupráce. Americká obchodná komora má v budúcnosti sústrediť na ďalšie rozvíjanie činnosti členských spoločností, ktoré smerujú k rozvoju zdravého podnikania na Slovensku.



DNES.sk - news website with sections for 'na zimnú dovolenku a kultúrne zážitky', 'Viac ako 500 ľudí odvíja spoločne s AmChamom...', 'Americká obchodná komora v SR...', 'Príďte sa poradiť, ako najlepšie zvládnuť svoje úspechy!'.

http://www.sme.sk/c/3743170/americka-obchodna-komora-zakona.html

Americká obchodná komora má nový zákon

Bratislava 22. februára (TASR) - Americká obchodná komora v Bratislave má nový zákon. Ich cieľom je zlepšiť a zintenzívniť spoluprácu súkromného sektora a štátu.

"Naším veľkým záujmom je pomôcť pri modernizácii vzdelávacieho systému SR, ale takisto spolupracujeme s desiatkami konferencií prezident komory Robert Šimončič. Cieľom komory je podporiť rozvoj podnikateľského prostredia na školách, ale aj dostatok dialógu pri tvorbe osnov. Preto AmCham podporuje kooperáciu súkromného sektora a školstva. Komisia pre legislatívnu podporu pripravuje návrh zákona o kooperácii súkromného sektora a školstva a ministerstvo školstva SR sa pripravuje na prijatie tohto zákona.

AmCham Is a Good Corporate Citizen of Slovakia
Robert Šimončič, President of AmCham Slovakia and General Manager of Microsoft Slovakia
Could you briefly introduce the American Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic (AmCham) to our readers?
The American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) was founded in 1993 in Bratislava as an independent and self-supporting organization, entirely dependant on contributions from its members. In September 2003, a new AmCham office was opened in Košice in order to support the economic development in the Eastern Slovakia. Currently, AmCham membership exceeds the number of 310 international and Slovak companies, including many of the largest and important firms in Slovakia. Of this amount, approximately 40% are Slovak companies, about 30% are American, and about 30% are other various foreign companies.
How long have you been serving as a President of AmCham and how would you evaluate your experience so far?
I was elected as President of AmCham Slovakia in April 2004, and was re-elected this year. I feel humbled and honored that I have had the opportunity to serve on the Board of ...

AmCham members comprise many of the most significant players on the Slovak economic stage. However, it is not only the amount of capital invested, but the diversity, expertise and energy of its member companies that is AmCham's strength. By working together through AmCham, American, Slovak, and other international businesses can achieve more than on their own. AmCham's wide range of activities helps its members to become a vivid business partner at the Slovak market. AmCham is dedicated to serving all of its members, large and small, whatever their line of business!

1. AMCHAM – A VALUABLE SOURCE OF CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

AmCham maintains a full schedule of around 100 events a year to keep its members informed of developments in their fields of interest and provide opportunities for them to meet with other business people, external experts and state authorities. The quality and number of these events allowed us to become considerably more active in political, legislative and economic life throughout Slovakia. Our office in Košice celebrates its fifth anniversary, and the number of member companies and AmCham activities in the region continues to grow on a daily basis. We have run a number of events in other regions of Slovakia, as well. In the upcoming year, AmCham is planning to organize even more events in Banská Bystrica and Žilina regions.

“For fourteen years, the American Chamber of Commerce in SR has been an important mediator in the field of trade development between the Slovak Republic and United States. AmCham helps to strengthen bilateral trade relations and contributes to the growth of American investments in Slovakia.”

***Lubomír Jahnátek,
Minister of Economy of SR***

In order to fulfill the goal of acting as a valuable, reliable and consistent source of a great variety of information, AmCham Slovakia also prepares publications specially designed to feed our members' hunger for information. Our regular publications and e-mail updates include the annual Membership Directory, the AmCham Monthly News (e-mail update on all ongoing AmCham activities distributed to our members at the beginning of each month), the AmCham “Connection” magazine (all AmCham members receive ten issues of the magazine annually), the Legislative and Policy Update (sent to members via e-mail on a bi-weekly basis), and the annual “Slovakia Brochure”. In addition, the AmCham website, especially in the “Membership Area”, also contains a huge number of useful updates, contacts, links and documents to download.

2. AMCHAM – A COMMITTED ADVOCATE OF BUSINESS INTERESTS

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. In the past year, AmCham has made every effort to increase the quality as well as quantity of its advocacy/policy activities, effectively addressing a variety of issues and achieving legislative or regulatory changes in areas such as labor law and taxation.

“...very soon after its establishment, the American Chamber of Commerce in SR (ACC) became the most active chamber in Slovakia with an impressive record of important activities. The ACC has been contributing not only to the unprecedented growth of our mutual trade and U.S. investment in Slovakia, but also to fostering a good business environment and a standard corporate culture in our country.”

***Ján Kubiš,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of SR***

3. AMCHAM – A TIRELESS FACILITATOR OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES: BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

Our organization has become the primary provider of linkages to the U.S. import market creating real opportunities for two-way communication between our members and their counterparts on the other side of the Atlantic. We have also further deepened our already outstanding relations with the U.S. Embassy in Slovakia, and in addition to commercial bridges we have been laying building stones on transatlantic bridges in culture and education.

“We value American companies operating in Slovakia, because they significantly contribute to the GDP and employment growth. In addition, most companies that are members of the American Chamber of Commerce in SR have decent social policies.”

***Emília Kršíková, State Secretary,
Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs
and Family of the Slovak Republic***



BUSINESS COCKTAILS

AmCham Slovakia's Business Cocktails are monthly events for the general membership, business partners, and for other potential member contacts. These rather festive events offer our members an opportunity to enjoy time with their business partners in a relaxed, informal atmosphere. It is an excellent place for meeting new people, socializing, and obtaining new contacts. What's more, each cocktail can reflect the sponsoring company's own individual sense of style as events are held in a variety of locations, allowing for both a unique atmosphere and a varying range of refreshments.

Besides the regular events (Business Cocktails, Business Breakfasts or Seminars), AmCham Slovakia organizes many special events, for example the Patron's Luncheon, Member Tours & Trips, Trade Missions, the Thanksgiving Charity Drive, etc.

AMCHAM EVENTS

AmCham provides a great number of events throughout the year. The most frequent are Business Breakfasts/Seminars and Business Cocktails. In addition, we offer our members opportunities to participate in specially organized ad hoc events covering a great variety of topics. Moreover, AmCham is well known for organizing festive seasonal events, such as the Annual 4th of July/Independence Day Celebration and the Annual Thanksgiving Gala Dinner. AmCham events provide opportunities for our member companies to grow, connect, and get the word about one another's offers and services.

AMCHAM BUSINESS COCKTAILS, SEASONAL AND SPECIAL EVENTS

April 25, 2007

AmCham **Annual General Assembly** organized under auspices of Mr. **Ján Kubiš**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of SR with **Lubomír Jahnátek**, Minister of Economy of SR at Café Reduta, Bratislava

May 24, 2007

AmCham "Cadillac" Business Cocktail sponsored by *Autotrend* in Cadillac Showroom, Bratislava

June 1, 2007

AmCham **Member Tour of the Automotive Industry**. Member tour of the production facilities of Volkswagen Slovakia company and member companies IAC Group (Slovakia) and Johnson Controls International in Lozorno

June 7, 2007

"Outdoor" Business Cocktail sponsored by *Philip Morris Slovakia* at Restaurant POHODA, Bratislava

June 8-9, 2007

6th Annual Garden Party in cooperation with the informal Association of Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Slovakia and the Slovak Foundation of Silvia Gašparovicová-Education at Presidential Palace, Bratislava

September 14, 2007

AmCham Board of Directors Luncheon with Mr. **Israel Hernandez**, Assistant Secretary for Trade Promotion and Director General of the U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service, U.S. Department of Commerce at Radisson SAS Carlton Hotel, Bratislava

September 12, 2007

"Welcome Back to Work" Business Cocktail sponsored by *Squire Sanders* at PRIMI Restaurant, Bratislava

September 15, 2007

7th Chambers' of Commerce Sports Day at Goldex Club in Petržalka

October 15, 2007

AmCham Annual Patrons' Luncheon at Au Café, Bratislava

October 24, 2007

AmCham "Halloween" Business Cocktail sponsored by *KPMG* at Celebrity Lounge, Bratislava

November 29, 2007

Farewell Reception for **Rodolphe Vallee**, U.S. Ambassador in Slovakia sponsored by *U. S. Steel Košice* at Košice City Hall, Košice

December 4, 2007

Farewell Reception for H.E. **Rodolphe Vallee**, U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia at new building of SND, Bratislava

December 7, 2007

AmCham Charity Drive Breakfast with Mrs. **Silvia Gašparovicová** at Radisson SAS Carlton Hotel, Bratislava

December 13, 2007

"Christmas" Business Cocktail sponsored by *TTC Telecom* in Košice

December 14, 2007

AmCham Board of Directors Luncheon with U.S. Ambassador in Slovakia at Tempus Fugit, Bratislava

January 16, 2008

Welcome Cocktail Reception for **Vincent Obsitnik**, U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia and **Mrs. Obsitnik** in Reduta, Bratislava

February 21, 2008

Welcome Cocktail Reception for **Vincent Obsitnik**, new U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia. Sponsored by *Citibank (Slovakia)* in Košice City Hall, Košice

April 03, 2008

"**Meet the Candidates**" Business Cocktail sponsored by *UniCredit Bank* in Steam & Coffee Restaurant, Bratislava



BUSINESS BREAKFASTS AND SEMINARS

Business Breakfasts are held on a regular basis. The aim of AmCham Business Breakfasts is to provide members the opportunity to meet and discuss current topics connected to the local business environment with business specialists, government representatives, VIP's, and other special guests. Business Breakfasts usually begin with an address by an invited speaker, and are followed by an opportunity for open discussion and Q&A. AmCham Business Breakfasts are open to both AmCham members and non-members, but AmCham members enjoy a discount.

