

**KONZERVATÍVNY
INŠTITÚT
M. R. ŠTEFÁNKA**
M. R. STEFANIK
CONSERVATIVE
INSTITUTE

Annual Report 2008

**Bratislava
2009**

Milan Rastislav Štefánik Conservative Institute (hereunder as CI) is an independent non-profit NGO. CI is a think-tank with conservative orientation established as non-investment foundation on May 4th, 1999. It was registered at Regional Authority in Bratislava on June 2nd, 1999, under no. 99/602/87 – NF. Mr. Ján Králik is the establisher of CI. Mr. Peter Zajac (the chairman), Mr. Ján Králik (deputy chairman) and Mr. Vladimír Čečetka (member) constitute the **Board of Directors of CI**. Mr. Ondrej Dostál as the CI administrator is **the statutory body** from 2001. Andrea Gondová is the CI controller. Neither CI statute nor CI bodies underwent changes during 2008.

In 2008, there were seven **employees** in CI: it's administrator and director Mr. Ondrej Dostál, project manager Ms. Dana Feketeová, macroeconomist Mr. Peter Gonda, an analyst for education issues Ms. Zuzana Humajová, communication manager and analyst for agricultural and environmental issues Mr. Radovan Kazda, coordinator of foreign relations, Konzervatívne listy editor, CI website administrator and analyst for regional policy and government issues Mr. Dušan Sloboda and foreign policy and European affairs analyst Mr. Ivan Kuhn. Approximately 20 more fellow workers were co-operating in CI activities.

Unlike some other think tanks, CI activities are not aimed to one single specific area of public affairs and the life of the society. The common factor of these activities is their basement in the conservative values and point of view related to the society and liberal attitude in the economics. CI activities serve for public interest. Their outcome becomes freely available to public and to the citizens, media, decision makers, and political parties and also to other NGOs.

In 2008, CI carried out projects and activities to fulfill it's aim, i.e. mainly the development and protection of conservative democratic values and support of civic activities aimed to develop such values in Slovakia as well as the support of culture, research and education.

CI Projects

In 2008, CI continued organizing lectures of important foreign economists within the cycle of **Conservative Economic Quarterly Lecture Series (CEQLS)**. Four lectures were carried out in 2008. Mr. Peter Gonda was the project coordinator.

In 2008, CI continued running the **Classic Economy Academy** project, starting with the second grade. Within this project, seminars on economic issues took place. Mr. Peter Gonda was the project coordinator.

In 2008, CI concluded the **Education for Life** project, aimed to education of primary-school teachers. Mr. Peter Zajac was the project coordinator and Ms. Zuzana Humajová was the project manager.

In 2008, CI executed the **Eurofunds Watchdog – Decrease of the Risk of Corruption through Monitoring of Projects Financed from the EU Funds** project. Mr. Ivan Kuhn was the project coordinator. This project continues in 2009.

In 2008, CI carried out the **Support to Slovak Value-Oriented Foreign Policy** project. Mr. Ivan Kuhn was the project coordinator. This project continues in 2009.

Conferences, Seminars, Conservative Clubs and Other Events Organized by CI

In 2008, CI performed various conferences, seminars, Conservative Clubs and lectures with discussions.

On January 14th, 2008, The Lord Byron Foundation for Balkan Studies, The Chronicles Magazine, **M. R. Štefánik Conservative Institute** and the Impulz journal organized an international conference on **Kosovo and It's Independence** in Bratislava. The following personalities were discussing on the topic: Mr. James Bissett, Canada, Chairman of The Lord Byron Foundation, Mr. Ján Čarnogurský, former Slovak Prime Minister, Mr. Dušan Čaplovič, Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Alexander Duleba, SFPA, Mr. Srdja Trifkovic, USA, Chronicles Magazine, Mr. James Jatras, USA, Chairman of The American Council for Kosovo, Mr. František Lipka, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, former Slovak ambassador, Mr. Matyáš Zrno, Civic Institute Prague, Czech Republic, Mr. Roman Bužek, Director General of the Political Affairs Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Vladimír Palko, a Member of Parliament, Mr. Peter Zajac, Chairman of CI and Mr. József Berényi, a Member of Parliament. Jaroslav Daniška and Jozef Majchrák moderated the discussion.

