

Activities Report

2001 – 2004

KONZERVATÍVNY INŠTITÚT
CONSERVATIVE INSTITUTE
M.R.ŠTEFÁNKA
2005

Activities Report 2001 – 2004

Edited by: Dušan Sloboda

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Mission Statement

The purpose of existence of the Conservative Institute of M. R. Štefánik is articulation, spreading and defending of conservative attitudes and values in Slovak society and especially in public life.

The main goal of the Institute is, to a maximum extent, to help create a social atmosphere that will allow the perception and wide acceptance of conservative attitudes.

Conservatism has no ideology or a set of universal ideas, therefore we prefer to speak about conservative attitudes. These attitudes result from lasting values proved by time and generations as well as from specific time and situation in which they are applied.

There is not only one source of conservative attitudes; they are usually inspired by personal experience, various philosophical ideas or religions.

Conservative Institute or CI Briefly

The Conservative Institute of M. R. Štefánik (CI) is a non-profit non-governmental organisation – a conservatively orientated think-tank.

The objective of the CI is to contribute the creation of a conservative community and the cultivation of conservative opinions.

Contrary to some other think-tanks the activities of the CI are not oriented only towards one sphere of public life or society. The common denominator of the activities performed by the CI is their value definition i.e. conservative view on society and a liberal approach to economy.

The activities of the CI are to serve public interests. The results of the activities performed by the CI are available to public and citizens, media, decision making bodies, political parties and other non-governmental organisations.

Who Are We?

The Conservative Institute of M. R. Štefánik is a non-profit organisation – a think-tank. The Institute was established as a non-investment fund accruing assets by use of which it executes initiates and supports various projects. The projects objectives and the tolls we use to implement them comply with the objectives defined in the Mission Statement of the Institute.

Why at All?

40 years of a barracks form of socialism left our country with not only obviously deteriorated society but also with an invisible calamity in citizens' value orientation. Today, more and more people realise that this situation is not a consequence of „bad

use of good ideas“ but it is, on the contrary, a consequence of these ideas themselves. Regime ideologists enjoying a massive support of the State Security managed to push conservative ideas, culture and the conservatives away to the edge of society or even physically liquidate them.

Having experienced this situation, conservative ideas were naturally handicapped after the fall of the regime in 1989. They were not able to compete with demagogic influence of the „transformed“ communists or other populist personalities and organised movements. Except for some other reasons, this is also why we have to face today's problems in our country. Therefore it is necessary to work on both an overall restoration of the country and establishment of a conservative community and cultivation of conservative views.

And Why Štefánik?

The name of Milan Rastislav Štefánik has not been used by accident. This scientist, poet, traveller, legionnaire, diplomat and politician, was a renaissance personality reaching beyond borders of the territory in which he was born. Family, diligence and faith were his central values.

He never, not even when it was popular among European intellectuals, felt attracted by communism and it is only understandable that the communists called him an agent of imperialism.

He loved Slovakia but was not fond of typical Slovak fatalism. He often called for an active attitude towards social issues. His courage, competency, efforts and desire to break through as well as his moral and creative stance towards bribing in any sense of word should be the ideal for today's Slovakia.

He is justly called a conservative for his way of life and declared values.

The Conservative Institute is honoured and proud to hold his name and is committed to his ideals.

People in the CI

Board of Directors

Peter Zajac, Chairman and President of the CI, a university professor

Ján Králik, Vice-chairman, a civil servant

Vladimír Čečetka, a Member, entrepreneur

Who Are We?

Peter Zajac

President of the CI, a guarantor for an analytical group dealing with society development and political system issues.

A literature scientist, graduate of Slovak and German studies from the Faculty of Philosophy, Comenius University in Bratislava. A co-founder of Public against Violence (VPN) in 1989, in 1989-1991 he was the Chairman of the Slovak P.E.N. Centre and in 1991-1992 a member of the Presidium of the Czechoslovak Academy of Science. He is a research worker at the Institute of Slovak Literature of the Slovak Academy of Science in Bratislava and lectures on Slovak studies at Humboldt University in Berlin.

He deals with theory of literature (Creativity of Literature (1990), Pulse of Literature (1993)), political journalism and essay writing (Five Years After (1994 – 1996), Dream About a Country 1996, Country Without a Dream (2004), 1+1 (2004) (Fedor Gál is a co-author)). In 1998 – 2001 he was a Member of Parliament. Since September 2001 he has been the President of the Conservative Institute of M. R. Štefánik. He is a guarantor for the Analytical Group Society Development and Political System.

Ondrej Dostál

Director of the Conservative Institute

OndrejDostal@institute.sk

He studied philosophy and sociology at the Faculty of Philosophy, Comenius University in Bratislava. In 1993 – 1998 he worked as a commentator of domestic policy for the daily newspaper SME. In 1998 – 2001 he was a spokesman of the Democratic Party. Since 2001 he has been active as the Director of the Conservative Institute of M. R. Štefánik. He deals with issues of social politics, civil society, minorities and some aspects of the European Union. He publishes in several media. He is also a co-author of publications Roots of Hatred in the Slovak Media (1993) and Minorities in a Mirror of Two Terms of Office, Comparison of Situations of Minorities within the Years 1994 – 1998 and 1998 – 2002 (2002).

Since 1995 he has regularly been co-operating with the Institute for Public Affairs - he prepares chapters regarding national minorities and social politics for the publication Global Report on the State of Society. He is a co-ordinator of Initiative Against the European Constitution.

Peter Gonda

An analyst for the Conservative Institute, and a guarantor for an analytical group focusing on economic policy, economics and public finance.

PeterGonda@institute.sk

He completed university and doctor studies at the Faculty of National Economy, the Economic University in Bratislava and defended the thesis Formation of Social Sphere Funding System in the Slovak Republic. In 1997 – 2001 he worked at the Ministry of Finance. In 1999 he completed an educational study targeted at macro economic analysis and politics at the International Monetary Fund in Vienna.

During the period between February 2001 and January 2002 he was an analyst for the National Bank of Slovakia. He was also involved in various home and international projects. He is an economy analyst for the Conservative Institute of M. R. Štefánik and focuses on public finance, social sphere and monetary policy. He pays special attention to economic aspects of the European Union (EU) and Economic and Monetary Union (EMU).

In 2002 – 2003 he co-ordinated and guaranteed the project Economic Impacts of the Accession of Slovakia to the European Union. In 2003 – 2004 he also worked for a weekly magazine Domino Forum as an editor of the column Conservative View. He was a co-editor of the book Slovakia on the Way Into the Unknown (2003) issued by the Institute for Public Affairs and wrote the chapters concerning economic performance and competitiveness, functioning of the market and regulatory measures taken by the Government. He regularly participates in preparation of chapters dealing with social politics and public finance for Global Report on the State of Society. He has co-operated with M.E.S.A. 10 in execution of the project Analysis of the Pension System in Slovakia. He is an author of many expert articles and publishes not only in the economy oriented media. Peter Gonda is also an experienced lecturer at universities (the Faculty of Management, Comenius University in Bratislava). He is a guarantor for an analytical group focusing on economy politics, economics and public finance.

Radovan Kazda

An analyst for the Conservative Institute

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He graduated from the Slovak Agricultural University in Nitra. In 1996 – 2004 he worked as an expert and research worker in the Research Institute of Irrigation Management and later for succession organisations, he focused on landscape engineering and ecology. Since 2002, he has been co-operating with the Conservative Institute of M. R. Štefánik as a co-ordinator, and leader of the project Reduction of Corruption Risks in Agriculture.

In 1999 – 2004 he was a manager of The Union of Landscape Engineers of Slovakia. Since 2004 he has been an analyst for the Conservative Institute of M. R. Štefánik and deals with agrarian and environmental policies of Slovakia and the EU. He co-operates with the Institute for Public Affairs and is author of a chapter analysing agriculture in the publication Global Report on the State of Society (2003) and a chapter about environment in the publication Slovakia on the Way into the Unknown (2003). He co-operates with the Transparency International Slovakia – Corruption and Anti-

corruption Policy in Slovakia (2003). He regularly publishes in the media. He is a co-author of several expert and scientific research articles. In 2004 he was a co-ordinator of the project USA, Europe and Slovakia. He is also responsible for public relations of the Conservative Institute and is an editor of Conservative Letters – a newsletter of the Conservative Institute.