Seminars are focused on specific issues and topics for a particular target audience. Featured speakers are usually international visitors, politicians, businesspersons, government representatives, diplomats, etc. Seminars are organized on an irregular basis according to the schedule of the visiting guest or the requests of the sponsor or coorganizer.

April 17, 2007

Breakfast Seminar on “**Customer Profitability**” with Professor **Graeme Rankine** of Thunderbird School of Global Management sponsored by *CMC Graduate School of Business*. Golden Royal Hotel, Košice

April 19, 2007

Developers’ Day on “**Optical vs Coaxial Network**” with Ing. **Vladimír Kušnírik** from UPC sponsored by *UPC BROADBAND SLOVAKIA* in Penati Club, Bratislava

April 19, 2007

AmCham Minister Speaker Series with Mr. **Ivan Valentovič**, Minister of Health of SR, and H.E. **Rodolphe Vallee**, U.S. Ambassador to SR, on “**Drug Policy in SR & Future of Public Health Insurance**”. Tempus Fugit Restaurant, Bratislava

April 24, 2007

Breakfast Seminar on “**The War For Talent**” with Mr. **Frans Hoekman**, Regional Director of Hudson CEE sponsored by *Hudson Slovakia*. Hotel Danube, Bratislava

May 31, 2007

Breakfast Seminar on “**The Nature of Competitive Advantage – Why Some Companies Are Always Better Than Others**” sponsored by *IMP Consulting*. Radisson SAS Carlton Hotel, Bratislava

June 7, 2007

Business Breakfast on “**Getting Ready for the EURO**” with **Ivan Šramko**, Governor of NBS sponsored by *Citibank (Slovakia)* at Hotel Most Slavy in Trenčianske Teplice

October 10, 2007

Business Breakfast on “**The Upcoming EURO Transition: How it Relates to Business Information Systems**” sponsored by *Microsoft* at Radisson SAS Carlton Hotel, Bratislava

October 16, 2007

Breakfast Seminar on “**Enterprise Performance Management**” sponsored by *Oracle* at Radisson SAS Carlton Hotel, Bratislava

October 25, 2007

Business Breakfast on “**Renewable Energy in Slovakia**” with **Peter Žiga**, State Secretary, Ministry of Economy of SR at Radisson SAS Carlton Hotel, Bratislava

November 14, 2007

Breakfast Seminar on **Labor Code Revision in Slovakia** at Economic Development Center of U. S. Steel Košice, Košice

November 28, 2007

Breakfast Seminar on “**EU Grants and Incentives: What’s Available and How to Secure It**” sponsored by *Ernst & Young* at Radisson SAS Carlton Hotel, Bratislava

November 30, 2007

Breakfast Seminar on “**EU Grants and Incentives: What’s Available and How to Secure It**” sponsored by *Ernst & Young* at Golden Royal, Košice

November 30, 2007

Business Breakfast on “**Getting Ready for the EURO**” with **Ivan Šramko**, Governor, National Bank of Slovakia at Hotel DIXON, Banská Bystrica

January 29, 2008

Business Seminar sponsored by *KPMG Slovensko* on **Changes in Tax Legislation** in Košice with **Branislav Ďurajka**, and **Jana Škvarková**, Tax Partners of KPMG Slovensko

January 31, 2008

Business Luncheon on **Globalization and Offshoring**. Sponsored by *Dell* with **Dušan Čaplovič**, Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of SR, **David A. Marmonti**, President, Dell Europe Middle East and Africa, Bratislava

February 14, 2008

Business Seminar on **Paying Taxes 2008** sponsored by *PricewaterhouseCoopers* and the *World Bank* with **Ingrid Brocková**, Country Manager, World Bank, **Todd Bradshaw**, Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers and **Marek Lendacký**, General Director of the Strategy Division, Ministry of Finance of SR in Bratislava

March 12, 2008

Business Luncheon sponsored by *Microsoft Slovakia* with **Bibiana Obrimčáková**, State Secretary, Ministry of Education of SR, **Vahé Torossian**, Vice President Microsoft International, Central & Eastern Europe and **Robert Šimoncic**, General Manager of Microsoft Slovakia in Bratislava

March 17, 2008

Luncheon and Seminar in Košice on **How to Find and Successfully Sell to US Importers** with **Phillip W. Byrd**, Director General of the American Importers Association

March 18, 2008

Business-Environmental Forum in cooperation with Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry and under the auspices of **Jaroslav Izák**, Minister of Environment of SR.

March 19, 2008

Breakfast and Seminar on **How to Find and Successfully Sell to US Importers** with **Peter Žiga**, State Secretary, Ministry of Economy and **Phillip W. Byrd**, Director General of the American Importers Association in Bratislava

March 26, 2008

Business Seminar in Košice on **Paying Taxes 2008** with **Ingrid Brocková**, Country Manager of World Bank and **Todd Bradshaw**, Partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers

April 01, 2008

Business Seminar on **270 Days to the Euro Introduction: Implications for Taxes and Accounting** with **Igor Barát**, Government’s Plenipotentiary for the Introduction of Euro in SR, **Zuzana Bullová**, Manager, Corporate Services, BMB Leitner and **Roman Ponc**, Senior Consultant, Corporate Services, BMB Leitner in Bratislava

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

The grounds of Bratislava castle were turned into an authentic-looking Western town to celebrate the 13th Annual AmCham Independence Day held on Saturday, June 30, 2007. More than 1000 guests came to celebrate on a pleasant summer evening. The 'Backwards Band' took us back to the sweet 60's, playing the everlasting hits of the Beatles. Our guests could hardly resist the temptation to dance when Elvis Presley started his show. The official part of the evening started with the traditionally stunning parade at 6.30 p.m. On hand to open the celebrations were, the US marines, majorettes with drums, Uncle Sam, fire trucks, tractors, a horse-drawn carriage with the US Ambassador Rodolphe Vallee and his wife Denise, Slovakia's Finance Minister Ján Počiatek on his beautiful Harley Davidson motorbike, and historical vehicles carrying AmCham Board members and event sponsors. All the guests had a chance to experience a traditional American picnic with typical American food and beverages served, such as hot dogs, hamburgers, popcorn, cotton candy and the traditional cake decorated as the US flag, which as usual tasted delicious!

The spirit of the traditional atmosphere, which was emphasized with the performances of country-dance groups and the breath-taking show with the whip and rope, was present everywhere throughout the entire evening. Everyone could experience a piece of Americana in Slovakia. The dancers, music bands and other showmen entertained an audience of all generations. The kids were delighted to ride the pony and play with other baby animals. They enjoyed themselves in the little cars, playing hockey, climbing an enormous cactus, riding a mechanical bull, making balloon animals, or just running around with colorful decorations on their faces.

Balloons in the colors of the American flag were let out to the sky above Bratislava and amused adults and children alike. The official part of the program was brought to a close with the impressive display of fireworks at 10 p.m. However, the marvelous party was still far from being over, as guests had a great time dancing until the early hours of the morning.



THANKSGIVING GALA CHARITY DINNER

The American Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia celebrated its 14th annual, traditional American holiday of Thanksgiving together with its member companies, in addition to various representatives from business, political and diplomatic circles. The ceremonial dinner, complete with roast turkey, stuffing, cream corn, traditional sweet potatoes and cranberry sauce was held on November 24, 2007 at the beautifully decorated premises of the Apollo Business Center in Bratislava. As one of the most important celebrations in the U.S. calendar, this event was attended by approximately 400 guests who were warmly welcomed during the opening reception by Robert Šimončíč, President of AmCham Slovakia, and by Jake Slegers, Executive Director of AmCham Slovakia. The guests were also addressed by Dušan Čaplovič, Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Knowledge-Based Society, European Affairs, Human Rights and Minorities; and Lawrence Silverman, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy in the Slovak Republic.

The annual Thanksgiving Charity Gala Dinner evening is an opportunity for AmCham to share this unique American holiday and traditions with the International business and diplomatic community, and to share with those in need. The performances of Katarína Hasprová, Richard Rikkon and the Slovak Radio Children's Choir created a very pleasant atmosphere in the Apollo Business Center. For the seventh year running, the AmCham Award went to individuals who have contributed above and beyond to call of duty to AmCham's successful activities. The 2007 award went to Alexander Körösfő of the U.S. Embassy and Michal Pintér of U.S. Steel Košice. In addition, the evening featured fantastic prizes in the "tombola", the donations from which went to the annual "AmCham Thanksgiving Charity Drive". Through this comprehensive charity project, financial contributions are distributed to needy charitable organizations, children's homes, senior citizen homes and other non-profit organizations from various regions of Slovakia.



JOB AND INTERNSHIP FAIR

The 9th Annual Job and Internship Fair, organized by the American Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia, was held on February 26, in the premises of Hotel Centrum in Košice and on February 28, in Bratislava, at the Radisson SAS Hotel Carlton.

