



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

AMCHAM HAS A NEW WEBSITE!



PROFILES OF NEW MEMBERS

As our Membership Directory is published only once a year, you may want to include this company in your directory for future purposes. Thank you.

- [ETS Global BV](#) – General Member
- [ALEF Distribution SK, s.r.o.](#) – General Member
- [Axelpartners](#) – General Member
- [Brandcom PR](#) – General Member
- [Passo \(Sheron\)](#) – Patron Member

This link brings you to a Membership Area requiring your company's password! If you do not have it or have lost it, please contact the AmCham office.

Manage your company information, add or update your contact preferences for your partners, members of AmCham anytime at www.amcham.sk! To check your current information and profile, log in to the Membership Area. Login requires your company's password, so if you have lost or forgotten it, please contact the AmCham office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We would like to inform you that you can register for all AmCham events on our website www.amcham.sk !

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Tax Seminar on "Changes in Tax Legislation"

- The Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Slovakia invite you to a TAX SEMINAR, Under the auspices of the **Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of SR Ivan Mikloš**
- Sponsored by **BMB Leitner, Ernst & Young, VGD - AVOS TAX k.s.**
- Hotel Crowne Plaza, Bratislava, from 1.30 PM to 5 P.M.

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Slovak Elections 2012: Business Perspective

- Pre-election debate with political parties followed by a Business Cocktail, organized by AmCham in cooperation

with 12 foreign chambers of commerce and Slovak Business Alliance – **Registration is FULL!**

- Business Cocktail Sponsored by: **Hotel Radisson Blu Carlton, T-Systems Slovakia, UniCredit Bank Slovakia, HSBC Bank, Hewlett-Packard Slovakia**
- **Last chance to become a sponsor of the business cocktail and get extra seats at the pre-election debate!**
Contact us at: anna.michalkova@amcham.sk
- Debate: From 4 PM to 7 PM; Business Cocktail: From 7 PM
- Hotel Radisson Blu Carlton, Bratislava

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Job Fair 2012 - – Košice Event

- This year's AmCham Job Fair will open the door to your recruiting efforts across Slovakia. We will bring in the talent for you to meet, greet and recruit for positions in your company.
- Hotel Doubletree by Hilton, Hlavná 1, Košice, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday, March 5, 2012

Business Seminar – Eurozone: Beyond the Crisis

- **SPECIAL EVENT for PATRON & CORPORATE Members**
- Economic experts from Slovakia and abroad will discuss the different scenarios of future development in Eurozone, and the implications for Slovakia.
- Keynote speaker: **Jürgen KRÖGER**, Director of Economies of the Member States, at DG ECFIN, European Commission.
- Hotel Radisson Blu Carlton, Bratislava, from 12:00 to 15:00
- **Would you like to become a sponsor of this event and have your experts participate in the discussion panel? Contact us at:** anna.michalkova@amcham.sk

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

7th Regional Tax Conference, Prague, Czech Republic

- How has the ongoing financial crisis influenced planned reforms?
- What is Brussels planning that will change national tax environments?
- How can tax be used as a policy tool to address regional economic needs?
- **Perspective for Central Europe:** Mark Allen, IMF Senior Regional Representative for Central Europe.
- **Czech Public Finance Reforms:** Czech Finance Minister Miroslav Kalousek.
- The conference will be followed by the Leadership Cocktail for conference participants and invited guests.

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

AmCham General Assembly 2012

- At this exceptional event, we will present our activities, achievements and major advocacy successes in 2011. Come, and be the first to hear the election results and announcement of new Board members!
- From 18.00 to 21:00

We are currently planning seminars on **data protection and **intellectual property rights**. Interested? Contact us at:** anna.michalkova@amcham.sk

More events are being planned and will be on our website as they are finalized.

PAST EVENTS

Presentations and pictures from past AmCham events can be found at: <http://www.amcham.sk/?Gallery&id=1>

Monday, December 5, 2011

Business Seminar: “Public Procurement in Practice”

- Sponsored by: **Allen & Overy, Ernst & Young and Accenture**
- Hotel Crowne Plaza, Bratislava

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Christmas Business Cocktail – Košice Event

- Sponsored by: **Erste Group Immorent, Slovenská sporiteľňa, Doubletree by Hilton**
- Hotel Doubletree by Hilton, Košice

Monday, December 12, 2011

Conference – FDI: Strategies & Future Prospects

- Sponsored by: **Adecco Group, KPMG, PwC, Slovenská sporiteľňa, HP, Bekaert, CEPIT, Allen & Overy, Ecopoint**
- Hotel Sheraton, Bratislava

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Thanksgiving Charity Drive 2011

- At this event, we assisted the needy charities who have appealed to us for assistance or who have been suggested by our members as potential recipients
- Hotel Crowne Plaza, Bratislava

Friday, December 16, 2011

Business Breakfast on “IBM 2011 CIO Study”