Dušan Sloboda

An analyst for the Conservative Institute

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He studied regional geography at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University in Bratislava. In 2001 – 2004, he worked at the European Integration Department, the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development. In 2004 he was a member of the DG Regional Policy at the European Commission in Brussels (In-service Traineeship). Since 2002 he has been an external student of doctor studies at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University, dealing with geography and cartography and he works on a dissertation on Geographical Characteristics of Regional Disparities in Slovakia.

He has worked for the Conservative Institute of M. R. Štefánik as an analyst since 2004, and specialises in the fields of regional development (regional policies of Slovakia and the EU), public administration reform (fiscal decentralisation and municipal reform, regionalisation in Slovakia) and also focuses on some aspects of Slovakia and the European Union relations. He is a co-author of the publication Comments on the Draft of the European Union Constitution (2003) and of a chapter dealing with regional policy in the publication Slovakia on the Way to the European Union: Chapters and Context (2003). He is responsible for development of active co-operation of the Conservative Institute with foreign partners and establishment of the Library of Conservatism.

Dana Feketeová

A project manager of the Conservative Institute

DanaFeketeova@institute.sk

She graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy, Comenius University in Bratislava, majoring in sociology. In 1994 – 1996, she worked as a secretary of the Slovak Society for Foreign Policy. Since September 1998 to March 1999 she worked as a research worker at the International Centre for Family Studies. Within the period from March 1999 to June 2001 she worked for the Press Centre of the Democratic Party. She has been working as a project manager for the Conservative Institute of M. R. Štefánik since June 2002. She worked as an external co-worker for the Institute of Sociology of the Slovak Academy of Science (1990 – 1993), the Press Agency of the Slovak Republic - TASR (1993 – 1998), she co-operates with the Institute for Public Affairs and the research agency FOCUS. She is a co-founder of the Civic Institute in Bratislava. In 2002, she participated in the project Fair-play which analysed behaviour of political parties in an election campaign.

Oleg Pastier and Ľudmila Piatková worked in an editorial team of the magazine Conservative Views on Society and Politics issued by the Conservative Institute in 2001 – 2002. Monika Kuhajdová, Tomáš Zálešák, Eva Polakovičová, Michal Šula and Roman Hegedús co-ordinated various projects for the Conservative Institute in the years 2001-2002.

Co-workers

Bill Baker, an analyst dealing with social politics, Association for Social Reform

Daniel Bútora, a publicist, former director of the Slovak broadcasting department of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), editor of the weekly magazine Týždeň

Jaroslav Daniška, a political scientist, advisor to the Minister of Interior

Fedor Gál, a sociologist, prognosticator, publicist (Prague), founder of the reformative political movement Public Against Violence (VPN) in 1989, the movement was a leading force for social change on the way to a free society after the fall of communism

Ján Hacaj, an entrepreneur, member of the Parliament in 1990 – 1992

Pavel Hanšut, a social political analyst, Association for Social Reform

Martin Hanus, a Germanist, publicist, editor of the weekly magazine Týždeň

Štefan Hríb, a publicist, editor-in-chief of the weekly magazine Týždeň

Roman Joch, an analyst in the field of national security, director of the Civic Institute in Prague. He focuses on political philosophy and international relations, especially defence and security issues and American politics

Monika Kuhajdová, a political scientist, spokeswoman for the Ministry of Interior

František Mikloško, a member of the National Council of the SR representing the Christian and Democratic Movement, former chairman of the Parliament (1990 – 1992)

Eva Orná, a macroeconomic analyst, and pedagogue with long term experience lecturing on macroeconomic theories and monetary policy at the Faculty of National Economy of the Economic University in Bratislava

Vladimír Palko, the Minister of Interior (from 2002), Vice-Chairman of the Christian Democratic Movement, in 1991 – 1992 he was a deputy director of the Federal Security Intelligence Service, he was a member of the Parliament from 1992 – 2002 and Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for Defence and Security from 1998 – 2002. He is a member of the American Society of Mathematics and the New York Academy of Science

František Šebej, a foreign policy analyst, in 1990 – 1992 he was Chairman of the Foreign Policy Committee of the House of Nations of the Federal Assembly of the CSFR and head of the Czechoslovak Parliamentary Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. At the same time he was also a member of the Board of Chairmen of the Slovak Academy of Science (1990 – 1992). In 1998 – 2002 he was Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for European Integration and member of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee and head of the Slovak parliamentary delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO

Peter Tatár, a social political and health system analyst, chairman of the Civic Conservative Party, from 1990 – 1992 and from 1998 – 2002 he was a member of the Parliament

Ernest Valko, an advocate, former chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Czechoslovak Federative Republic (CSFR)

Tomáš Zálešák, a political scientist, advisor to the Chairman of Parliament (The National Council of the SR) since 2002. In his present doctoral study at Oxford University he deals with political philosophy, totalitarianism issues and relations among culture, politics and religion

Robert Žitňanský, a publicist, editor of the weekly magazine Týždeň

Activities

Activities of the CI are targeted at the economy, social policy, home and foreign policies, security, EU issues, agrarian and environmental policies, regional policy, civic society, fight against corruption and support of culture and arts.

The CI organises conferences, seminars and debate clubs, analyses events in society and economy, issues thematic brochures and publications. The experts of the CI and co-workers publish their works in the media. The CI releases are available to the public and supplied to the media, public service, political parties, educational institutions, non-governmental organisations and to all interested persons.

Analytical Groups

There are four Analytical Groups working for the Conservative Institute. The groups are lead by guarantors and involve workers and co-workers of the Conservative Institute as well as outside experts. So far, there are four Analytical Groups (AG):

AG Economic Policy, Economics and Public Finance

Guarantor – Peter Gonda

The following experts and workers of the Conservative Institute form the Group: Bill Baker, Martin Barto, Ondrej Dostál, Pavel Hanšut, Radovan Kazda, Eva Orná, Oľga Reptová, Dušan Sloboda, Peter Tatár, Martin Thomay, Martin Valentovič, Robert Žitňanský

AG Foreign Policy and Diplomacy

Guarantor – František Šebej

The following experts and workers of the Conservative Institute form the group: Daniel Bútora, Jaroslav Daniška, Martin Hanus, Roman Joch, Monika Kuhajdová, Tomáš Zálešák

AG Society Development and Political System

Guarantor – Peter Zajac

The following experts and workers of the Conservative Institute form the group: Ondrej Dostál, Fedor Gál, Peter Gonda, Štefan Hríb, Ernest Valko

AG National Security

Guarantor – Vladimír Palko

The following experts and workers of the Conservative Institute form the group: Jaroslav Daniška, Monika Kuhajdová, Roman Joch, Tomáš Zálešák

Projects

In the period 2001-2004 the CI carried out projects and events which complied with the purpose of the CI especially as regards the development and protection of conservative democratic values and support for civil actions targeted at the development of conservative democratic values in the Slovak Republic and support of culture, research and education.

2004

- Institutional Development of the Conservative Institute of M. R. Štefánik

Co-ordinators:

Radovan Kazda
Dušan Sloboda

The project objective is further development of the Conservative Institute, so it may become a stable and prestigious organisation that will be perceived as something needed. The project shall bring a new program structure offering new and more effectively presented activities, so all those who share conservative values are better informed about the activities of the Conservative Institute and convinced about its needfulness.

The project is targeted at the development of communication activities of the Conservative Institute which means creation, collecting and spreading of conservative ideas, opinions and values. The objective is not to theorize about conservatism but to provide analysis of the issues that society and citizens have to face in their everyday life. The analysis will be based on conservative foundations. The main objective is to offer specific solutions and proposals, to open a discussion with various schools of thought and help citizens to be well versed in the reality.

As regards foreign contacts, the Conservative Institute plans to establish relations with relevant institutions and personalities especially in the EU countries and in the USA. The relations should help mutual exchange of information and experience, meetings, participation in activities performed by foreign partners and vice versa and eventually also enhancement of co-operation in common projects.