These events were aimed at assisting university students and graduates obtain an overview of companies in Slovakia and to establish first contact with desirable companies that could dramatically affect their future.

The Job & Internship Fair was also an opportunity for companies interested in prospective employees. These events were primarily focused on the offer of job positions for students in their final year of studies at Slovak universities.

They also presented the chance to acquire information on available positions in the labor market in Slovak or foreign companies working in the information technology, banking and financial services, human resources, consulting, pharmaceutical, heavy industry and the food industry sectors.

The AmCham Job & Internship Fair is one of the many events of the American Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia through which AmCham tries to improve business conditions for its members by "creating a space" to establish new contacts and channels for communication between employers and potential employees.

AmCham, through the cooperation of its member companies, also strives to widen the scope of opportunities for young people in Slovakia and thus helps the country to be successful in global competition with a qualified and skilled workforce.

Almost thirty companies and more than 1200 students attended the Job & Internship Fair in Košice and Bratislava this year.



HR CONFERENCE

The 6th Annual HR Conference of the American Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic was held on October 30, 2007, in Radisson SAS Carlton Hotel, Bratislava. This year's conference attracted approximately 100 CEOs, HR managers and consultants who gathered to discuss issues related to human resources.

The focus of this year's conference was on "HR and the Power of the Company Brand", and the presentations as well as interactive discussions were structured around topics such as the role of marketing in HR, relationship between HR and company branding, and employee engagement.

Participants were welcomed by Jake Slegers, Executive Director of AmCham Slovakia and by Robert Šimončíč, President of AmCham Slovakia and General Manager of Microsoft Slovakia. This was followed by interactive presentations delivered by high-level international experts:

- John Smythe, founding partner of Engage for Change, London, Great Britain,
- Ted Daywalt, CEO & President of VetJobs, Atlanta, USA, a member of the Employer of Choice Council
- Wendy Bloom, International Centre of Competency Manager of IBM Slovakia (formerly of IBM South Africa)
- Petra Berecová, HR Director, T-Mobile Slovensko
- Thomas Degischer, Vice President Human Resources Development, T-Mobile Austria

The day was concluded by a drawing from business cards. The lucky participants had a chance to win attractive prizes donated by Oracle, Employer of Choice and Connex. AmCham Slovakia sincerely hopes that all who participated in the AmCham HR Conference 2007 found it beneficial; we are already looking forward to welcome HR experts and managers to a similar conference next year.

Human Resources
Regional Conference



Bratislava office:
Crownie Plaza, Hodžovo námestie 2, 816 25 Bratislava, Slovak Republic;
Tel: (+421-2) 54 6423 34; Fax: (+421-2) 54 64 0535; e-mail: office@amcham.sk

As we do every month, we would like to inform you about some of the most important AmCham activities.

The AmCham 2008 General Assembly & Board Elections

The 2008 General Assembly of the American Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic will take place at Café Reduta, Mostová street, Bratislava on April 24, 2008 at 18:00. For more information click here.

This event will be devoted to the announcement of this year's elections to the Board of Directors and the evaluation of AmCham's activities and achievements during the past year, and their contribution to the business environment in Slovakia.

- Ten Directors will be elected for a two-year term

officially represent the SME sector
You will receive in the mail in the pre-addressed ballots, or bring the ballots to the 2008 General

Directors:

Table with columns for location (Košice, Bratislava, etc.), date (Thursday, April 3, 2008), time (6-8 pm), and venue (Steam & Coffee Restaurant).

ANNUAL 2008 APRIL 2007



The American Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic

DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS 2008

The American Chamber of Commerce in The Slovak Republic



- NEWS
ABOUT AMCHAM
MEMBERSHIP
EVENTS
POLICY
PUBLICATIONS
OPPORTUNITIES
CONTACTS
FAQ

- UPCOMING
AmCham Event
Thursday, April 24, 2008
Business Breakfast
sponsored by...
Thursday, April 24, 2008
AmCham General Assembly

Other Events

- Thursday, May 22, 2008
5th International Conference on Corporate Responsibility of Corporate Solutions
Friday, June 13, 2008
7th Annual VIP Garden Party organized by the Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Slovakia and the Silvia Gašparovicová - Education and Health for Everybody

- Calendar of Upcoming Events
Gallery of Past Events

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New Members

- The Brooks Group Slovakia s.r.o.
Uniform Color Company EU, s.r.o.
SkyEurope Airlines, a.s.
Orpandi & Partner s.r.o.

Prime Minister: Doc. JUDr. Robert Fico, ČSČ
Currency: Slovak crown, 1 Sk = 100 halérs
Membership of international organisations: EU, NATO UN, UNESCO, OECD, OBSE, CERN, WHO, INTERPOL, etc.
Main political parties in the National Council: SMER, Slovak National Party (SNS), Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS), Slovak Democratic and Christian Union (SDKÚ), Christian Democratic Movement (KDH), Direction (Smer), Party of the Hungarian Coalition (SMK)

VISA: (as of 1 August 2005) A visa is required of all except:
a) EU citizens
b) citizens of Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, Chile, Croatia, Israel, Japan, Canada, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Romania, Salvador, Uruguay, USA and Venezuela for visits up to 90 days.
c) citizens of Monaco and New Zealand up to 3 months.
d) citizens of San Marino and the Vatican up to 30 days.

POPULATION

Population: 5 379 455 (61.4% women)
Population density: 109/km2
Ethnicity of the population: Slovak (85.8%), Hungarian (9.7%), Roma (1.7%), Czech (0.8%), Rusyn, Ukrainian, Russian, German, Polish and others (2%)
Population by religion: believers (84.1%) of which: Roman Catholic (68.2%), Evangelical (6.9%), Greek Catholic (4.1%), Reform Christian (2%), undetermined (2.2%), atheist (13.7%)
Large cities and towns: Košice (240 915), Prešov (92 687), Nitra (87 357), Žilina (86 685) Banská Bystrica (84 918), Trnava (70 191), Martin (60 772), Trenčín (58 872), Poprad (55 037), Prievidza (54 405), Zvolen (44 328)
Ethnic mix of the population: Slovaks (85.8 %), Hungarians (9.7 %), Roma (1.7 %), Czechs (0.8 %), Ruthenians, Ukrainians, Russians, Germans, Poles and others (2 %)

Table with 5 columns (Year) and 10 rows (Population as of December, of which: Males, Females, Marriages, Divorces, Live births, Deaths, Natural increase, Nat Migration, Total increase)

PRESS ROOM

MEMBER TO MEMBER DISCOUNTS

SLOVAK REPUBLIC INFO

DOING BUSINESS IN SLOVAKIA

DOING BUSINESS IN U.S.A.

LIVING AND WORKING IN SLOVAKIA

www.amcham.sk

REPUBLIC 2008

Official name: Slovak Republic
Date of the republic's establishment: 1.1.1993
State organisation: republic
Political system: parliamentary democracy
Official language: Slovak
Capital city: Bratislava
Neighbouring countries: Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraine, Hungary, Austria
Area: 49 035 km2

Territorial division: 8 Higher-Tier Territorial Units and 8 regions (Bratislava, Trnava, Trenčín, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov, Košice), 78 districts
Terrain: rugged mountains in the central and northern part and lowlands in the south
Elevation Extremes:
Lowest point: Bodrogy River 84 m
Highest point: Gerlach peak 2655 m
Longest river: Váh 138 km
Biggest waterfall: Kmeťov 90 m
Longest cave: Demänovské caves 17 km

Time Zone: GMT + 1, summer time GMT +2
The highest location: Gerlachovský Peak, 2,655 m above sea level
The lowest location: Bodrogy River, 84 m above sea level
The highest church tower: Spišský Nový Ves (87 m)
The largest of the 170 castles: Spiš Castle
The oldest ice cave in Europe: Dobšinská Ice Cave
The longest Slovak river: Váh
The highest located municipality: Spišské Terasy, 1,555 m above sea level
The largest river island in Europe: Rye Island in southern Slovakia, 132,612 ha
The largest national park: Low Tatras National Park, 81,000 ha
The oldest protected plant in Slovakia: edelweiss
The largest and deepest lake in Slovakia: Great Hornovo Tarn, 291.1 m, 53 m deep
The place with the lowest annual average temperature: the top of Lomnický Peak (2,632 m above sea level) -3.7 °C
The location with the highest annual precipitation average: Zbojnická Lodge (1,960 m above sea level) -2,130 mm

The first printed book: the Latin textbook by Lucas Fabunus at Prešov in 1573
The first newspaper: Prešporské Novopisár, at Prešporok (Bratislava) July 1783
The biggest village in Slovakia: Smižany (8,269)
The biggest wooden altar in the world: Levoča - St. Jacob's Church by Master Paul of Levoča, early 16th century, 18.6 m high and 6.3 m wide

Through its regular e-mail news and through its website, AmCham Slovakia provides its member companies with very frequent updates on all ongoing, planned or completed AmCham projects and activities. AmCham publications allow AmCham members to communicate effectively with a readership base of top business executives, diplomats and decision-makers in Slovakia and abroad; gain exposure among AmCham members; highlight company's expertise; acquire practical information; or learn from other members' experience.