- Sponsored by IBM Slovakia
- Park Inn Danube, Bratislava

AMCHAM IN THE MEDIA

- On December 7, **Hospodarske noviny** published a report on the HN Club discussion regarding problems of regional administrations. Natalia Poliaková was mentioned in the report, as her question on funding was selected among the most relevant ones in the discussion.
- On December 12 and 13, several media including **TA3, TASR, Radio Lumen, SME, EurActiv, openiazoch.zoznam.sk** and **Hospodarske noviny** informed the public about the AmCham FDI Strategy, which was presented at the conference – FDI: Strategies & Future Prospects.
- On **December 13, Profit** published an article on the Green Riders Initiative. Natalia Poliaková commented on the initiative with regards to tourism in Bratislava, stating that the Green Riders Initiative will have a positive impact on the transportation system and security.
- An article about AmCham Slovakia, based on an interview with Jake Slegers, was published in the December edition of the magazine **Voice**, published by **AmCham Hungary**.
- On December 16, 2011, **EurActiv.sk** organized a discussion about the future developments of the EU with Prime Minister Radičová. AmCham's executive director Jake Slegers provided his input in the discussion, stressing the need for EU states to remain united in their diversity.
- In the January 2012 issue, the **Forbes** magazine published a report from the AmCham conference on FDI: Strategies & Future Prospects, including the ten steps to win the FDI race.
- On January 26, 2012, **Trend** magazine published an interview with AmCham President, Igor Kottman, about the situation in the Slovak banking sector.
- On January 30, 2012, **Hospodárske noviny** published an extensive article on the challenges faced by small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Slovakia, including problems with business start ups. While mentioning some of the challenges, Jake Slegers cited the results of AmCham SME Survey, pointing out problems that SMEs face with administrative burden, business property issues, legal issues and financial aspects. He also mentioned that AmCham has two seats reserved for SMEs in the Board of Directors, and that AmCham educates starting entrepreneurs through different programs such as Mentor Network, courses at universities and workshops for

SMEs.

POLICY UPDATES

[Business-Academic Cooperation Committee](#)

- AmCham has declared 2012 as the “**Year of Education!**” We are currently in the process of forming **working groups** which will cover topics including **primary schools, vocational education and training, high school education and university education**. Additionally, we will promote various educational programs and initiatives on a bi-weekly basis on our website. Our efforts will culminate in a conference dedicated to education which will take place at the end of October/ beginning of November 2012.
- We are preparing the **Mentor Network Program** in **Kosice**. The first orientation meeting will take place on February 29, 2012 and the reception will take place on March 22, 2011.
- We are finalizing the new Business-Academic Brochure which will feature new AmCham projects and success stories from the past.
- The next Committee meeting will take place on **February 22, 2012** with guests from INEKO, and City University of Seattle who will provide us with information on surveys on quality of education and quality of graduates, conducted in 2011.

[Employment and Social Affairs Committee](#)

- AmCham Slovakia supported the letter of AmCham EU and Business Europe partners on the changes in the directive on intra-corporate transfers (ICT), by sending it to the Slovak MEPs. We are also **planning a seminar on economic migration and the ICT directive, after the elections, in April 2012**.

[Energy Committee](#)

- On December 5, 2011, the Committee met with Ludovit Jurcik (SaS) and Anton Letko (KDH) regarding the energy agenda in their party programs for upcoming elections.
- On December 15, 2011, the Committee representatives presented the **position paper on the EC proposal of taxation of energy products** to Mr. Adrian Belanik, the director of the tax and customs section at the Ministry of Finance, and his staff.
- The first Energy Committee meeting in 2012 took place on January 17, 2012. The Committee discussed its goals and plans in 2012. On the same day, the Board approved a **position paper on tariffs for own power generation**, which the Committee hopes to present to the representatives at the Regulatory Office.

[EU Affairs Committee](#)

- The first Committee meeting in 2012 took place on **February 1, 2012**. Our guest was Dr. **Sandra Salamonova**, the director of the Section for the Coordination of EU Funds at the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development. We discussed the current status and the development of Slovak position towards the **National Strategic Framework for 2014-2020**.

[FDI Committee](#)

- The first Committee meeting in 2012 took place on January 19, 2012. The members discussed plans for 2012, including a **strategy for government acceptance of the AmCham FDI Strategy**, approaching identified stakeholders, publication and advertising of the document.

Healthcare Committee

- The Committee meeting took place on February 2, 2012 and the topic was **Telemedicine**. The speakers were Mr. Bardevit of IBM and Mr. Velicky from the National Center for Telemedicine.

Public Procurement Task Force

- The first Public Procurement Task Force meeting will take place on **February 7, 2012 at 10:00 AM**. At the meeting, we will discuss our goals and aims for 2012. Specifically, we will talk about the AmCham Call to the new government, and we will discuss possible cooperation with the Minerva 2.0 team at the Ministry of Finance.

Tax Committee

- The next TAX Committee meeting will take place on **February 3, 2012**. We plan to discuss potential position paper with regards to our goals for 2012, and the call to the new government.

Tourism Committee

- The most recent Committee Meeting took place on December 16, 2011. Our guests were Ms. Potocarova, coordinator of DMO at City Bratislava, and Ms. Ninajova, Founder of Cluster Liptov. We discussed the set up of the DMO, presented our comments and started a discussion on the best practices from similar models, which are already working in Slovakia.
- On December 20, 2011, the First Assembly Meeting to DMO took place, establishing the **Destination Management Organization – Bratislava Tourist Board**.

AMCHAM "CONNECTION" MAGAZINE



The **November/December** issue of *Connection* concerns topics related to Corporate Responsibility & Philanthropy. The issue features experiences with CSR from several AmCham member companies: Ernst & Young, US Steel Kosice, QSI Bratislava and PwC. Additionally, you can find several interesting analyses, including Accace's evaluation of amendments to the Labor Code.

Selected articles from previous issues are available through our website, please click [here](#).

The topic of the January/February issue of *Connection* is **Real Estate Market and Banking & Finance**. Present your company through an expert article, PR article, PR interview, short press release in the "Member News" section or advertisement! For more information contact our Editorial Team at connection@amcham.sk.

The issue plan for 2012 can be found [here](#).

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Come join us! We're making things happen!

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