Last but not least, the Conservative Institute wants to create a documentation base consisting of fundamental conservative works, magazines, expert texts, literature, analysis and studies from different fields of politics. It will serve as an information and expert base for analytical works of workers, co-workers and the Board of Directors of the Conservative Institute.

The project is being executed thanks to the support of The Trust for Civic Society in Central and Eastern Europe.



- USA, Europe and Slovakia

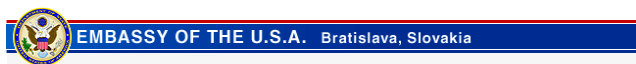
Co-ordinator:

Radovan Kazda

The Conservative Institute of M. R. Štefánik in co-operation with some other organisations and institutions organized 6 conferences in different regions of Slovakia (Trenčín, Prešov, Banská Bystrica, Martin, Košice a Nitra) within the project USA, Europe and Slovakia in 2004. Daniel Bútora, Tomáš Zálešák, Bill Baker a František Šebej presented their contributions at the conferences.

The project target was to help eliminate false myths about the United States that very often remain in our minds

The project was executed with the support of The Embassy of the USA in Bratislava and thanks to the funds provided by The Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



2003

- Tax Reform – Non-Governmental and Non-Profit Organisations and Their Role within the Reform

Co-ordinator:

Ondrej Dostál

In 2003, the Conservative Institute executed the project Tax Reform – Non-Governmental and Non-Profit Organisations and Their Role within the Reform. The Conservative Institute co-ordinated an initiative of the non-governmental organisation Citizens for Themselves. The project formulated and promoted comments of non-profit non-governmental organisations on tax reform with respect to its effects on the non-profit sector.

During realisation of this project, the Conservative Institute co-operated with several non-governmental organisations. The comments focused on a tax reform concept and income tax bill. Due to the pressure of non-governmental organisations it was possible to change the final form of a new law stipulating income tax.

The project was financed by a grant provided for the program Your Earth by The Foundation Ekopolis.



- To NATO with Our Head Up and Eyes Open

Co-ordinator:

Ondrej Dostál

In 2003, the Conservative Institute implemented the project To NATO with Our Head Up and Eyes Open. The project was targeted at initiation of a public discussion about new questions relating to the accession of Slovakia to NATO, international security issues, the position of NATO after September 11, 2001 and future of the North Atlantic Alliance.

The project covered two seminars and one conference and the CI also issued three publications: *Is There Any Alternative to NATO for Slovakia? (A Debate Between Ján Čarnogurský and Peter Osuský)*, *Do We Need NATO ? (Security Issues from the Point of View of the Conservatives and Libertarians, Roman Joch - Matúš Petrík – Martin Thomay)*, *Is There Any Future for NATO ? (The authors: František Šebej, Peter Burian, Peter Švec, Tomáš Zálešák, Ivo Samson, editor: Ondrej Dostál)*.

The project was financed by the grant provided by The Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



- System of Early Warning in Entrepreneurial Legislation

Co-ordinators :

Robert Žitňanský

Peter Gonda

Martin Thomay

In 2003 and 2004, the Conservative Institute executed the project System of Early Warning in Entrepreneurial Legislation. The project objective was to assess and analyse the legislation applying on entrepreneurial activities in Slovakia, especially newly approved regulations. The Conservative Institute assessed and commented on new bills, concepts and other measures having an impact on entrepreneurial sphere. A specialised web site www.vcasnevarovanie.sk, where you may find the commentaries and analysis, was created within this project (available only in Slovak language).



- Conservative View

Co-ordinator:

Peter Gonda

Workers and co-workers of the Conservative Institute published their opinions and attitudes in a column called Conservative View in the weekly newspaper Domino Forum in the years 2003 and 2004. The articles presented in the newspaper dealt mostly with economical and social issues and the issues related to the integration of the SR into the EU.

2002

- Economic Effects of the Accession of Slovakia to the European Union

Co-ordinator:

Peter Gonda

From July 2002 to March 2003, the Conservative Institute implemented the project Economic Effects of the Accession of Slovakia to the European Union. Several activities were performed within the project: a debate seminar analyzing results of a study on expected impacts of the accession of Slovakia to the EU which took place in September 2002, the Conservative Institute issued the analytical study Economic Effects of the Accession of Slovakia to the European Union in December 2002. The study was presented at the conference Economic Aspects of the Slovak Membership in the EU held in February 2003.

The project was executed thanks to the financial support provided by The Open Society Foundation, The Foundation Ekopolis and ETP-S within framework of the program Your Earth which is financed by The US AID altogether with other private and public donors.



- Reduction of Corruption Risks in Agriculture

Co-ordinator:

Radovan Kazda

From January to October 2002, the Conservative Institute implemented the project Reduction of Corruption Risks in Agriculture targeted at analysis of the subsidies system and corruption threats. The seminar Tools of Agrarian Policy dealing with lowering of corruption risks took place in June 2002. In August and September 2002 there was a poll on opinions of private farmers on corruption in their sector. The Conservative Institute issued two publications dealing with this topic: Tools of

Agrarian Policy - Reduction of Corruption Risks (an anthology) and Corruption Risks in the System of Agrarian Policy in Slovakia.

The project was funded by the grant provided by The Civil Society Development Foundation.



- Do not Choose a Smile

Co-ordinator:

Pavol Draxler, the Institute for Civic Education

In 2002, the Conservative Institute co-operated with the Institute for Civic Education in preparation of an analytical part of the project Do not Choose a Smile. The project objective was to provide citizens with an independent source of information regarding political parties running for the parliamentary elections in 2002, via internet: www.novyberajusmev.sk

The project name was supposed to motivate voters to familiarize themselves with activities and promises of respective political parties and to help them make a decision based on relevant information and not on superficial political promotion. It was an apolitical campaign and the presented material contained minimum of commentaries. The information rendered was gained from newspapers and from the Institute for Public Affairs, organisations M.E.S.A. 10 and MEMO 98 as well as from political and electoral programs.

The project was financially supported by the foundations ETP Slovakia and The Freedom House.



- Together to NATO and the EU

Co-ordinators:

Monika Kuhajdová
Ondrej Dostál

In 2001, the Conservative Institute started implementation of the project Together to NATO and the EU. Through this project, the Conservative Institute brought new topics into a discussion about the integration of the SR into the North Atlantic Alliance and the European Union. The Conservative Institute issued two publications dealing with these topics: Civilisation and Value Aspects of the Accession of the Slovak Republic to NATO and The Future of Defence and Security Structures in Europe.

In 2002, the Conservative Institute continued implementation of this project and organised two seminars: The EU Enlargement and Atlantic Partnership and Should the European Union Have a Constitution? In October 2002, a conference organised by the Conservative Institute, The European Union – the View from Slovakia took place in Piešťany. Within this project the Conservative Institute issued four publications: Issues and Perspectives of a Euro-Atlantic Security Partnership, Constitution for the EU – Yes or No?, The European Union – the View from Slovakia, Integration and Public Opinion (dealing with stereotypes in Slovak citizens' thinking and in the Slovak media concerning NATO and the EU).

The project was implemented thanks to the grant provided by The Civil Society Development Foundation.



- Fair-Play

Co-ordinator:

Michal Šula

The Conservative Institute in a close co-operation with Transparency International Slovakia participated in creation of a methodology for the project Fair-Play that served to monitor expenditures of political parties in the parliamentary election campaign in 2002.

The project was implemented thanks to the support of The Center for Economy Development and The Fair-Play Alliance.



Conferences

Within the years 2001 – 2004, the Conservative Institute organised many conferences and seminars dealing with current social and political issues not only in Bratislava but in other Slovak cities as well. Contributions presented at some of these conferences are available at www.konzervativizmus.sk or they have been published in a printed form (in Slovak language).

2004

- USA, Europe and Slovakia

Within the framework of the project USA, Europe and Slovakia the Conservative Institute altogether with other organisations and institutions organised conferences in Trenčín, Prešov, Banská Bystrica, Martin, Košice and Nitra.