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 by providing to all of our members detailed information about their fellow members. This enhances networking opportunities within AmCham's membership as well as the public image of all members resulting in greater recognition and strength for AmCham in the community. By having a listing in the Directory of Members, all AmCham members are given a great chance to promote themselves by presenting their company, its key characteristics, history, successes, actual business activities, and contacts in a space limited by 100 words.

AmCham Membership Directory in Brief:

- 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 statistical data on Slovakia
- Listing of representation of Slovakia in USA and USA in Slovakia
- Free to all members of AmCham Slovakia

MONTHLY NEWS

AmCham Monthly News is an e-mail newsletter sent to all AmCham members at the beginning of each month. The Monthly News contain a comprehensive overview of all AmCham activities with practical hyperlinks to the AmCham website. AmCham members can learn in advance about all upcoming events, meetings of AmCham committees, task forces and initiatives, or download pictures, presentations and minutes from past meetings and events. Also included are the profiles of new members which need to be added to the Membership Directory (as the Directory is published only once a year) and articles from the most recent issue of the AmCham "Connection" magazine. The Monthly News are often used also for important ad hoc announcements related to AmCham strategic issues or operations.

AmCham Monthly News in Brief:

- Profiles of New AmCham Members

- Upcoming Events
- Past Events
- AmCham in the Media
- AmCham Policy/Advocacy Activities
- AmCham "Connection" Magazine
- Important ad hoc news and announcements

WEBSITE

AmCham SR launched a new website in early 2007 as an improved service for all AmCham members. The website serves as an effective tool of communication for the AmCham office with its member companies and other entities, as it contains updates on news and activities of the Chamber and developments in Slovakia in general.

AmCham Website - highlights:

- Membership Area – all AmCham members have a login name and password for the "Members Only Area". The password allows any of AmCham members to access information regarding AmCham member companies, minutes from committee meetings, Legislative and Policy Updates, etc.
- Events – calendar, information on all upcoming events, event registrations, Gallery of Past Events
- "Connection" Magazine – monthly update of major articles from the most recently published issue, Archive with articles from past issues
- Policy/Advocacy – overview of current or recent AmCham advocacy efforts, AmCham Legislative and Policy Updates, minutes from Committee meetings, background documents to download, recently released position statements

"SLOVAKIA BROCHURE"

One of the most significant roles of the American Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic is to develop activities that contribute to supporting the influx of foreign investment to Slovakia. AmCham Slovakia is keenly aware that there is still excellent, untapped potential in the promotion of the country. Many business people, when evaluating potential investments in Slovakia, often do not have or cannot find appropriate information about the country that would assist them in their selection process. AmCham Slovakia therefore decided to assist in the promotion of the Slovak Republic as a country with a huge investment potential and prepared a summary of basic information about the Slovak Republic. This four-page brochure, The Slovak Republic, provides information on the geographical, economic, social, political, financial and other aspects of the country.

October 2007

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How to Draft a Licensing Contract

On the Road Towards Copyright Protection

Intellectual Property Rights
Guarding the Culture of Innovation

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PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING

Internal Communication

Crisis Communication Management

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OCTOBER 2007

The War for Talent

Headhunter calling

Human Resources

Talent Shortages



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SEPTEMBER 2007

Venture Capital

Banking and Finance

Euro Introduction in Slovakia

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SEPTEMBER 2007

Human Resources

Headhunter calling

The War for Talent

Talent Shortages

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Information Technologies

Business Intelligence

Masses

Flexible Learning

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MARCH 2007

Slovak Labor Market

Using Slovakia's Brainpower

Slovak Educational System: Stuck in the Past?

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Breakthrough

Lobbying in Brussels

Reaping Full Benefits of EU Integration

Euro Introduction in Slovakia

CONNECTION
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WWW.AMCIAM.SK

FEBRUARY 2007

Lobbying in Brussels

Reaping Full Benefits of EU Integration

Euro Introduction in Slovakia

According to the AmCham Membership Survey, "Connection" is one of the most appreciated services that AmCham members regularly use. In 2007, AmCham "Connection" magazine was awarded the bronze medal in the category of "Non-Profit, State-Funded or Public Administration Organizations" in the fourth annual "Corporate Medium of the Year" competition.



"Connection" is distributed to over 300 AmCham members, political and diplomatic authorities, foreign companies, Bratislava's largest hotels, international organizations and all embassies in Slovakia, sister chambers of commerce in Europe and the headquarters of the American Chamber of Commerce in Washington D.C..

Other recipients include attendees of all AmCham events. The total print of "Connection" is approximately 1200 copies.

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.

Every issue focuses on one basic topic/cover story. The topics covered in 2007 include:

- **Reaping Full Benefits of the EU Integration**
- **Slovak Labor Market: How to Use Slovakia's Brainpower**
- **New Trends in Marketing, Promotion and Public Relations**
- **Slovak Real Estate Market: Development Prospects**
- **Telecom and Information Technologies: Building the "e-Society"**
- **Travel and Tourism: Releasing Slovakia's Potential**
- **Finance and Banking & Euro Introduction in SR**
- **Human Resources: The War for Talent**
- **Intellectual Property Rights: Guarding the Culture of Innovation**
- **Corporate Social Responsibility: Contributing to a Better Society**

In 2007, more than 80 AmCham member companies used the opportunity to present themselves through:

EXPERT ARTICLE	PR ARTICLE	PR INTERVIEW	MEMBER NEWS



REGIONAL ENERGY FORUM 2007

On October 11-12, 2007 AmCham Slovakia together with AmCham Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Ukraine and the AmCham EU co-organized the First Regional Energy Forum. With 250 delegates and 25 speakers including the Prime Minister of Hungary, Mr. Becalli, President and CEO of General Electrics; Mr. Soros, Chairman of Soros Fund Management and various high level government and corporate representatives, the Forum represents a great example of successful regional cooperation of the AmChams in the CEE region.

1. PROVIDING INFORMATION MONITORING & ISSUE IDENTIFICATION

Pooling together invaluable, cross-sectoral expertise from its member companies, external experts and systematic in-house research, AmCham strives to provide its members with in-depth information on various issues of concern to business community. Timely and proactive identification of issues relevant to business is crucial for the success of any advocacy effort. Being aware of this fact, the American Chamber of Commerce in SR has developed a special professional service in order to provide its member companies with up-to-date information on the Slovak and EU law-making process. The AmCham Legislative and Policy Update is an e-mail update highlighting major news at both national and EU levels of decision-making. It is distributed to all AmCham members on a bi-weekly basis via e-mail, and it can be also downloaded from the AmCham website.



2. PROVIDING ACCESS TO DECISION-MAKERS

While building of relationships remains an important element of all professional public affairs activities, many companies are well aware of the fact that it is rather difficult for an individual company to get personal access to high-level policy-makers and regulators. Using the advantage of AmCham's economic strength and representative character, our Chamber is able to provide its member companies with a number of meetings with Slovak Government representatives, members of the Slovak Parliament, heads of State Agencies, European Commission representatives, members of the European Parliament, and a vast number of renowned experts and legislators.

3. SHARING IDEAS, BEST PRACTICES & COMMENTING ON LEGISLATION

AmCham Committees, Working Groups and Task Forces focus their activities on commenting on and proposing changes to drafts of legislation prepared by the Slovak government. At times, the Committees or Task Forces cooperate directly with the Slovak government on drafting

new legislation. They try to supply AmCham member companies with useful information and advice in a particular area. In order to share ideas and strategies for dealing with common business-related concerns, some committees actively cooperate with other AmChams in the region. Following is an overview of AmCham Committees and Task Forces.

LABOR CODE TASK FORCE

Chair: Miroslav Kiral'varga (*U.S. Steel Košice*)
Vice Chairs: Michal Pintér (*U.S. Steel Košice*), Michal Dyttert (*Provident Financial*)
Issue: Labor Code Revision in SR

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT TASK FORCE

Chair: Hugh Owen (*Allen & Overy*)
Issues: Revision of the Public Procurement Law; e-Procurement; Offset Guidelines

SOCIAL INSURANCE LAW INITIATIVE

Chair: Miroslav Kiral'varga (*U.S. Steel Košice*)
Vice Chairs: Michal Pintér (*U.S. Steel Košice*), Michal Dyttert (*Provident Financial*)
Issue: Social Insurance Law Revision in SR

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

Chair: Vladimír Pacholík (*Eli Lilly*)
Vice Chair: Pavol Trnovec (*GlaxoSmithKline*)
Issues: Intellectual Property Rights; Drug Pricing and Reimbursement Policies

TAX COMMITTEE

Chair: Stan Jakubek (*Ernst & Young*)
Vice Chairs: Eva Kováčová (*GlaxoSmithKline*), Christiana Serugová (*PricewaterhouseCoopers*), Michal Cibira (*Orange*)
Issues: Legislation governing taxation of stock options; Income Tax Act

VISA WAIVER PROGRAM INITIATIVE

Issue: Slovakia's inclusion in the US visa-free travel regime
Fifteen AmCham member companies engages in the survey and preparation of the AmCham Letter to the U.S. Congress

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS-ACADEMIC COOPERATION (EDUCATION COMMITTEE)

Chair: František Jakab (*Cisco Systems*)
Vice Chairs: Milan Polča (*U.S. Steel Košice*), Nicolas Martel (*NM Management*)
Issues: Preparation of the Position Paper on the Education Act; creating platform for sharing best practices; preparing pilot projects for education sector



Ján Počiatek, Minister of Finance of SR



Stanovisko Americkej obchodnej komory v SR k novele zákona o dani z príjmov*

(* Návrh zákona, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon č. 595/2003 Z.z. o dani z príjmov v znení neskorších predpisov)

Predstavitelia podnikateľskej obce združení v Americkej obchodnej komore v Slovenskej republike chápu a podporujú snahu o konkretizovanie a novelizáciu niektorých ustanovení Zákona o dani z príjmov, s cieľom zabezpečiť, aby jeho implementácia podporila legislatívnu stabilitu v tejto oblasti.