On February 22nd, 2008, CI organized a public discussion on 60th anniversary of the coup d'État in February 1948 called **February 1948 – A History or Current Threat?** The participants of the discussion were Mr. László Öllös, politologist, Mr. Vladimír Palko, a Member of Parliament, Mr. Peter Zajac, Chairman of CI and Mr. Tomáš Zálešák, politologist and CI fellow worker. The Editor in Chief of the .týždeň weekly, Mr. Štefan Hríb, moderated the discussion.

On March 3rd, 2008, CI organized a conference in Bratislava called **What Could Be the Slovakia's Benefit from the Eurozone Membership?** The following personalities discussed: Mr. Ivan Šramko, the Governor of the NBS, Mr. František Palko, State Secretary of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Ján Oravec, the President of the Entrepreneurs Association of Slovakia (ZPS), Mr. Ján Tóth, Senior Economist of the ING Bank and the Chairman of the Slovak Association of Economic Analysts (KEA) and Mr. Peter Gonda, the CI economist. Mr. Robert Žitňanský, an editor of .týždeň, moderated the discussion.

On March 17th, 2008, CI organized another CEQLS lecture in Bratislava in collaboration with SKOI. Mr. Pierre Garello, a professor of economics in Université Paul Cézanne Aix-Marseille, gave a lecture on **The Third Way as a Dead-End Street: French Experience.**

On April 10th, 2008, CI organized the 26th Conservative Club in Bratislava; this time, the topic was **September 2008 – What Will Bring In the Educational Reform?** The participants were Mr. Miron Zelina, Institute of Humanities of the Comenius University, the adviser of the Minister of Education, Mr. Martin Mojžiš, Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics of the Comenius University, Ms.

Veronika Adamčíková, Pedagogické vydavateľstvo Didaktis s. r. o., Ms. Beáta Tóthová, Žiar nad Hronom grammar school and Ms. Zuzana Humajová, CI analyst.

On April 22nd, 2008, CI in collaboration with Center for Economics and Policy, Prague, Czech Republic, organized the screening of **The Great Global Warming Swindle** documentary film in the Mladost' cinema in Bratislava. Before the film projection, an awarding ceremony of the **2007 Student's Essay** contest on the topic called **Global Warming – the Truth and Social Myths (Why Al Gore Should Not Be Awarded with the Nobel Prize?)** took place. The Student's Essay jury decided about the awardees after an anonymous evaluation of more than 40 essays as follows:

1st place: Mr. Pavol Minárik, Faculty of Economics and Public Administration of the University of Economics in Prague, Czech Republic.

2nd place: Ms. Terézia Píšiiová, Grammar School in Párovská 1, Nitra

3rd place: Mr. František Lipták, Faculty of Economics of the Technical University in Košice and the Faculty of Law of the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice.

Ms. Mária Balgová, Bilingual Milan Hodža Grammar School, Sučany
Ms. Ivana Krišová, Faculty of Law of the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice.

On April 28th, 2008, CI organized a professional discussion on the **Committees of Inquiry of the National Council of the Slovak Republic** in Bratislava. Mr. Daniel Lipšic, a Member of Parliament (Christian Democratic Movement), Mr. Radoslav Procházka, attorney-at-law, Mr. Ernest Valko, attorney-at-law and Mr. Jozef Vozár, attorney-at-law were the participants. Mr. Ondrej Dostál, CI director, was the moderator.

The following Conservative Club organized by CI took place in Bratislava on April 28th, 2008. This time, the topic was **Where the EU is Heading To After the Treaty of Lisbon Approval?** Mr. Ondrej Dostál, CI director and coordinator of the Initiative Against the European Constitution, was the moderator.

On May 22nd, 2008, Association for Social Reform, SOCIA Foundation and CI organized jointly a seminar called **Bridges Out Of Poverty** with Ms. Ruby Payne (U.S.).