Daniel Bútora, a publicist and former director of the Slovak broadcasting department of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Tomáš Zálešák, a political scientist and advisor to the Chairman of the Parliament (The National Council of the SR), Bill Baker from the Association for Social Reform (Košice) and František Šebej, a foreign policy analyst, presented their contributions at the conferences.

- Discussion Evening with Jason Turner

On March 18, 2004 the Conservative Institute in co-operation with the Association for Social Reform and the Permanent Conference of the Civic Institute and weekly newspaper Domino Forum organised a discussion evening with Jason Turner, an expert of the Heritage Foundation (USA) who is an author of social reforms in two states – Wisconsin and New York.

Jason Turner presented the social system reform in the USA and possible ways of its application in Slovakia. The evening was chaired by František Šebej, the editor-in-chief of the weekly newspaper Domino Forum.

- Lack of Democracy in the European Union

On May 17, 2004 the Conservative Institute together with the Young Conservatives organised the seminar Lack of Democracy in the European Union. David Hanák, a co-worker of the Civic Institute in Prague, a founder of the Eurosceptic Alternative and author of the book Legitimacy in Democracy: Why the EU Institutions Are Not Legitimate as Seen from a Democratic Frame of Reference was a guest at the seminar.

- D-Day After 60 Years

On June 7, 2004, the Conservative Institute and the Young Conservatives organised the seminar D-Day After 60 Years devoted to the 60th anniversary of the Allies' landing in Normandy.

Tomáš Zálešák, a political scientist, Trnava University, and advisor to the Chairman of the Parliament (The National Council of the SR) (The Landing in Normandy and Its Influence on Relations in the Anti-Hitlerian Coalition and the Situation in Europe After War), Ivo Samson, a foreign policy analyst, the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (The Invasion in Normandy Seen As a Model for Trans-Atlantic Relations) and Peter Osuský, the Vice-Chancellor of Comenius University and Vice-Chairman of the Civic Conservative Party (About an American Tradition of „Interventions into Inner Affairs“ in Europe) presented their contributions at the seminar.

- What Does the Euro Mean for Slovakia?

On September 7, 2004 the Conservative Institute prepared a conference What Does the Euro Mean for Slovakia? in Bratislava. Marián Nemeč, the Director of the Financial Studies Institute of the National Bank of Slovakia, Petr Mach, the Executive Director of the Center for Economy and Politics from Prague, Peter Gonda, an economical analyst for the Conservative Institute of M. R. Štefánik and Dalibor Roháč, an analyst for the Free Society Institute presented their contributions at the conference.

The conference objective was to draw attention to the fact that there is no discussion about acceptance or non-acceptance of the European currency. The Conservative Institute is of the opinion that the accession of Slovakia to the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) should not be hastened. On the contrary, it should be postponed confirming thus the government's adherence to traditional values of the western civilisation i.e. competition and personal freedom and will not force citizens to assume an inadequate risk.

- Why to Refuse the European Constitution

On October 11, 2004 the conference Why to Refuse the European Constitution was held by the Conservative Institute and the Center for the Economy and Politics (CEP, Prague). Vladimír Palko, the Minister of Interior and Vice-Chairman of the Christian Democratic Movement, Ivo Strejček, a Member of the European Parliament (ODS), Peter Zajac, the President of the CI, Marek Loužek, an analyst for the CEP and advisor to Václav Klaus, the President of the Czech Republic, Juraj Hrabko, the Chairman of the Permanent Conference of the Civic Institute (SKOI), Miloslav Bednář, a philosopher, Academy of Science of the Czech Republic, co-author of the Manifesto of Czech Eurorealism, Petr Mach, the Executive Director of the CEP, Peter Gonda, an analyst for the CI and Dalibor Roháč, an analyst for the Free Society Institute presented their contributions at the conference.

The conference objective was to point out the risks hidden in the European Constitution. The European Constitution centralises decision making in the EU and opens the door to a European superstate. If a common market in the EU is to work, it is necessary to make certain decisions on the Union level. But certainly not to such extent as it is today, not even mentioning further expansion of the EU competencies to disadvantage of Member States, which is also one of the prospective impacts of the European Constitution. Expansion of eurobureaucratic interventions into the economy is bad news for European economies and for our citizens' standard of living.

- Since November 1989 until November 2004

On November 16, 2004, the Conservative Institute held a conference Since November 1989 until November 2004 at which a critical view on society after the year 1989 was presented, the conference took place on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the „Velvet Revolution” which led to the fall of communism in Czechoslovakia.

In the first block „How do the partakers of November '89 see the present situation“ (chaired by Štefan Hríb, the editor-in-chief of the weekly magazine Týždeň), Ján Budaj, Fedor Gál, László Nagy, László Szigeti, Peter Tatár, Peter Zajac presented their contributions.

In the next block called „15 years of economic transformation in Slovakia“, Peter Gonda interviewed Jozef Kučerák, former deputy prime minister for the economy of the Slovak Government (1990 – 1991).

In the last block „How Slovakia has coped with the past“ Štefan Hríb interviewed Ján Langoš, the Chairman of the Directorate of the Institute of Nation's Memory and former Minister of Interior of the Czechoslovak Federative Republic (1990 – 1992) and

Vladimír Palko, the Minister of Interior and Vice-Chairman of the Christian Democratic Movement.

- Is the Reform of Public Administration in Slovakia Over?

The conference took place in Bratislava on December 8, 2004. Martin Valentovič (M.E.S.A. 10), Vladimír Bajan (the Mayor of Petržalka), Jaroslav Pilát (M.E.S.A. 10), Pavol Hašúk (the Mayor of the village of Štitáre) and Dušan Sloboda (an analyst for the CI) presented their opinions on ongoing fiscal decentralisation and upcoming municipal reform in the SR. The conference was chaired by Robert Žitňanský, an editor of the weekly magazine Týždeň.

2003

- Social Reforms: Solutions to Problems of Poverty and Unemployment

In January 2003, the Conservative Institute and the Association for Social Reform (ASR) organised the conference „Social reforms: Solutions to Problems of Poverty and Unemployment“. Peter Gonda (CI), Bill Baker (Association for Social Reform), Pavel Hanšut (ASR), Ján Hero (Ministry of Education), Ján Králik (Ministry of Health), Peter Tatár (SKOI), Helena Woleková (Foundation SOCIA), Oľga Reptová (M.E.S.A. 10), Martin Valentovič (M.E.S.A. 10) and Slávka Mačáková (ETP Slovakia) presented their contributions dealing with various aspects of social policy and ongoing social reforms and focused on unemployment and poverty issues.

- Economic Aspects of the Slovak Membership in the EU

In February 2003, the Conservative Institute held the conference Economic Aspects of the Slovak Membership in the EU in Bratislava. Peter Gonda (CI), Oľga Reptová (M.E.S.A. 10), Martin Barto (Slovenská sporiteľňa), Martin Valentovič (M.E.S.A. 10), Milan Šíkula (Slovak Academy of Sciences), Martin Štefunko (Austrian Economy Institute), Denisa Čiderová (European Studies Center) and Petr Mach (CEP) presented their contribution at the conference.

Results of the project Economic Impacts of the Accession of Slovakia to the EU, implemented by the Conservative Institute in 2002, were also presented at the conference and the presentation was followed by a debate on positive aspects, risks and implications of the accession of the SR to the EU particularly with regard to political and economic impacts.

- Slovakia to the EU: Yes or No ?

In April 2003, the Conservative Institute held the conference Slovakia to the EU: Yes or No? František Šebej (a guarantor of analytical section of the Conservative Institute dealing with foreign policy), Vladimír Palko (the Minister of Interior), Ján Čarnogurský (an advocate, former Prime Minister of Slovak Republic), Peter Zajac (the President of the Conservative Institute), Milan Krajniak (Christian Democratic Movement), Jaroslav Daniška (a co-worker of the Conservative Institute) and Martin Hanus (an editor of the weekly newspaper Domino Forum) presented their contributions at the conference.

The conference objective was to arouse a debate on overall positive and negative sides of the accession to the EU. The last issue of the magazine Conservative Views on Society and Politics focusing on the accession related aspects was also presented at the conference.