Keďže Americká obchodná komora v SR zastupuje viac ako 300 slovenských, amerických a iných zahraničných spoločností podnikajúcich na Slovensku, ktoré generujú približne 20 percent slovenského HDP, má mimoriadny záujem o účasť na konštruktívnych rokovaní týkajúcich sa novelizácie Zákona o dani z príjmov. Využívajúc expertízu našich členských spoločností v daňovo-právnej oblasti, by sme radi prispeli k lepšej regulácii daňovej legislatívy na Slovensku a tvorbe zdravého podnikateľského prostredia, ktoré by pozitívne ovplyvnilo vývoj existujúcich investícií v Slovenskej republike a zároveň podporilo prílev nových investícií. Dovoľte nám preto predstaviť vám naše návrhy, keďže veríme, že môžu zabezpečiť ešte vyššiu kvalitu navrhovaného zákona.

1. Retroaktívne účinky novely

Veríme, že stabilné, transparentné a predvídateľné podmienky pre podnikanie sú nevyhnutné pre trvalo udržateľný hospodársky rast. **Novela zákona o dani z príjmov v nás však vyvoláva obavy v súvislosti s navrhovaným rozsahom retroaktívnych účinkov.** Ak by vstúpila do platnosti v tomto znení, vytvoril by sa tak právny základ pre najrozsiahlejšie retroaktívne konanie v slovenskom daňovom systéme od roku 1993. Podľa nášho názoru medzi najvýznamnejšie retroaktívne účinky patria nasledovné:

- Novela výrazne limituje možnosť daňového odpočtu opravných položiek k rizikovým pohľadávkam (§ 20 ods. 4 a 14), odpisov nedobytných pohľadávok (§ 19 ods. 2 písm. h) a písm. r) a možnosť daňového odpočtu strát z postúpenia pohľadávok (§ 19 ods. 3 písm. h). Nové pravidlá by sa mali vzťahovať aj na pohľadávky, ktoré vznikli pred vstupom novely do platnosti, respektíve jej účinnosti.
- Podľa Čl. II novely by mali vyššie uvedené pravidlá (§ 19 ods. 2 písm. h) a písm. r)) nadobudnúť účinnosť v decembri 2007 a mali by sa použiť pri výpočte daňovej povinnosti za rok 2007, na základe daňového priznania podaného v roku 2008. Nové obmedzujúcejšie pravidlá by sa tak týkali transakcií vykonaných v roku 2007 pred účinnosťou novely.
- Na základe Prechodných ustanovení v § 52d), body 4), 7), 9) a 10) sa vyžaduje, aby opravné položky považované za daňovo odpočítateľné v období od roku 2004 do roku 2007, ktoré 1. januára 2008 stále existujú, boli zdanené do konca roka 2009 v prípade, ak nespĺňajú nové podmienky týkajúce sa daňových odpočtov.

Kvôli rozsiahlemu vplyvu nielen na bankový a poisťovnícky sektor, ale na akýkoľvek podnikateľský subjekt, vrátane nefinančných inštitúcií a poskytovateľov služieb, by uvedené predstavovalo jednu z najvýznamnejších zmien slovenského daňového systému, ktorá by mala nepriaznivý vplyv na transparentnosť podnikateľského prostredia na Slovensku. **Príjatie navrhovanej právnej úpravy môže mať dopady na jej praktickú a korektnú realizáciu u subjektov podnikajúcich vo sfére mass-marketu s vysokým počtom a objemom pohľadávok.** U daňových subjektov bude treba na nové podmienky prispôbiť aj automatické systémy evidencie sledovania pohľadávok, pričom korektná realizácia môže byť problematická a v určitých prípadoch až ťažko uskutočniteľná.

V tejto súvislosti by sme preto navrhovali nasledovné:

- V Čl. II stanoviť účinnosť celej novely zákona o dani z príjmov od 1 januára 2008.
- Do § 52d zahrnúť ustanovenie, na základe ktorého by sa nové pravidlá vzťahujúce sa na opravné položky k nedobytným pohľadávkam, odpisy a postúpenie nedobytných pohľadávok týkali len pohľadávok vzniknutých po nadobudnutí účinnosti novely, t.j. po 31.12.2007.
- Vypustiť § 52d) ods. 4) 7) 9) a 10) z navrhovaného znenia novely zákona o dani z príjmov.

FEBRUARY 2008

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF
THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN SLOVAKIA

CONNECTION

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here comes the Euro!



preparations for the new currency

euro conversion-business challenge:
not just a systems issue

lessons learned so far

are you ready
for euro-adoption?



Ivan Šramko, Governor of the National Bank of Slovakia

EURO INTRODUCTION IN SLOVAKIA

Raising of awareness regarding Slovakia's preparations for Euro adoption has been one of the priorities for AmCham Slovakia in the past year. In 2006 and 2007, AmCham Slovakia in cooperation with its member company Citibank (Slovakia), organized a series of seminars on Euro introduction in the Slovak Republic. We had the pleasure of hosting Ivan Šramko, Governor of the National Bank of Slovakia at six of these events, which took place in various regions of Slovakia and raised considerable interest among AmCham members as well as non-member companies. In addition, AmCham prepared two issues of Connection Magazine focused on Euro Adoption in SR – the September 2007 and February 2008 issues presented a number of articles on the topic, prepared by renowned economic experts from AmCham member companies. AmCham has also recently started a new series of seminars focused on Euro adoption and particularly on its impact on accounting. This series, featuring Igor Barát, Government's Plenipotentiary for Euro Introduction in SR, is organized in cooperation with AmCham member company BMB Leitner. The frequency of similar activities is increasing as Slovakia approaches the Euro adoption date and we sincerely hope that through AmCham activities, we help to spread the relevant information to everybody involved in order to address the Euro introduction in Slovakia not only as a challenge, but also an opportunity.

TAXATION

As the issues related to taxation always raise considerable interest among AmCham Slovakia's membership, AmCham maintains an active Tax Committee. This Committee was first established in 2004, when it was actively communicating all changes connected with Tax Reform in SR. Throughout 2006 and 2007, the issue of taxation of employees' stock options was identified as the priority for AmCham's involvement and AmCham was therefore communicating with the Ministry of Finance primarily regarding this issue. On September 19, 2007, the Slovak government approved a draft amendment to the Income Tax Law, which raised concerns of our member companies due to:

- its contradiction with the EU anti-discrimination policy,
- taxation of unrealized income,
- and establishing basis for the broadest retroactivity proceeding since 1993.

Based on an intensive work of the Committee, which collected substantial amount of economical data as well as concrete examples from the practice of the tax advisors and experts in order to support our main three messages, AmCham has prepared a Position Paper on the Income Tax Act Amendment. In addition, AmCham Slovakia conducted a number of meetings with all relevant decision-makers, external partners and tax experts. As a result of these

activities, 90% of our comments presented in the AmCham Position Paper to the Income Tax Act Amendment have been accepted and included in the current wording of the Amendment.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

The AmCham Public Procurement Task Force was established in 2005 and focused its activities on the revision of the Slovak Law on Public Procurement. In 2007, the Task Force was actively engaged in consultation on the new Offset Guidelines and thanks to its involvement, a proposal which would have negative impact on businesses in Slovakia was withdrawn from the agenda of the relevant Government session and had to be revised. As the Slovak Government postponed the planned adoption of the new Amendment to the Public Procurement Law from 2007 to the second half of 2008, the AmCham Public Procurement Task Force plans to work intensively with the Ministry of Finance, Public Procurement Office and other relevant stakeholders throughout 2007, producing a more detailed and updated version of the AmCham Position Paper on Public Procurement Law before the respective legislation becomes part of the agenda of the Government session.

HEALTH CARE

After a brief pause due to early Slovak parliamentary elections (in 2006), in the past year, the AmCham Health Care Committee again established an active dialogue with the Ministries of Health Care and Economy, as well as all other relevant state institutions. In April 2007, AmCham hosted a Business Breakfast with the Minister of Health Care Ivan Valentovič. AmCham member companies had an opportunity to express and openly discuss their concerns about the preservation of the patent linkage provisions adopted in 2006. Based on the discussion among the Committee members, and in cooperation with the US Embassy, US Commercial Service and SAFS, the AmCham Health Care Committee prepared the AmCham Position Paper on the Amendment to the Health Care Act, with the main aim of targeting relevant Members of the Parliament before the final vote on this legislation. The key messages of the AmCham Position Statement were as follows:

- There are concerns that the Amendment worsens the conditions of the price reimbursement setting.
- IPR protection – the new Amendment is indirectly undermining the patent linkage provisions adopted earlier this year.
- Transparency – the Amendment does not define clear rules for a transparent and fair appeal process.

The AmCham office sent the Position Paper together with the cover letter to the relevant members of the Parliament on November 12, 2007. The discussion regarding all the three main messages expressed in the AmCham Position Paper as well as the dialogue with the relevant decision-makers is still ongoing and AmCham will communicate the results of these activities in the upcoming months.