On June 4th, 2008, CI in collaboration with Center for Economics and Policy, Prague, Czech Republic, organized another **screening of The Great Global Warming Swindle documentary film** in Bratislava.

On June 12th, 2008, CI organized another CEQLS lecture in Bratislava in collaboration with SKOI. This time, the topic was **Heterogeneity and Competition Management in Switzerland: An Example for Europe?**. The lecture was given by Ms. Victoria Curzon-Price, a professor of economics in the University of Geneva and the Mont Pèlerin Society vice president.

On June 17th, 2008, CI, with the support of Open Society Institute, organized a conference on **Value Orientation of the Foreign Policy of the Slovak**

Republic in Bratislava. In this conference, the CI fellow workers Mr. Svetozár Gavora and Mr. Ondrej Schütz, Mr. Eduard Kukan, Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, Mr. František Šebej, an editor of *.týždeň*, Mr. Ivan Kuhn, CI analyst, Mr. Jeff Lovitt, PASOS, Mr. Grigorij Mesežnikov, Institute for Public Affairs, Ms. Nora Beňáková, People in Peril, Ms. Zuzana Fialová, an adviser in human rights, security and development aid issues, gave their lectures. Mr. Ondrej Dostál, Mr. Jozef Majchrák and Mr. Ivan Kuhn were the moderators.

On September 11th, 2008, CI in co-operation with SKOI, organized in Bratislava another lecture included in the CEQLS cycle – this time on **Private vs. Public Pension Schemes** by Mr. José Piñera, the Chairman of The International Center for Pension Reform and the designer of the Chilean pension reform.

On September 24th, 2008, CI organized a conference on **Primary Schools in the Reform Processes** in Bratislava. Ms. Zuzana Humajová, Mr. Peter Zajac, Mr. Martin Mojžiš, Mr. Marian Timoracký, Mr. Branislav Pupala, Ms. Anna Chlupíková and Ms. Jarmila Maliariková gave their lectures in this conference.

On September 26th, 2008, CI organized in Bratislava a discussion named **Do the Depots Belong Inside the Towns?** Ms. Zuzana Čaputová and Mr. Jaroslav Pavlovič from the civic initiative called No Depot Belongs to the Town from Pezinok were the participants. Mr. Peter Zajac was the moderator.

On October 9th, 2008, CI organized another Conservative Club discussion. The updated topic of **Financial Crisis: A Failure of Capitalism?** was discussed by Mr. Juraj Sipko, an adviser of the Governor of the NBS, Mr. Juraj Barta, Senior Economist of Slovenská sporiteľňa and Mr. Juraj Karpiš, INESS analyst. Mr. *Peter Gonda*, the CI economist, was the moderator.

On October 27th, 2008, CI in co-operation with EUportál.cz and Instytut Sobieskiego organized an international conference on **The European Union Future – A View from Central Europe** in Bratislava. Mr. Lukáš Petřík, a politologist, EUportal.cz, Mr. Maciej Ruczaj, journalist and external fellow worker, Międzynarodowy Przegląd Polityczny, Mr. Ondrej Dostál, CI Director, Mr. Petr Mach, Director of Center for Economics and Policy, Mr. Róbert Ondrejcsák, Executive Director of Center for European and North Atlantic Studies, Mr. Mateusz Gniazdowski, politologist, The Polish Institute of International Affairs, Ms. Anna Záborská, a Member of European Parliament, Mr. Paweł Szalamacha, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Sobieski Institute, Mr. Alexander Tomský, professor of European Political History, and Mr. Tomáš Zálešák, politologist, University of Trnava, CI fellow worker. Mr. Lukáš Petřík, Mr. Ivan Kuhn and Mr. Maciej Ruczaj were the moderators.

On October 29th, 2008, CI in partnership with the College of Management opened the second year of seminars on economics called **Classic Economy Academy**.