- The EU Constitutional Treaty Draft

In October 2003 the Conservative Institute organised a conference The EU Constitutional Treaty Draft in Bratislava. Martin Hanus (an editor of the weekly newspaper Domino Forum), František Šebej (a foreign policy analyst and publicist, Domino Forum), Peter Tatár (SKOI), Peter Zajac (the President of the CI), Štefan Hríb (an editor-in-chief, Domino Forum), Ernest Valko (an advocate) and Jaroslav Daniška (a co-worker of the Conservative Institute) presented their views.

The EU Constitutional Treaty Draft elaborated by the European Convention focusing on future of the EU which served as a base for debates at the Inter-Governmental Conference of the EU in 2003 was discussed at the conference as well as an official stance of the Slovak Republic towards this document.

- Is There Any Future for NATO?

On December 8, 2003 the Conservative Institute held a conference Is There Any Future for NATO? in Bratislava. František Šebej (a foreign policy analyst and editor of the newspaper Domino Forum), Peter Burian (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, former Ambassador of the SR to NATO), Peter Švec, (Ministry of Defence), Tomáš Zálešák (a political scientist and advisor to the Chairman of the Parliament (The National Council of the SR)) and Ivo Samson (a foreign policy analyst, the Slovak Foreign Policy Association) presented their contributions at the conference.

2002

- European Union – the View from Slovakia

In October 2002 the conference European Union – the View from Slovakia was held by the Conservative Institute and the Civic Institute (Prague) in Piešťany.

The conference objective was to provide a deeper analysis of present situation in the EU – real problems, challenges and trends. The conference was targeted especially at young people who will influence development of European integration, at experts, representatives of political parties and adjoined youth organisations, journalists and non-governmental organisations.

- Tools of Agrarian Policy – Reduction of Corruption Risks

In June 2002 an expert seminar Tools of Agrarian Policy – Reduction of Corruption Risks organised by the Conservative Institute took place in Bratislava. The main task of the seminar was to open a dialogue about corruption on a much wider scale.

Corruption is a side effect of redistribution processes in many fields of the state functions application. Agriculture being a branch for which the state provides a great financial support had not been the object of a special attention as regards corruption principles and lowering of corruption risks before.

- The EU Enlargement and Atlantic Partnership

Juraj Alner (Pan-European Union) and Ivo Samson (a security policy analyst for the Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association) presented their views at the seminar chaired by Tomáš Zálešák, a co-worker of the Conservative Institute.

- Should the European Union Have a Constitution?

In March 2002, there was a debate between Daniel Lipšic, a Vice-Chairman of the Christian Democratic Movement, and Radoslav Procházka, an advisor to the Constitutional Court of the SR and an educator at Trnava University, on two topics: firstly, on legitimacy of the constitution and the question whether there is an authority entitled to make it legitimate and, secondly, the Charter of Fundamental Rights a draft of which had been elaborated by the European Parliament, European Commission and Council. The debate was chaired by Jaroslav Daniška, a co-worker of the Conservative Institute.

2001

- Capitalism and Its Critics

On October 26 – 28, 2001 the Conservative Institute in a co-operation with the Hans Seidl Foundation held a conference called Capitalism and Its Critics. Amongst other speakers there were also Peter Zajac (the President of the CI), Ján Čarnogurský (the minister of Justice), Roman Joch (Civic Institute, Prague), Pavol Krištof (Conservative Club, Trnava University), Ján Šmíd (the daily newspaper MF Dnes, Prague), Tomáš Zálešák (a political scientist) and Martin Štefunko (an economist).

The conference objective was to compare conservative and liberal views on society and especially on roles of the state and the market.

- Cultural and Value Aspects of the Slovak Accession to NATO

Štefan Hríb (an editor-in-chief of the weekly newspaper Domino Forum), Pavol Lukáč (a deputy director, the Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association), Grigorij Mesežnikov (the President of the Institute for Public Affairs) and Tomáš Zálešák (an analyst for the CI) presented their views. The seminar was chaired by Martin Danko.

- Future of Defence and Security Structures in Europe

Ján Čarnogurský, former Prime Minister of the SR (1991 – 1992), former Chairman of the Christian Democratic Movement and the Minister of Justice (1998 – 2002), František Šebej, former Chairman of the Foreign Committee of the House of Nations of the Federal Assembly of the CSFR (1990 – 1992), Chairman of the European

Integration Committee of the National Council of the SR (1998 – 2002) and Veronika Lombardini, the Director of the EU Political Relations Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, presented their views at the conference chaired by Jaroslav Daniška, a co-worker of the Conservative Institute.

- Conservative Views on the Membership of the Slovak Republic in Security and Defence Structures

On May 19, 2001 the seminar Conservative Views on the Membership of the Slovak Republic in Security and Defence Structures took place in Bratislava. It was organised by the Conservative Institute under the patronage of Vladimír Palko, the Chairman of the Defence and Security Committee of the National Council of the SR and Vice-Chairman of the Christian Democratic Movement who was also the guarantor of the analytical group dealing with national security issues at the Conservative Institute. Vladimír Palko, František Šebej, the chairman of the European Integration Committee of the National Council of the SR, the Minister of Justice Ján Čarnogurský and State Secretaries Jozef Pivarčí (the Ministry of Defence) and Ján Figel' (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) presented their contributions.

The main topic of the seminar was a search for conservative approach to issues of foreign security and defence policies. The Conservative Institute focuses on these issues within the framework of the activities developed by the analytical group led by Vladimír Palko.

Conservative Clubs

Several events called Conservative Clubs – seminars and debates - took place at the Conservative Institute within the years 2001 – 2004. These events were mostly attended by young people. Let's mention some of them:

2004

In September 2004 the Conservative Institute held a meeting on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the World War II beginning – World War II and Failure of Western Civilisations. Tomáš Zálešák, a political scientist (Trnava University), and advisor to the Chairman of the Parliament (The National Council of the SR), presented his contribution called Rise of National Socialism and the Development Preceding September 1, 1939 and Peter Osuský, the Vice-Chancellor of Comenius University, and Vice-Chairman of the Civic Conservative Party, approached the topic The Necessity to Oppose the Evil 65 Years Ago and Now.

In October 2004, philosopher Peter Fotta (Department of Political Science, Faculty of Philosophy, Trnava University) lectured on the topic Thomas of Aquine and His Work on the occasion of receiving an important work by Thomas Aquinas Summa Theologiae for the Library of Conservatism.

2003

A club meeting devoted to the War in Iraq was held in March 2003. This, at the time, very moving topic was approached by František Mikloško, a Member of Parliament

and František Šebej, a publicist, foreign policy analyst and vice chairman of the Civic Conservative Party. The debate was chaired by Jaroslav Daniška, a co-worker of the Conservative Institute.

In April 2003, the Conservative Institute and the Civic Democratic Youth (ODM) Bratislava held a club meeting dealing with the topic Perspectives of Everyday Changes After the Accession of the Slovak Republic to NATO. The lecturers were Colonel Jaroslav Císár, a Defence Attaché of the Czech Republic to the SR and Karel Ludvík, a Police Attaché of the Czech Republic to the SR.

By the end of April 2003, the Conservative Institute held another club meeting focusing on American Social Policy: Importance of Decentralisation with Bill Baker from the Association for Social Reform.

Michaela Freiová from the Civic Institute (Prague) was a guest at a club meeting in September 2003 and presented her views on the topic The Church and the State – a Model for Free Society.

Is there any alternative to the membership in NATO for Slovakia? Two different answers to this question were offered by two Slovak conservatives at a conservative club meeting in November 2003 – Ján Čarnogurský (an advocate, former Minister of Justice, former Chairman of the Christian Democratic Movement, former Prime Minister of the SR in 1991 – 1992, and former Minister of Justice in 1998 – 2002) and Peter Osuský (an educator, Vice-Chairman of the Civic Conservative Party, in 1998 – 2002 he was a Member of the Parliament). The meeting was chaired by co-worker of the Conservative Institute Tomáš Zálešák.

In December 2003, there was a club meeting dealing with the topic NATO As Seen by the Conservatives and Libertarians. Is an institution like NATO needed? Is use of power acceptable in international relations? Could a war be rightful? Is an active foreign policy of the state at variance with personal freedom?