Joint Position Statement
of the American Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic,
the British Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic, the Netherlands Chamber of
Commerce in the Slovak Republic, the Slovak-Austrian Chamber of Commerce, the
Slovak-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry and
the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic
on the Social Insurance Law
 (The draft law, which changes and amends the Law No. 461/2003
 on Social Insurance in its latest version)

Representatives of the business environment associated in the above-mentioned foreign chambers of commerce understand the Government's efforts to strengthen the values of social solidarity in Slovakia and address the problem of insolvency of the State Social Insurance Company. However, we are of the opinion that the proposed revised version of the law on social insurance will neither help solve the State Social Insurance Company deficit, nor will it guarantee a long-term sustainability of the pension insurance system in Slovakia. On the contrary, it will have many negative consequences, which will harm the prospects of the proclaimed transformation of Slovakia into a modern knowledge-based society.

The business community considers the level of social payments as one of the major barriers for doing business in Slovakia. **The total pay-roll tax burden in the Slovak Republic is currently one of the highest within the European Union as well as among the countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).** Various renowned foreign institutions, such as the World Bank or OECD, have already pointed out the negative influence of high pay-roll taxes in Slovakia.

The proposed cancellation of the **ceilings for pension payments**, in case of preserving current pension insurance rules, will further increase the total pay-roll tax burden. In this case, Slovakia would become the country with the second biggest pay-roll tax burden among all 27 European Union member states. Based on our analysis, and considering the expected wage growth of 7% in 2007 and 6.6% in 2008 representing 14.062% valorization decreed by the Ministry of Finance, the total estimated impact on the employers in Slovakia (in terms of higher



Viera Tomanová, Minister of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of SR




Spoločné stanovisko zahraničných obchodných komôr v SR k navrhovanému zneniu Zákonníka práce

Zahraničné obchodné komory na Slovensku združujú a zastupujú drvivú väčšinu zahraničných firiem pôsiacich na domácom trhu. Mnohé z týchto spoločností patria k najvýznamnejším zamestnávateľom a dominantným podnikateľským subjektom vo svojich regiónoch, a preto zohrávajú nezastupiteľnú úlohu nielen v oblastiach svojej pôsobnosti, ale aj pre ekonomiku SR ako celok. Výška investícií zahraničných podnikateľských subjektov, ktorá len za rok 2006 dosiahla hodnotu 476 miliárd Sk, dokazuje dôležitosť týchto spoločností pre makroekonomický rast Slovenska, a teda aj pre rast životnej úrovne jeho obyvateľov.

V súčasnosti 90% zisku vytvoreného v slovenskom hospodárstve pochádza zo 125 najväčších podnikov, z ktorých 124 je zahraničných. Tieto podniky majú až 86% podiel na exporte SR. Momentálne prebieha na Slovensku intenzívna diskusia o budúcom obsahu Zákonníka práce. Sme presvedčení, že tento zákon ako základ pracovno-právnej legislatívy zásadným spôsobom ovplyvní podnikanie v SR. Pre Slovensko je potenciál pracovnej sily a pružnosť pracovného trhu jedným z najdôležitejších faktorov pre udržanie a zvyšovanie konkurencieschopnosti na svetovom trhu. Zohráva zároveň významnú úlohu pri získavaní a udržiavaní zahraničných investícií.

Zahraničné obchodné komory v SR, zastupujúce záujmy svojich členských spoločností, z týchto dôvodov považujú za svoju povinnosť prispieť k diskusií o obsahu novej Zákonníka práce. Cieľom našej snahy je dosiahnuť prijatie takých legislatívnych zmien, ktoré budú zohľadňovať špecifickú slovenskú ekonomiku a sociálneho systému, podporia rast zamestnanosti a zároveň zachovajú základné predpoklady konkurencieschopnosti Slovenska. Dovoľujeme si preto poukázať na predpokladané ekonomické dopady vybraných častí tohto návrhu.

- 1. Právomoci zástupcov odborov** § 39 ods. 2, §94 ods. 1 pí. d), §196 ods. 3, §146, §229 ods. 7, §230 ods. 3, §239 a)

Z ekonomického hľadiska sú navrhované posilnenie postavenia zástupcov odborov a ich väčší vplyv v oblasti riadenia podniku neopodstatnené. Predkladatelia novely nezohľadnili fakt, že odbory nesú podnikateľské riziko, neinvestujú vlastnú kapitálu a nevyžadujú sa od nich dostatočné skúsenosti s riadením podnikov. Novela im pritom pripisuje viaceré neodvôvodnené výhody (ako napríklad v ustanoveniach týkajúcich sa uvoľnenia zamestnanca dlhodobu na výkon funkcie, platenie odborových funkcionárov zamestnávateľom počas uvoľnenia na výkon funkcie a podobne) a na druhej strane odobrá zamestnaneckej rade právo na spolurozhodovanie a kontrolnú činnosť práve na úkor zvýhodnenia pre odborovú organizáciu. Dovoľujeme si poznamenať, že na základe formálnych predpokladov odbory môžu byť založené aj ak reprezentujú iba veľmi malý počet zamestnancov, kým zamestnanecké rady musia byť odsúhlasené väčšinou zamestnancov podniku participujúcich na voľbách. Celkom nepripustný je podľa nás návrh ustanovenia týkajúci sa práva vstupu zástupcov odborov, aj keď nie sú zamestnancom, do podnikov a na pracovisko zamestnávateľa. Ustanovenie nerespektuje potrebu dodržiavania vnútropodnikových predpisov a smerníc BOZP. Ustanovenie § 149 ods. 1 písm. c) a ods. 2 zasahuje do kompetencií zamestnávateľa zaisťovať BOZP. Vydanie záväzného pokynu na zastavenie práce nie je možné bez kvalifikovaného posúdenia situácie. Otláznou je reálna vymožiteľnosť náhrady nákladov v prípade neoprávneného zastavenia práce. Čo sa týka účasti odborov v určení noriem práce, skúsenosti ukazujú, že takéto snahy pôsobia skôr kontraproduktívne a dosiahnutie dohody so zástupcami zamestnancov môže byť pre zamestnávateľa obťažné, v niektorých prípadoch i celkom nereálne.

- 2. Obmedzovanie práce nadčas** §97., §121 ods. 2)

Vychádzajúc zo skúsenosti iných krajín EÚ, môžeme skonštatovať, že snahy o limitovanie nadčasov na Slovensku s veľkou pravdepodobnosťou nepovedú k očakávanému vytvoreniu nových pracovných miest, ale skôr ku zhoršeniu kvality poskytovaných služieb. Okrem toho takéto obmedzenie môže zvýšiť špekulatívnosť niektorých zamestnávateľov v smere obchádzania zákona, ktorý zapríčiňuje rozdiel medzi dokladovaným a reálnym pracovným časom a vznik práce „na čierno“. Nadčasy sú špecifickou formou časového výkonu viazanou na vybrané odvetvia, a nie sú teda problémom celej ekonomiky. Na Slovensku sú odvetvia, kde ročný objem nadčasov je 400 hodín (zdravotníctvo) až 480 hodín (doprava). Ďalej sú odvetvia, kde nie je úplne správne hovoriť o ročnej sume nadčasov - napríklad v stavebníctve dosahuje v sezóne objem nadčasov 200 až 300 hodín, mimo sezóny však nie sú žiadne nadčasy. Ide teda o špecifický diverzifikovaný fenomén v slovenskej ekonomike, ktorý sa týka hlavne energetiky, dopravy, stavebníctva, zdravotníctva a niektorých odvetví služieb. Stanovenie limitu nadčasov napríklad v školstve narazí na nedostatok vhodných pracovníkov a povedie skôr ku nárastu nekalých poskytovaných služieb. V doprave povedie navrhovaný limit nadčasov k nutnosti najímať nových pracovníkov alebo predĺžiť dobu dodávky. Ak vezmeme do úvahy ceny pohonných hmôt, zavádzanie nových emisných noriem na automobilovú dopravu, či povinných monitorovacích systémov, väčšina firmami sa takto dostáva do neriešiteľnej situácie. Aj v rade ďalších odvetví (zdravotníctvo alebo energetika)

LABOR CODE REVISION IN SR

The revision of the Slovak Labor Code is commonly considered to be one of the most important legislative changes in 2007. Being aware of the fact that this legislative piece is crucial for every business operating in the Slovak Republic, whether a small family business or a huge multinational corporation, AmCham Slovakia has established the Labor Law Task Force.

The Task Force has been actively following the development of the Labor Code revision in order to contribute with constructive comments, providing experience of the employers and experts intensively working with the concerned legislation. Furthermore, AmCham Labor Code Task Force representatives have been meeting with the representatives of relevant ministries and other business associations in Slovakia, as well as with external experts on the topic.

In February 2007, AmCham Slovakia participated in the official interdepartmental review, submitting 38 comments to the proposed Labor Code Amendment. The following provisions were seen as the most crucial:

1. Overtime limitation
2. Definition of dependent work – contractors
3. Principle of the same wage for the same work
4. Restriction of linking of labor contracts
5. Competencies of trade union representatives
6. Important personal restraints at work
7. Termination of employment relations
8. Position of temporary workers

Based on its consultations with reputable economists, AmCham Slovakia supported its comments by an economic analysis, drawing attention to some of the macroeconomic consequences of the proposed Labor Code Amendment. At the beginning of April, Business Alliance of Slovakia (PAS) provided AmCham with relevant data that further supported our position.