On December 2nd, 2008, INESS and CI organized jointly the discussion forum on **Public Funds in the Environment of the Global Financial Crisis** in

Bratislava. Mr. Zdenko Krajčír, the Director of Institute of Finance Policy, Mr. Peter Gonda, the CI economist, Mr. Ján Tóth, Chairman of the Slovak Association of Economic Analysts and the Senior Economist of ING Bank Slovensko and Mr. Radovan Ďurana, INESS analyst gave their lectures. The Deputy Editor in Chief of the .týždeň weekly, Mr. Robert Žitňanský, moderated the discussion.

On December 4th, 2008, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Bratislava organized in collaboration with CI a discussion called **Independence – Solidarity – Freedom** in Bratislava in memory of 90th anniversaries of foundation of modern Poland and of foundation of Czechoslovakia. After the introductory speech of Mr. Bogdan Wrzochalski, the First Counselor of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, the following personalities participate in the discussion: Mr. Ján Čarnogurský, former dissident, Mr. Milan Zemko, historian, Mr. Tomáš Zálešák, politologist and CI fellow worker, Mr. Łukasz Adamski, politologist and historian and Mr. Radosław Zenderowski, politologist and historian. The final words belonged to His Excellency Mr. Andrzej Krawczyk, the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Bratislava. Mr. Jaroslav Daniška, editor of .týždeň and CI fellow worker, moderated the discussion.

On December 10th, 2008, CI in co-operation with the Library of the University of Trnava organized in Trnava a lecture of Mr. Marcel Guarnizo, Chairman of the Educational Initiative for Central and Eastern Europe, on **Economics, Philosophy and Foundations of Democracy**.

On December 10th, 2008, CI organized another CEQLS lecture in Bratislava in collaboration with SKOI and with support of the Penta Foundation. Mr. Marcel Guarnizo, Chairman of the Educational Initiative for Central and Eastern Europe, gave a lecture on **Economics, Philosophy and Foundations of Democracy**.

Lectures, Introductions and Appearances

In 2008, CI analysts and fellows also gave specialized lectures and appearances on events organized by other institutions and participated in public discussions in the media.

On January 18th, 2008, the CI economist Mr. Peter Gonda gave a lecture and discussed in Žilina within the LaRED club on the following topic: **Which Will Be the Impacts of the Euro Introduction on Us?**

On January 30th, 2008, BIH organized a discussion on **Treaty of Lisbon – Hopes and Doubts** in the BISLA headquarters in Bratislava. Mr. František Šebej, an editor of .týždeň and CI fellow worker discussed with Mr. Vladimír Bilčík, SFGA and Department of Political Sciences of Faculty of Philosophy of Comenius University.

On March 5th, 2008 Mr. *Peter Gonda*, the CI economist, gave a lecture on **Problems of European Monetary Integration in (not only) Slovakia** within the international conference called „Role of Law in the Currency Succession Process“ held in the Faculty of Law of Comenius University in Bratislava between March 4th and 6th, 2008.

On March 18th, 2008 in Trnava and April 22nd, 2008 in Stará Turá, Mr. Peter Gonda, the CI economist, gave lecture and discussed on **The Euro – Which Will Be the Impacts of Its Introduction on Us?** SKOI organized these lectures.

On April 7th, 2008, a conference on **Treaty of Lisbon** took place in the University of Economics in Bratislava. Mr. Ondrej Dostál, the CI Director and Initiative Against the European Constitution coordinator, gave also his lecture in this event.

On April 29th, 2008, a conference called **Treaty of Lisbon – Thumbs Up and Thumbs Down**, took place in Comenius University in Bratislava. ELSA Bratislava organized it and Mr. Ondrej Dostál, the CI Director and Initiative Against the European Constitution coordinator, gave also his lecture there.

On June 14th, 2008, Mr. Peter Gonda, the CI economist, gave a lecture on **Free Market and Ethical Standards** in the conference called **Healthy Entrepreneurial Relations** organized by LaRED and SKOI in Terchová.

On July 19th, 2008, Mr. Radovan Kazda, the CI analyst, participated on the discussion on **Global Warming: Fact or Fiction?**, which took place on the Pohoda festival in Trenčín airport.

On September 8th, 2008, Mr. Peter Gonda, the CI economist, gave a lecture on **Problems of Levies and the Crucial Solution Proposal** on the conference called **Levies – What Should Be Done**, held in Bratislava.