Roman Joch from the Civic Institute (Prague), Matúš Petrík and Martin Thomay from the Free Society Institute discussed with attendants at which points the answers provided by the conservatives and libertarians differ.

2002

In January 2002, expert for political party ANO Rudolf Zajac and analyst for M.E.S.A 10 Peter Pažitný discussed the issues related to the Strategy of a Health System Reform at the Conservative Institute.

The club meeting in March 2002 was devoted to discussion on the book by Francois Furet and Ernst Nolte Fascism and Communism – Confrontation of Views. The discussion of historian Ľubomír Lipták and political scientist Tomáš Zálešák was chaired by President of the CI Peter Zajac.

Options of Pension Reform were discussed by former Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Civic Conservative Party Peter Tatár, analyst for the CI Peter Gonda and Michal Szabo, the Director-General of the Department of Social Benefits of the

Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family at a conservative club meeting in April 2002.

In April 2002 the CI organised, in co-operation with the Civic Democratic Youth (ODM) Bratislava, also a debate on Situation in Kosovo. Valér Hrala, a former observer in Kosovo, was a guest to the debate.

2001

At the beginning of April 2001, Tomáš Zálešák, a political scientist and co-worker of the Conservative institute, spoke about Religious Symbols and Totalitarian Ideologies at the very first conservative club meeting.

At the end of April 2001, Radovan Kazda, a landscape engineer and one of co-workers of the Conserative Institute, spoke about Global Warming Seen As a Political Issue.

In May 2001, the club meeting dealt with the issues of Current American Foreign Policy After the Beginning of the Bush Administration ´s Term of Office. Ivo Samson, a foreign policy analyst for Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA), presented his views there.

A club meeting which took place in September 2001 was devoted to the topic Eurocepticism vs Eurooptimism - and discussion concerned the current situation in the European Union and the book Stained Spring by British Euroceptic John Laghland. Peter Zajac and Štefan Hríb were guests to the meeting.

In October 2001, the Conservative Institute assisted the Man in Danger (Civic Association) at organisation of a discussion about the Situation in Afghanistan.

In November 2001, the Conservative Institute held a discussion with Jozef Klavec, a political scientist, on the topic Islamic Radicalism and Terrorism.

Publications

2004

- USA, Europe and Slovakia

Authors:

Daniel Bútorá, a journalist, manager and educator. He was the director of the Slovak broadcasting department of Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty. He is an editor of the weekly magazine Týždeň. He is also a co-worker of the Conservative Institute.

Tomáš Zálešák, a political scientist, advisor to the Chairman of the parliamnet (The National Council of the SR) (since 2002), co-worker of the Conservative Institute.

Bill Baker, an analyst for the Association for Social Reform in Košice and a co-worker of the Conservative Institute.

František Šebej, former Chairman of the Foreign Policy Committee of the House of Nations of the Federal Assembly of the CSFR (1990 – 1992), former Chairman of the Committee for European Integration of the National Council of the SR (1998 – 2002), a foreign policy analyst and editor of the weekly magazine *Týždeň*, leader of the analytical group of the Conservative Institute dealing with foreign policy and diplomacy.

The publication objective is to help eliminate false myths about the United States remaining in our minds. We do not want to create new myths and replace one type of myths for another. Our ambition is to offer a realistic picture of American society and policy. The authors are familiar with the American reality and want to share their knowledge and views with others.

The publication was issued within the project Transatlantic relations: USA, Europe and Slovakia with the financial help of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



2003

- Is There Any Alternative to NATO for Slovakia? A Discussion Between Ján Čarnogurský and Peter Osuský

Authors:

Ján Čarnogurský, former Prime Minister of the SR (1991 – 1992), former Chairman of the Christian Democratic Movement and the Minister of Justice (1998 – 2002)

Peter Osuský, a university pedagogue, Vice-Chancellor of Comenius University in Bratislava, former Member of the Parliament (1998 – 2002), Vice-Chairman of the Civic Conservative Party

The publication is a record of the impressive discussion between Ján Čarnogurský and Peter Osuský that took place at the Conservative Institute in Bratislava on November 26, 2003. The discussion was chaired by Tomáš Zálešák, a co-worker of the Conservative Institute.

In the publication we may find an answer to the question whether there is any alternative to a NATO membership for Slovakia. The debators offered answers at the time when the process of our accession to NATO was irreversible, but the question of Trans-Atlantic co-operation, issues of our national security and questions regarding relations between Europe and America do not lose their importance after our accession to the Alliance.

Different views of Ján Čarnogurský and Peter Osuský on the title question presented in the publication make readers to look for answers together with them.

The publication was issued within the project To NATO with Our Head Up and Eyes Open with support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



- Do We Need NATO? Security Issues As Seen by the Conservatives and Libertarians

Authors:

Roman Joch, Civic Institute, Prague

Matúš Petrík, a lawyer, works for the Free Society Institute

Martin Thomay, a student of economics, works for the Free Society Institute

The publication is a record of the debate among Roman Joch, Matúš Petrík and Martin Thomay which took place at the Conservative Institute in Bratislava on December 4, 2003. The debate was hosted by Jaroslav Daniška, a co-worker of the Conservative Institute.

Is an active foreign policy good for freedom? Should we implement isolationistic or non-interventionistic foreign policies? Is it good, if a country primarily watches over its own freedom but secondarily also over freedom of friendly countries or should such a country care exclusively only for its own freedom? These are only few questions, answers to which were searched for by Roman Joch as a conservative and Matúš Petrík and Martin Thomay as libertarians.

The publication was issued within the project To NATO with Our Head Up and Eyes Open with support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



- Is there Any Future for NATO?

Authors:

František Šebej, former Chairman of the Foreign Policy Committee of the House of Nations of the Federal Assembly of the CSFR (1990 – 1992), former Chairman of the Committee for European Integration of the National Council of the SR (1998 – 2002), a foreign policy analyst and editor of the weekly newspaper Domino Forum, leader of the analytical group of the Conservative Institute for foreign policy and diplomacy

Peter Burian, an advisor, Department of Analyses and Planning of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, former Ambassador of the SR to NATO

Peter Švec, a military strategy analyst and the Director-General of the Military Education Section of the Ministry of Defence

Tomáš Zálešák, a political scientist, advisor to the Chairman of the Parliament (The National Council of the SR) (since 2002), co-worker of the Conservative Institute

Ivo Samson, a security policy analyst for the Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA)

„A concept of common defence – this is NATO. This is the concept in which sovereign states willingly agree upon common defence of their interests and territories. Or, they do it because they share the same values and this makes them partners, that is why they are together. Within this common defence they define themselves in relation to the rest of the world and define, although maybe implicitly, a possible enemy and place where an attack may come from,“ wrote František Šebej in his article (Factors Threatening Future of NATO on Both Sides of the Atlantic Ocean) and continues: „The connection of the Western Europe and America, i.e. American presence on the European continent was an independent objective of the North Atlantic Alliance existence.“

Mainly this connection, sense and future of NATO are subject of other articles in the publication written by Peter Burian (Relations between the EU and NATO – Rivals or Strategic Partners?), Peter Švec (Revolution in Military and Future of NATO), Tomáš Zálešák (Is the Transatlantic Dissention Inevitable?) and Ivo Samson (Will ew Members Save the North Atlantic Alliance?)

The publication was issued within the project To NATO with Our Head Up and Eyes Open with support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



2002

- Economic Impacts of Slovakia´s Accession to the European Union

Authors:

Martin Barto, a chief economist of Slovenská sporiteľňa

Peter Gonda, an economic analyst for the Conservative Institute, co-ordinator of the project and expert guarantor of the publication

Eva Orná, a macroeconomic analyst, well experienced pedagogue lecturing on macroeconomic theories and monetary policy at the Faculty of National Economy of the Economic University in Bratislava

Oľga Reptová, an economic analyst for M.E.S.A. 10, co-ordinator of the Slovak Economic Forum and member of the Alliance for Transparency and Fight Against Corruption

Martin Valentovič, an economic analyst for M.E.S.A. 10 in the field of regional development, economy, privatisation and relations with the EU.