Following on the activities of the AmCham Labor Law Task Force, AmCham Slovakia initiated the preparation of the Common Position Statement of the Foreign Chambers of Commerce in the Slovak Republic on the Labor Code Revision. The Position Statement of eight foreign chambers of commerce in Slovakia was presented to the journalists and broader public at the Joint Press Conference, held on April 17, 2007.

As the law passed into the Parliament, AmCham Slovakia approached all the relevant MPs in order to discuss employers' comments, especially focusing on provisions related to the competencies of trade union representatives, concurrence of the severance payment and notice period, overtime work, fixed-term contracts, other employment activities and emergency work. A study conducted by PLI (Plant Location International), consulting with clients on location decisions and forming part of the Global Business

Services of IBM, an AmCham member, also served as a support of AmCham Slovakia's Position Statement presented to the Members of Parliament in June 2007. At the end of June, the Slovak Parliament approved the Amendment to the Labor Code, which later entered into force in September 2007. **Approximately 30 percent of AmCham Slovakia's comments were fully or partly incorporated in the final version of the legislation!**

As the flexibility of its labor market, including flexibility of the related legislation, is extremely important for Slovakia's future competitiveness, AmCham Slovakia hopes that there will be further scope for minor changes to some of the Labor Code provisions in the near future.

REVISION OF THE SOCIAL INSURANCE LAW

On July 2, 2007, the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic submitted a Draft Law on Social Insurance to the interdepartmental review. It has become obvious that this legislation, particularly those provisions which were supposed to cancel the maximum assessment base for all social security contributions (sickness, retirement, permanent disability, unemployment, guaranteed fund and reserve fund), would have a significant impact on the majority of AmCham member companies and their employees. AmCham Slovakia has therefore promptly initiated a new "Social Insurance Law Initiative" and collected input from its member companies as well as relevant economical and legal experts.

Based on this input, AmCham Slovakia formulated a Letter to the Prime Minister, including an AmCham Position Statement on the Revision of the Social Insurance Law. The letter was supported by five other foreign chambers of commerce in Slovakia and sent to the Prime Minister as well as to the economic ministers and coalition partners in time before the relevant Government session in August. In the following two months, AmCham Slovakia conducted a series of meetings with relevant Members of the Parliament.

In November, the Parliament approved the Amendment to the Social Insurance Law. The maximum assessment basis for calculation of pension fund payments was not cancelled, but increased. **Altogether, two out of three of AmCham Slovakia's main messages were partly incorporated in the final version of the legislation!** However, the overall consequences of the adopted legislation have been negative for employers as well as employees and the total pay-roll tax burden is still considered to be one of the major barriers to doing business in the Slovak Republic.

AmCham Slovakia has therefore initiated the establishment of a standing "Employment and Social Affairs Committee", which is planning to build on the previous work of the AmCham Labor Law Task Force as well as the Social Insurance Law Initiative.



From left: **Marcel Rebroš**, Board Member of AmCham Slovaki and General Manager of Cisco Systems Slovakia, **Robert Šimončíč**, President of AmCham Slovakia and General Manager of Microsoft Slovakia and **Jake Slegers**, Executive Director of AmCham Slovakia



Bibiana Obrimčáková,
State Secretary, Ministry of Education of SR

MARCH 2008

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF
THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN SLOVAKIA

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Modern Education and
Business-Academic Cooperation
The Key to Success

Case Studies of Successful
Business-Academic Cooperation

DECEMBER 2007
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Improving Impact

Fair Trade:
An Inspiring
Model for CSR



The American Chamber of Commerce
in the Slovak Republic

January 11, 2008

Position Paper of the American Chamber of Commerce in SR on the draft Act on Education and Training (Education Act)

The American Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic (AmCham), which represents more than 300 businesses operating in Slovakia, considers the constant development and modernisation of the educational sector one of the most crucial elements of a prosperous society based on knowledge. Reflecting on the frequently mentioned concern about the lack of the qualified workforce in Slovakia, AmCham strives to promote active business-academic cooperation and transfer of the theoretical knowledge from paper into reality.

Introduction

Striving to enhance the quality of the process of education of students, we would like to present the following set of comments raised in respect to the existing legislation. The Education Act in respect to which the comments are raised fails to create adequate space for employers enabling them to engage in the process in the form of providing support to schools, providing material and technical subsistence, providing for workplaces for apprenticeship or providing support to teachers and apprenticeship supervisors. The present document aims at improving and intensifying the possibilities of mutual cooperation of employers with schools and school founders. The submission contains comments out of which the first 5 are, from the perspective of employers, assigned high priority. The remaining comments are supplementary and propose improvements regarding the overall situation of the contemporary educational system.

List of comments of the American Chamber of Commerce in SR regarding the draft Act of Education and Training (Education Act)

- 1) Motivation for employers to actively engage in the educational process in the form of providing financial and material subsistence to schools as tax-deductible items.
- 2) Increasing the reward an organisation / individual can provide to students from "10 %" up to "20 %".
- 3) Extending financial and material subsistence for students with further items (personal protective equipment at work, travel cost)

MODERN EDUCATION AND BUSINESS-ACADEMIC COOPERATION

To better address the challenge of the lack of a qualified workforce, and provide better links between businesses and academia, AmCham Slovakia established a new Committee for Business-Academic Cooperation (Education Committee) in 2007. Many AmCham member companies, including most Board Members, supported the work of the Committee, which intensively cooperates with the Ministry of Education.

The Committee was actively involved in commenting on the revised Law on Education and it is currently part of the Working Group at the Ministry of Education, which prepares draft Law on Vocational Schools. In addition, AmCham has also strengthened its role as a platform for sharing of best practices in the area of business-academic cooperation and internal as well as external promotion of this topic.

In February 2008, AmCham organized a Press Conference on the AmCham Position Paper on the Law on Education, receiving broad media coverage. AmCham Slovakia's comments presented at the Press Conference can be summarized into three main messages:

Increased focus on professional training in the school curricula:

To provide sufficient capacity for apprenticeship/practical training in the school curricula, a proportionate division based on percentage can be introduced into educational programs.

Improved links between local employers and schools highlighting regional aspects:

The involvement of employers can be increased by means of negotiating "school educational programs" with school authorities.

Introduction of new, innovative methods through Teacher's guides:

Teachers' Guides are one of the possible tools transferring the state education programs to practical class teaching plans.

AmCham sincerely hopes that by providing these comments, which are built on the broad experience and expertise of our member companies from the European Union, Slovakia and the United States, we can contribute to a higher quality of the proposed legislation.

In March 2008, AmCham Slovakia released a special issue of its Connection Magazine, which included concrete case studies of successful business-academic cooperation of AmCham member companies. AmCham will further continue in these and similar efforts and we hope to present even more results of our activities in this area in the upcoming months.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

For thirteen years already, AmCham Slovakia has organized the annual Thanksgiving Charity Drive. This project is an opportunity for all member companies to support projects that are not necessarily related to their scope of business, but can have an immense impact on the lives of many people. Each year, the proceeds from the Thanksgiving Charity Drive are distributed to charitable organizations, children's homes, senior homes and other nonprofit organizations operating in Slovakia.

Because of the extensive efforts and generous contributions of many AmCham members to the AmCham Thanksgiving Charity Drive 2007, in the past year, AmCham Slovakia was able to distribute 1,118,500 SKK to 11 charitable organizations throughout Slovakia. Distributing this amount makes the past year's efforts the most successful Charity Drive in the history of this important activity.

Realizing the need for dealing with the issue of corporate social responsibility with a more complex and systematic approach, AmCham Slovakia has initiated the establishment of the AmCham CSR Committee. The initial meeting of the new Committee was held on February 12, 2008, with participants in both Bratislava and Košice connected by teleconference. Participants discussed possible AmCham actions of the Committee in 2008 which will focus on:

- Collection of case studies on CSR best practices, sharing of experience among AmCham members, and internal (among AmCham members) as well as external promotion of CSR best practices of AmCham member companies.
- Preparation of a White Paper on Slovakia's CSR Policy and an active dialogue with the Ministry of Economy; Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of SR; UNDP; European Commission and other relevant stakeholders.
- Consultation and regular professional advice with regards to the Annual AmCham Charity Drive Project and other AmCham CSR-related activities and projects.

In the course of the upcoming months, AmCham Slovakia plans to devote its time and energy more intensively to issues such as environmentally and socially-orientated community projects, volunteerism, corporate governance, ethical behaviour in business, and fair trade.

We sincerely hope that by being involved in these planned activities, our members will not only find value in being members of such a diverse and active association as AmCham Slovakia, but they will also appreciate the opportunity to have a positive impact on the community in which they live and work.



Rodolphe Valle, former U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia



H.E. Vincent Obsitnik, U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia



AmCham is an organization that fosters and provides a forum for expansion of commercial, cultural, educational and scientific exchanges that ensure public understanding of and support for the US-Slovak relations.

AMBASSADOR'S ROUNDTABLES

AmCham enjoys excellent standing with the U.S. Embassy evident from our everyday communication, through events, to the most sensitive policy related activities. Based on our meetings and communication with the new U.S. Ambassador Vincent Obsitnik, AmCham continues in our series of **Roundtable Meetings with the U.S. Ambassador** at his Residence started by His Excellency's predecessor Mr. Rodolphe Vallee. These meetings enable AmCham members from various sectors to benefit from the relations with the U.S. Embassy.