On September 27th, 2008, Mr. Radovan Kazda, the CI analyst, gave a lecture on **Right-Wing Solutions for Environmental Issues** on an event called School of Public Policy organized by the association called New Generation.

On September 30th, 2008, Mr. Ondrej Dostál, the CI Director, gave a lecture on **The Right of the Individuals Belonging to Minorities to Participate on the Solution of Minority Affairs – Constitutional Establishment and Reality in the Slovak Republic** within an international workshop – Ethnical Stability – Ethnical Changes, organized by the Forum Minority Research Institute in Šamorín.

On October 24th, 2008, Katedra Foundation organized a conference for the teachers of the primary and secondary schools with Hungarian as an educational language called **Globalization and Regionalism in Education**. In this conference, also Ms. Zuzana Humajová, the CI analyst, and Mr. Branislav Pupala from the Faculty of Education of the University of Trnava and CI fellow worker.

On November 5th, 2008, Mr. Radovan Kazda, the CI analyst, gave a lecture on **The Government's Instruments in Waste Disposal Policy and Market Features in Waste Management** within the conference called A Waste Management 2008 Day.

Analyses, Studies, Proposals on Reforms and Other CI Expert Activities

In 2008, CI analysts and fellow workers published in media and CI website their articles, analyses and studies related to economics, social policy, school system, agriculture, environment protection, public administration, regional development, civic society, national minorities, European integration and foreign policy. They also presented various professional opinions and proposals by the mean of press conferences and press releases.

On January 25th, 2008, CI issued a press release that the CI analyst Ms. Zuzana Humajová expressed **disagreement with the wording of the new School Act**, as drafted by the Ministry of Education.

On February 19th, 2008, Institute for Public Affairs published the book **Slovakia 2007. A Global Report on the State of Society**. The CI analyst Ms. Zuzana Humajová and the CI fellow worker Mr. Branislav Pupala participated on the editing of the Education chapter.

On February 22nd, 2008, the CI analyst Ms. Zuzana Humajová expressed serious **doubts on the Ministry readiness for the educational reforms** on the CI press conference. Together with the CI fellow worker *Mr. Branislav Pupala*, they called attention to the insufficient preparation of the educational reform.

On February 28th, 2008, the CI analyst Ms. Zuzana Humajová expressed, in a press conference, her concerns that **the Ministry is failing in the educational reform development** and reiterated the senselessness of its launching in September 2008. On March 4th, 2008, CI and other entities **appealed the Minister of Education to withdraw the draft of the new School Act** from the Government session, to remade it and to start wide public discussion thereon as well as to publish all materials related to the reform goals.

On April 10th, 2008, the CI analyst Mr. Radovan Kazda presented, on press conference, the **corruption- and clientelism-related risks analysis for the state-owned land** and the management of the terrains of unknown owners under the care of Slovak Terrains Fund.

In September 2008, CI published a study called **Education for Life. Educational Reform within Societal Context**. Ms. Zuzana Humajová, Mr. Peter Gonda, Mr. Martin Kríž, Mr. Jaroslav Lindák, Mr. Branislav Pupala, Mr. Marian Timoracký and Mr. Peter Zajac are the authors. Ms. Zuzana Humajová is the study editor.

On October 10th, 2008, thirty-eight European think tanks, CI included, issued a common statements on the global financial crisis called **Government Made the Financial Crisis: Let Us Not Make It Worse**.

On November 20th, 2008, the CI economist Mr. Peter Gonda published a study called **Economical and Ethical Grounds of Free Society: Base for Managerial Ethics**, which forms a chapter of the publication of the Faculty of Arts of Prešovská univerzita called Ethics for Management (2008).

On December 9th, 2008, the CI analyst Mr. Ivan Kuhn introduced, on a press conference held in Bratislava, the results of the public opinion poll aimed to the opinions of Slovak citizens related to Slovak foreign policy and to the support of the world-wide democratization.