The publication presents serious economic impacts resulting from the Slovak membership in the EU, the impacts on citizens and firms as seen from the frame of reference of national economy. The potential economic effects are conditioned by many factors of domestic and outside development (including the EU). The authors do not want to present a statistically precise and complex list of pros and cons of the EU membership. They analyze selected and, according to the authors, fundamental aspects of Slovakia´s membership in the EU.

The main preconditions of the most objective assessment of European integration in the field of economy and comparisons of potential assets and risks of the accession of Slovakia to the EU, as listed in the publication, are:

- realistic evaluation of initial situation as regards economic development in Slovakia and in the EU
- assessment of anticipated level of preparedness of the Slovak economy for accession to the EU

The publication was issued within the project Economic Impacts of the Accession of Slovakia to the European Union thanks to a financial support provided by the Open Society Foundation, the Foundation Ekopolis and ETP Slovakia within the framework of the program Your Earth financed by US AID and some other private and public sponsors.



- Tools of Agrarian Policy As Regards Reduction of Corruption Risks (Anthology)

Authors:

Radovan Kazda, an analyst for the Conservative Institute dealing with agrarian and environmental policy, editor and guarantor of the publication
 Peter Tatár, a Member of the Parliament (The National Council of the Slovak Republic), Member of the Committee of the National Council for Finance, Budgetary and Monetary Policy (1998 – 2002), Chairman of the Civic Conservative Party and co-worker of the Conservative Institute
 Pavel Bottka, the Chairman of the Slovak Association of Land Owners and Entrepreneurs in Agriculture
 Marián Košč, the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Department in Prešov
 Ondrej Šmál, the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Department in Zvolen

In June 2002, the Conservative Institute organised an expert seminar dealing with the topic Tools of Agrarian Policy – Reduction of Corruption Risks in Bratislava.

The main objective of the seminar was to open a more comprehensive dialogue about corruption. The seminar was attended by several important representatives of executive bodies and the Parliament, research workers, representatives of non-governmental organisations and the media.

The publication (Anthology) is a summary of information from various sources. The contributions on corruption in agriculture presented at the seminar form the base of the publication.

Corruption is an accompanying phenomenon of redistribution processes related execution of the state functions. Agriculture as one of the areas of the economy where the state provides an extensive financial support from its budget is not being

approached with appropriate attention as regards definition of principles and lowering of corruption. It is an issue which has significantly negative effects on social events.

The main objective of the seminar and the publication was to initiate a public discussion about this problem.

The publication was issued with financial help provided by The Civil Society Development Foundation.



- Corruption Risks within the System of Agrarian Policy in Slovakia

Authors:

Radovan Kazda, an analyst for the Conservative Institute for agrarian and environmental policy, editor and guarantor of the publication

Daniela Zemanovičová, the Program Director of Transparency International Slovakia

Vladimír Pirošík, a lawyer and civil activist

Slovak agriculture as a specific area where the state applies a policy of extensive redistribution of finance remains the area where there are high risks of corruption even at the beginning of the 21st century. The fact that there has not been any broad discussion about character of a supportive agrarian policy in Slovakia makes the problem even more complicated. Neither a detailed analysis of causes and effects of the redistribution process in agriculture nor a complex alternative version of economic policy in agriculture have been elaborated yet.

Based on these facts, the publication wants to offer the first more complex view on corruption, its causes, effects and manifestations in the Slovak agriculture. It is important to provide information about the character of current agrarian policy in order to allow a wide public discussion. Then, based on this discussion, it will be possible to create a concept of such agrarian policy that will lead to transparent and effective forms of redistribution, to modern and prosperous Slovak agriculture able to compete in the European market.

The publication was issued with financial support provided by The Civil Society Development Foundation.



- Documents of the Period 1990 – 2000

Author:

Ján Šimulčík, a publicist, editor of the publication

The publication Documents of the Period 1990-2000 reflects a need to gather statements, reports and speeches published in periodicals within the period. The documents are ordered chronologically as they were published and they are accompanied by a few commentaries.

It is a selection of documents that touched social and political life of the country in the years 1990 – 2000, and some of them are:

1992 – a report of the Defence and Security Committee of the National Council of the SR

1993 – Vladimír Mečiar´s speech delivered in Zlatá Idka,

1994 – Michal Kováč´s report on the situation in the Slovak Republic,

1996 – Ivan Lexa´s report on activities of the Slovak Intelligence Service

1998 – a letter of nine Slovak bishops addressed to the government of the SR,

1999 – Vladimír Mitro´s report on tasks of SIS,

and several other documents.

The publication was elaborated and issued in co-operation with the Publishing House of Michal Vaško in Prešov and the Open Society Foundation.



- Problems and Perspectives of Euro–Atlantic Security Partnership

Authors:

Ivo Samson, a security policy analyst for the Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association

Tomáš Zálešák, a political scientist, advisor to the Chairman of the Parliament (The National Council of the SR) (since 2002), and co-worker of the Conservative Institute.

The article by Ivo Samson (Is Europe Able to Maintain a Defence “Autonomization?”), in which he deals with the issues of a European defence project and points of aversion between those who are in favour of the Atlantic Alliance and those who prefer a „European solution“, forms the first part of the publication. He emphasises importance of the relation between defence and integration, the stances of the countries undergoing a process of transformation, the position of the USA towards Europe and stances of so-called European central powers.

In the second part of the publication, Tomáš Zálešák (Different Interests and Common Problems) focuses on arguments between Europe and the USA regarding a security concept, he analyses a new situation in which the USA and its European allies found themselves after a collapse of the Soviet block, new threats to international security posed by terrorism, especially after September 11, 2001 and other issues which are closely linked with an institutional crisis in NATO.

The publication was issued thanks to the financial support provided by The Civil Society Development Foundation.



- European Constitution: Yes or No ?

Authors:

Daniel Lipšic, a lawyer, the Vice-Chairman of the Christian Democratic Movement

Radoslav Procházka, a lawyer, and co-worker of the Constitutional Court of the SR

The publication is a record of the discussion between Daniel Lipšic and Radoslav Procházka that took place at the Conservative Institute on March 6, 2002.

The publication was issued thanks to the financial help of The Civil Society Development Foundation.



- European Union – the View from Slovakia

Authors:

Marta Daruľová, Academia Istropolitana Nova, Svätý Jur

Peter Gonda, Conservative Institute, Bratislava

Martin Hanus, a Delegate to the EU Youth Convention, Brussels

Roman Joch, Civic Institute, Prague

Mária Kadriaková, Academia Istropolitana Nova, Svätý Jur

Martin Štefunko, Ludwig von Mises Institute, Auburn, USA

Jana Tutková, European Alliance of the Youth, Brussels, an editor of the publication

Robert Žitňanský, weekly magazine Domino Forum, Bratislava

The publication represents a summary of the contributions presented at the conference held by the Conservative Institute – European Union – the View from Slovakia in October 2002.

„Today, we know more about the European Union than we knew a few years ago, when it was simplistically idealized, because we have had an opportunity to look inside during the accession process. The views of those, who having experienced the EU reality, remain the same, true to their principles and beliefs, represent an authentic contribution to a discussion about our integration. Although these attitudes have been formed in different environments they are based on the Slovak cultural heritage and value idealism. And this devotion to timeless values, search for truth and respect

towards personal freedom accompanied by efforts targeted at civil and moral responsibility, is to be the main contribution of Slovakia to Europe.

A Slovak citizen often does not see it, especially when being pushed to see only material aspects of the EU membership. At the same time, the European Union speaks highly about her most noble ideals while the reality seems to be a nightmare after having woken up. To correspond with the reality the ideals are notably redefined and they are twisted in our minds too. No matter whether a citizen, after decoding them, becomes a Eurosceptic, Eurorealist, Euromelancholic or Euroflegmatic, the most important is to keep on searching for ideals in own life. And everyone must go on this journey of permanent search alone.”

Jana Tutková, an editor of the publication

The publication was issued thanks to the financial help provided by The Civil Society Development Foundation.