- **April 25, 2006** – Roundtable meeting on “Manufacturing and Production: Automotive & Related Industry”
- **November 9, 2006** – Roundtable meeting on “Involvement of the Private Sector in the Slovak Educational System”
- **February 9, 2007** – Roundtable meeting on “Labor Law in SR” with Viera Tomanová, Minister of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of SR
- **July 17, 2007** – Roundtable meeting on “Corporate Social Responsibility” with several NGOs representatives and AmCham member companies
- **September 4, 2007** – Roundtable meeting on “Competitiveness”
- **February 8, 2008** – Roundtable meeting on “Business-Academic Cooperation, U.S. Experience”

VISA INTERVIEW PROGRAM

The U.S. Embassy and AmCham also continue in the program aimed at ensuring that **AmCham business visa applicants receive a timely interview appointment** for short-notice business travel that requires an immediate interview.

Members of AmCham are able to schedule an appointment for a visa interview with only one day's notice. This process ensures that urgent business trips of AmCham members will not be delayed due to an unavailable interview appointment time.

AmCham is also happy to provide **letters of recommendation** for member companies requiring it in order to support securing of U.S. visa.

VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

Ján Kubiš, Minister of Foreign Affairs of SR encouraged AmCham to lobby intensively for inclusion of Slovakia in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program. The details of the issue of

qualifying Slovakia for the inclusion in the Program were later discussed with **Ministry of Foreign Affairs State Secretary Štrofóvá**. She publicly acknowledged the positive role that AmCham plays in the issue and encouraged us to continue in our lobbying efforts.

Based on the feedback we received from our members, AmCham formulated a **letter to the US Congress**, which was sent to the relevant decision-makers.

In August 2007, the U.S. Congress authorized Department of Homeland Security to reform the Visa Waiver Program to expand the conditions to join the program. This new act changes the nonimmigrant visa refusal rate threshold from 3% to 10%, thus **making Slovakia qualify for inclusion in the Visa Waiver Program**.

VISIT OF THE U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TRADE PROMOTION IN BRATISLAVA

AmCham hosted a **luncheon of the AmCham Board of Directors with Mr. Israel Hernandez**, Assistant Secretary for Trade Promotion and Director General of the U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service, U.S. Department of Commerce. Mr. Hernandez, as the single point of contact in the U.S. government for trade promotion and business advocacy assistance, oversees a global operation of more than 1,700 employees operating in 47 states and 80 countries.

The American Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic cordially invites you to a / Vás srdečne pozývame na

Breakfast and Seminar

Topic / Téma
"How to Find and Successfully Sell to US Importers"
/"Ako nájsť amerických importérov a úspešne s nimi obchodovať"

Because of increasing concerns about the quality and safety of some imported products, many US importers are beginning to look for new suppliers in European countries. With this in mind, AmCham Bratislava is offering to increase access to Slovak suppliers to US markets. Therefore, AmCham, in cooperation with the American Importers Association and the Ministry of Economy of SR, is organizing two high-level seminars likely to help you find US importers, sell to them, and reap the benefits of doing so.

Vzhľadom na rastúce obavy o kvalitu a bezpečnosť niektorých importovaných výrobkov, mnohí americkí importéri začínajú vyhľadávať nových dodávateľov v európskych krajinách. S týmto na mysli, AmCham Bratislava ponúka zvýšiť prístup slovenských dodávateľov k americkým trhom. Preto, AmCham, v spolupráci s Americkou asociáciou importérov a Ministerstvom hospodárstva SR, organizuje dve vysoké úrovňové semináre, ktoré vám pomôžu nájsť amerických importérov, predávať im a získať prínosy z toho.

With / s
Phillip W. Byrd, Director General of the American Importers Association
Peter Žiga, State Secretary, Ministry of Economy

March 19, 2008 Radisson SAS Carlton Hotel, Bratislava from 8 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

8 a.m. - Registration and breakfast buffet / Registrácia a raňajky
 8.30 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Presentation and discussion with coffee break / Prednáška a diskusia s kávou

Entrance fee: This seminar is FREE OF CHARGE for attendees including a CD containing contact information for 11,000 American importers. (Vstupné vrátane 11,000 amerických importérov zdarma, vrátane CD obsahujúceho kontaktné údaje.)

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or for more information call +421 (0) 2 584 6155, for more information call +421 (0) 2 584 6154
 Poznámka: pre viac informácií zavolať +421 (0) 2 584 6155, pre viac informácií zavolať +421 (0) 2 584 6154

"HOW TO EXPORT TO THE U.S." SEMINARS

AmCham was also a host of two seminars in Košice and Bratislava respectively, with the purpose of sparking interest of Slovak businesses to export their products to the US. The keynote speaker - **Mr. Phillip Byrd, Director General of the American Importers Association (AIA)** - advised Slovak entrepreneurs on how to successfully compete with other exporters and gain both interest and trust from American importers. These seminars were held under the auspices of the Ministry of Economy whose State Secretary Peter Žiga came to open the Bratislava event.

The message from the American Importers Association for Slovak producers considering exporting to the US is short and simple: top-notch presentation, low price and reliability. The American Chamber of Commerce is here to help you contact the importers in your area of business.

The past year was undoubtedly challenging, but we hope that **AmCham Slovakia's position has been significantly strengthened with respect to its presence, visibility and impact in Slovakia.** In addition to our publications and policy/advocacy and CSR efforts, over the past year, **AmCham members have had an opportunity to participate in nearly 100 events and activities organized by AmCham Slovakia.** We hope that each and every member was able to find something of a value in our active organization.

Let us provide you with a brief overview of some of the most significant AmCham successes in 2007:

MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Using the advantage of AmCham's economic strength and representative character, our Chamber is **able to provide its member companies with a significant number of meetings with various experts and legislators.** Some highlights of 2007 include AmCham hosting meetings (mostly in the form of Business Breakfasts) with:

- **seven ministers of the Slovak Government,**
- **five state secretaries of the Slovak Government,**
- **Prime Minister Robert Fico with the AmCham Board of Directors**

In addition, at its events and meetings in the past twelve months, AmCham hosted:

- **Slovakia's First Lady,**
- **thirteen Slovak Members of the Parliament,**
- **four Advisors to the Ministers and PM,**
- **three Members of the European Parliament, and Members of two cabinets of EU Commissioners.**

PUBLICATIONS

One of the main roles of AmCham is to act as a valuable, reliable and consistent source of information. Our publications are just useful tools we provide information to our members. Our publications include:

- AmCham "Connection" Magazine
- Annual Membership Directory
- Slovakia Brochure
- AmCham Annual Report
- AmCham Website
- AmCham Monthly News
- AmCham Legislative and Policy Updates
- Other smaller updates, leaflets and brochures

In the past year, we have made every effort to **improve our publications and provide you with the most up-to-date and useful information** which can assist you and your company business operations in Slovakia.

ADVOCACY/POLICY

The opportunity to be part of a powerful unified and representative voice is also one of the advantages of AmCham membership. AmCham comments and position

statements on various issues are often considered by the decision-makers and incorporated directly into the legislation. From this perspective, the major advocacy success stories of 2007 are:

- **Labor Code Revision** - approximately **30 percent of AmCham's comments were incorporated in the final version** of the legislation and AmCham was involved in all phases of the legislative process;
- **Social Insurance Law** – **two out of three** of AmCham's main messages were partly accepted by the legislators and incorporated in the final version of the Social Insurance Law;
- **Offset Guidelines** – the original proposal of the new rules for offset operations which would have a negative effect on our member companies was, with AmCham's involvement, stopped shortly before the relevant Government session and the proposal was revised; and
- **Income Tax Act** – **90 percent** of AmCham comments on the Income Tax Act were accepted and incorporated in the final version of this legislation.
- **Law on Vocational Education** – AmCham was invited to participate in drafting the legislation on vocational education and financial education.

We hope that these successes clearly demonstrate that **AmCham provides its members with the power to shape the business environment of Slovakia!**

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In the past year, AmCham Slovakia has also **confirmed its role as a responsible corporate citizen of Slovakia.** Within our traditional AmCham Thanksgiving Charity Drive Project, we managed to collect over **one million Slovak crowns** from AmCham member companies to be distributed to eleven needy charity, health care and educational organizations in various regions of Slovakia. **Thanks to everybody who contributed! Together, we help to change the lives of many people for the better!**

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST . . .


. . . one of our 2007 major achievements is that AmCham refurbished two of its homes – both our real and virtual homes:

- In January 2007, **AmCham moved to new, more representative premises** in Hotel Crowne Plaza, and
- In February 2007, we **launched an improved, more effective version of our website.**

We will be glad to welcome you into both of our homes!

We sincerely hope that through these achievements and improvements, AmCham will be able to provide even more value-added services to our members for many years to come.

Come join us!
We're making things happen!



The American Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia
Crowne Plaza, Hodžovo nám. 2, 811 06 Bratislava

Tel: (4212) 5464 0534, Fax: (4212) 5464 0535
E-mail: office@amcham.sk, Web: www.amcham.sk

Košice Office: Hlavná 6, 040 01 Košice
Tel: (42155) 720 5218, E-mail: kosice@amcham.sk