On September 16th, 2008, the CI analyst Ms. Zuzana Humajová informed that **the draft of the Act on Pedagogical Staff is not in accordance with the reform goals** declared by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic. Within the comments processing procedure, CI proposed substantial modifications.

On December 24th, 2008, an article by CI analyst Mr. Peter Gonda called **Problems of European Monetary Integration in (not only) Slovakia** was published on the CI website; in December 2008, it was published also in the collection of lectures held within the international conference called The Role of Law in Monetary Succession, which took place in the Faculty of Law of the Comenius University in Bratislava between March 4th and 6th, 2008.

Within the **Pedagogical Research Center** project, the analyses of educational systems in Slovakia, Czech Republic and Poland were carried out. These analyses paid special attention to the position of the private schools within the systems.

The project of **Evaluation of Economic and Social Measures in Regions of Slovakia**, carried out by the Institute for Economic and Social Reforms (INEKO), includes the opinions of the analysts, businessmen, mayors, university teachers and scientists, representatives of branch associations and NGOs with regard to the proposed and executed measures of the local governments at the level of municipalities and regions, expressed on quarterly basis. During 2008, one of the evaluators was the CI analyst Mr. Dušan Sloboda. The CI analyst Mr. Peter Gonda was one of the evaluators within the INEKO project of **Evaluation of Economic and Social Measures (HESO)**, which includes also the evaluation of nationwide economical and welfare-related measures. The CI analyst Ms. Zuzana Humajová was one of the evaluators within the INEKO project called **HESO Budget- Education Area**.

Communication Activities of CI

Also in 2008, CI operated the website www.konzervativizmus.sk and by the mean thereof, as well as by the mean of the e-mails, it provided information on its activities and another conservatism-related issues to a wide group of interested persons. CI operated also the English version of its web site on www.institute.sk. Furthermore, in 2008, CI operated the topic-based web sites www.usainfo.sk (dedicated to information on American society and policy and to the relationship between Slovakia and the U.S.), www.euroustava.sk (dedicated to European Constitution issues) and www.noveskolstvo.sk (dedicated to educational issues and educational reform). Mr. Dušan Sloboda was the administrator of the CI web sites.

CI is one of the partners of the **EUserver** project. This is an internet portal aimed to provide all relevant information (new journals, books, studies, invitations to conferences, seminars) from the eurorealistic organizations worCIing within Czech Republic and Slovakia in one single web site.

In 2008, CI published monthly its newsletter called **Konzervatívne listy (Conservative Letters)**. Authors from among the staff and fellow workers of M. R. Stefanik Conservative Institute publish their analyses, studies and comments on current issues, drafts of new laws and various affairs of public policy therein. Also the information on CI activities and happening within the Slovak and foreign conservative communities can be found there. In 2008, 11 numbers of Konzervatívne listy were issued. Mr. Dušan Sloboda was the editor of Konzervatívne listy.

CI analysts and fellow workers published articles in professional and other media, gave their opinions for media and participated in several discussions in electronic media.

In 2008, CI issued the publication called **Education for Life. Educational Reform Contexts**. Ms. Zuzana Humajová, Mr. Martin Kríž, Mr. Branislav Pupala and Mr. Peter Zajac are the authors. Ms. Zuzana Humajová is the publication editor. Simultaneously, CI issued also a DVD with the **Education for Life** project outcomes.

The authors of CI publication **The Forgotten Reading. Readers' Literacy in the Schools** are Ms. Zuzana Humajová and Ms. Zuzana Klačanská.

In 2008, CI continued out also with activities aimed to the edition of **Explanatory Dictionary of Economics**.

Support for Culture and Art

On March 14th, 2008, the Jury of Dominik Tatarka's Prize and CI awarded the **2007 Dominik Tatarka's Prize** to Jozef Jablonický for the book called *Samizdat about Dissent* and to Milan Lasica for that one called *Full Stop*. CI and the Jury of Dominik Tatarka's Prize are awarding this prize yearly. This prize is considered to be the most prestigious Slovak prize for literature and it is dedicated to the author for an exceptional work, which meets the humanistic traditions of Slovak culture and links thereby to the intellectual heritage of Dominik Tatarka.

CI Library

Within CI, there is a **Conservatism Library – CI Documentary Center**. The goal of CI is to build up a documentary basis containing the fundamental works with conservative orientation, conservative magazines, professional texts on conservatism, literature, analyses and studies from different areas of public policy, which would become a professional and information base for expert and analytic teams of CI staff, fellow workers and Board of Directors. The library contains CI publications and simultaneously it is being completed with foreign and national volumes oriented on conservatism and classical liberalism. With regard to the extension of the library, we established closer co-operation with the partner think tanks from abroad. Mr. *Dušan Sloboda* was the coordinator of the project of Conservatism Library.

Civic Activities of CI

On February 5th, 2008, the Initiative for Good Act on Access to Information, where also CI is acting, together with other NGOs, delivered an **appeal to Slovak Government**, which demands the non-approval the amendment of this Act as drafted by the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic.

On February 27th, 2008, the **Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic resolved the complaint of 13 citizens** including the CI analysts, who demanded the accomplishment of referendum on approval of the currently non-applicable European Constitution. According to the Constitutional Court, the European Union has certain features of the state, however, it has not its exclusive nature. The Court said that when the Slovak parliament approved the Euroconstitution, it did not infringe the rights of the citizens who demanded the referendum.

On February 27th, the CI analyst *Mr. Ivan Kuhn* expressed his concern regarding the repeated attempts of some of the representatives of the Government of the Slovak Republic aimed to the intensification of friendly relationship with the totalitarian communist dictatorship in Cuba.

On March 18, 2008, CI participated, in Bratislava, in the organization of protest against the violence in Tibet and for the observance of human rights in P. R. China.

On March 28th, CI, within the *Initiative for Good Act on Access to Information*, supported the **appeal against the curtailing of the Act on free access to information by the Parliament**.

On March 28th, 2008, CI joined other entities, which support the **protest of the journalists against the governmental draft of the Press Act**.

On May 5th, 2008, we joined to the Appeal Against the Liquidation of the National Memory Institute.

On June 19th, 2008, CI, together with INESS and OKS, submitted the comment to the draft of an act issued by the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, which amends the Act No. 300/2005 of L.C., the Penal Code, just in order to satisfy the wishes of the Prime Minister Mr. Robert Fico to punish the traders for increased prices.

On July 10th, 2008, six NGOs, including CI, have sent **an open letter to Slovak sportsmen who will participate the olympic games in Peking this year**. The letter was aimed to inform the olympians about the violations of human rights in P. R. China and to ask them to be sensitive and to evaluate the situation in the host country of the 2008 Olympic Games.

On August 6th, 2008, CI, together with the civic association People in Peril and the Friends of Tibet Association, joined to the demand for President Mr. Gašparovič, who

should express an opinion in favor of observation of the human rights during his visit to P. R. China.

On August 8th, 2008, CI, EKOFÓRUM (a network of environmental NGOs) and the organization called Citizen and Democracy developed a **collective commentary in favor of no reduction of possibilities to comment the drafts of the acts by the public**; such reduction is apparent from the amendment of the Legislative Rules of the Government of the Slovak Republic.

On September 12th, 2008, the appeal **For Truth and Justice Inside the Ministry of Justice** was published. CI agreed with the opinion of the Judge Ms. Jana Dubovcová and appealed to the Minister, Mr. Harabin, to resign from his post. On October 15th, 2008, CI and the civic association Citizen and Democracy received with concern the news on **the cancellation of entry ban for certain Belorussian representatives** including the President Mr. Alexander Lukashenko, approved **by the EU foreign affairs ministers**.

On December 3rd, 2008, a **collective comment on the Act on state language** has been published. Also the CI people were among the initial signatories. The collective comment signatories suggested to leave out from the Act on state language the provisions which regulate the use of state and another languages, the fines for the act infraction and to introduce the possibility to use the Czech language in official contacts.

On December 9th, 2008, CI, .týždeň weekly magazine and Artfórum bookshop organized several events held in Bratislava on the eve of the **Human Rights Day**. In the event called **We All Share the Country**, also the declaration on Human Rights Day was presented.

On December 11th, 2008, an **open letter to the President of the National Council of the Slovak Republic Mr. Pavol Paška**, was published. In this letter, the NGOs representatives including the CI Director, *Mr. Ondrej Dostál*, ask him to amend the Act on elections in order to ensure legal, free and fair contest within the 2009 presidential elections.

On December 11th, 2008, CI joined the protest against the placement of commemorative tablet dedicated to Gustáv Husák.

Mr. Ondrej Dostál was the coordinator of the civic activities.

Foreign Activities of CI

On October 10th, 2008, thirty-eight European think tanks, CI included, issued a common statements on the global financial crisis called **Government Made the Financial Crisis: Let Us Not Make It Worse.**

CI Economy

The non-investment foundation of Konzervatívny inštitút Milana Rastislava Štefánika has had the total revenue of SKK 5,209,615.00 and total costs of SKK 5,209,615.00 in 2008.

The CI income was equal to SKK 9,777,405.00 and the expense SKK 6,169,533.00 in 2008.

In that year, CI received eight donations totaling SKK 743,450.00. Six natural persons donated to CI: Mr. Jaroslav Daniška (SKK 16,000.00) for the conference on *Kosovo and Its Independence*, Mr. Fedor Gál (SKK 99,300.00) for the *Dominik Tatarka's Prize*, Mr. Tibor Takáč (SKK 10,000.00) for *2007 Student's Essay* and Mr. René Bílik (SKK 65,000.00), Mr. Radovan Kazda (SKK 3,150.00) and Mr. Martin Polek (SKK 150,000.00) for the CI activities and current operation. Penta foundation gave two donations totaling SKK 400,000.00; this included SKK 300,000.00 for the *CEQLS* project and SKK 100,000.00 for the *Pedagogical Research Center* project.

The CI income from grants was equal to SKK 2,720,825.00 in 2008. Penta foundation financed the grant (SKK 200,000.00) related to the *Classic Economy Academy*; F. A. Hayek Foundation contributed SKK 100,000.00 for activities aimed to support the education (lectures within *CEQLS* project); Open Society Institute contributed SKK 983,902.00 for the *Support to Slovak Value-Oriented Foreign Policy*; and the Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe contributed SKK 1,436,923.00 for the *Eurofunds Watchdog – Decrease of the Risk of Corruption through Monitoring of Projects Financed from the EU Funds* project.

In 2008, the CI income from the paid income tax 2-% assignation totaled SKK 93,884.00.

In 2008, CI gained the income of SKK 42,112.00 from his own activities. This includes the participation fees for seminars within the *Classic Economy Academy* (SKK 36,000.00) and the sale of the book *In Defense of the Free Market* (SKK 6,112.00).

In 2008, CI received from European Social Fund the refundation of the *Education for Life* project costs totaling SKK 6,176,260.00. The interest income was equal to SKK 874.00.

CI expenses in 2008 were used to ensure the activities meeting the goal of this non-investment foundation (SKK 6,103,870.00, i.e. 98.9 % from it's total expenses) as well as for its administration (SKK 65,663.00, i.e. 1.1% from it's total expenses).

The following was the CI expenses structure in 2008 by projects and the most important activities:

The *Eurofunds Watchdog – Decrease of the Risk of Corruption through Monitoring of Projects Financed from the EU Funds* project expenses were equal to SKK 1,114,581.00, those for the *Education for Life* project SKK 3,243,420.00, for *CEQLS* project SKK 286,317.00, for Dominik Tatarka's Prize SKK 106,695.00, for Konzervatívne listy SKK 72,800.00, for *Classic Economy Academy* SKK 14,434.00, for *2007 Student's Essay* SKK 15,377.00, for the *Pedagogical Research Center* project SKK 48,000.00, for the *Support to Slovak Value-Oriented Foreign Policy* project SKK 1,032,150.00, for *The European Union Future – A View from Central Europe* conference, SKK 116,560.00 and for the Explanatory Dictionary of Economics SKK 6,000.00.

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