- Integration and Public Opinion: Stereotypes Regarding NATO and the EU in Thinking of Slovak Citizens and the Slovak Media

Authors:

Tomáš Zálešák, a political scientist, advisor to the Chairman of the Parliament (The National Council of the SR) (since 2002), and co-worker of the Conservative Institute

Martin Hanus, a Germanist, publicist, co-worker of the Conservative Institute

In order to identify the stereotypes that regard NATO and the EU, the Conservative Institute has completed a qualitative study by use of focus groups method. Focus groups allow qualitative analysis of opinions and experiences of respondents as well as analysis of their spontaneous reactions to other participants' views. Group atmosphere contributes to a free production of views and ideas.

The opinion poll was done by the FOCUS Agency, and the Center for Social and Marketing Analysis. The qualitative poll objectives were an identification and analysis of negative stereotypes related to NATO. The poll was targeted at definition of reasons for negative or reserved stances of citizens of the SR towards NATO as well as identification of prejudice, myths, more deeply embedded projections and their sources and the ways they spread. Secondly, the poll paid attention also to the attitudes of Slovak citizens towards the EU.

The main conclusions of the poll, as defined by sociologists from FOCUS, represent the first part of this publication (Opinions Concerning the Accession of Slovakia to NATO and the EU – the Main Conclusions). It is necessary to stress that the defined stereotypes are characteristic only for those Slovak citizens who are not in favour of the accession to NATO. In the second part of the publication Tomáš Zálešák analyses the poll results (Analysis of Negative Stances towards NATO). His contribution is an

attempt to find influences which participated in formation of negative attitudes towards NATO. The final part of the publication (EU and NATO in the Slovak Media) is based on an analysis of articles dealing with integration of Slovakia into the EU and NATO that were presented in the Slovak media. Martin Hanus, an author of the final part, follows the discussion in the Slovak media which undoubtedly influences views of Slovak citizens regarding the accession of our country to the EU and NATO.

With this publication the Conservative Institute wanted to contribute to better and deeper knowledge of Slovak society views on integration of the Slovak Republic to both blocks.

The publication was issued thanks to the financial help provided by The Civil Society Development Foundation.



2001

- Civilisation and Value Aspects of the Accession of the Slovak Republic to NATO

Authors:

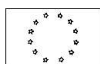
Martin Danko, a political scientist
Tomáš Zálešák, a political scientist and co-worker of the Conservative
Institute

The accession of Slovakia to NATO is a strategic move which should deeply influence our political and security situation. The term of security is very broad and has several dimensions: military, economic, political, social and ecological.

Majority of activities concerning the accession to NATO focused mainly on political, economic and military security criteria of integration. But the accession of Slovakia to NATO and later to the EU covers also wider civilisation and value issues touching all the spheres of society, although this is not a short-term period matter. It is a long-term process of blending with a functioning society of the most developed states in the world.

The publication is an attempt to open a discussion and mediate opinions regarding this topic that is difficult to analyse from a neutral point of view. Therefore we have given up pointless attempts to be neutral and offer you our opinion as one of the alternatives concerning the issue of civilisation affiliation of Slovakia.

The publication was issued within the project Together to NATO and the EU with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



- Future of Defence and Security Structures in Europe

Authors :

Ján Čarnogurský, former Prime Minister of the SR (1991 – 1992), former Chairman of the Christian Democratic Movement and the Minister of Justice (1998 – 2002)

František Šebej, former Chairman of the Foreign Policy Committee of the House of Nations of the Federal Assembly of the CSFR (1990 – 1992), and Chairman of the Committee for European Integration of the National Council of the SR (1998 – 2002)

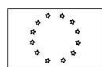
Veronika Lombardini, the Director of the Department of Political Relations with the EU of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Jaroslav Daniška, a co-worker of the Conservative Institute, and editor of the publication

Using the words of Jaroslav Daniška, an editor of the publication, „This world is not a perfect place for life, and as well as no laws can suppress all human crimes, there is no world power or alliance which would be able to eliminate their enemies. Therefore every country, including Slovakia, must be ready to protect security of its citizens and territory. Every country needs a military capacity for its defence. Despite that, small countries like Slovakia cannot rely only on their own armies and need to find allies. Finally, this is not only the case of Slovakia. Even the strong ones like Great Britain or the United States are dependent on allies. And so here is the question: what type of international security co-operation suits our country?

The authors try to find answers to this question in the publication contributions. The objective is not to find a single position but to open a discussion that should continue in the future, too because Slovakia will have to search for answers even when being a NATO member.

The publication was issued within the project Together to NATO and the EU with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Conservative Views on Society and Politics

2000 – 2002

During the years 2000-2002, the Conservative Institute issued the magazine Conservative Views on Society and Politics. The purpose of this periodical was to provide space for a free presentation of opinions on different areas of social life as seen from a conservative point of view. Renowned authors present Slovak and international conservative views.

Conservative Views on Society and Politics (Autumn – Winter 2000)

The main topic of the first issue is reflection on conservatism and its roots in the Slovak society.

Contents:

Roger Scruton: What is Conservatism?
Peter Zajac: Awareness of Commitment
Vladimír Palko: Conservative Streams in the Slovak Politics
Tomáš Zálešák: Those Damned Values
Peter Tatár: Prosperity is Not Free without People's Happiness
Daniel Raus: To be Responsible for Own Life
Štefan Hríb: The Conservatives without God?
Roman Joch: Redress the Twentieth Century
Robert Žitňanský: Enslaved Country
Luboš Kubín: We Face Another Change of Electoral Rules
František Mikloško: Tired Time
János Pilinszky: The Deepest Point
Ivan Kladečík: A Sad Ballad About Johan and Beautiful Lady Mariette

Conservative Views on Society and Politics (Spring – Summer 2001)

The second issue brings reflections on issues regarding the Slovak Constitution, foreign and social policies and a discussion dealing with existence of conservatism without God.

Contents:

Margaret Thatcher: Tried-and-True Problem, New Tasks
Peter Tatár: Socialistic Atavisms in the Slovak Constitution
Grigorij Mešežnikov: Pro-Atlantic Dimension of the Slovak Foreign Policy
Manifested in Attitudes of Political Parties
Roman Joch: American Liberalism and Conservatism
Peter Gonda: Systemic Deformation of Social Sphere Funding is Not Being Solved
F. A. Hayek: Why am I Not a Conservative?
Jaroslav Daniška: Conservatism is Inherently Christian
Egon Gál: Democracy is About Views, Uncertainties, Decency and Trust
Josef Mlejnek: Learning to Go for Cognition
Ondrej Dostál: Christian Inspirations and Problems of a Decent Atheist
Interview with Ivan Kadlečík – I am Lonely Like a Mountain Pine

Conservative Views on Society and Politics (Autumn – Winter 2001)

The main topics of this issue cover reflections on the situation after the terrorist attacks in the USA in September 2001 and the media issue.

Contents:

Joanna North: Policy of Forgiving
Henry Kissinger: Crucial Phase of the USA Strategy is Only to Come
Interview with Samuel P. Huntington: Bin Ladin Helped the West to Gain Its Lost Identity
Ivo Samson: Defence, Responsibility, Humanity
Peter Zajac: Everyday Conservatism
Miloslava Kodoňová: The Media and Comprehensibility of the World
Michael Ignatieff: Nothing Sacred?
Round table – Media: The Media and Their Role in Today's World (Grigorij Mesežnikov, Eugen Gindl, Miroslav Kollár, Zuzana Wienk)
Aleš Novotný: Edmund Burke – the Father of Modern Conservatism
Ulrich Wollner: Excursion Into the French Conservative Thinking of the 19th Century (1.)

Conservative Views on Society and Politics (Spring – Summer 2002)

The articles in this issue analyse a development of politics, social system, school system and the media after the year 1989. The second topic is the role of religion in today's world.

Contents:

Charles Péguy: Collectivity As an Option
Peter Zajac: Political System in Slovakia
Peter Gonda, Karol Morvay: Slovak Economy in a Process of Transformation
Peter Pažitný, Rudolf Zajac: Solidarity
René Bílik: Between Home Rule and Centralism
Miroslav Kollár: Bad Mood – an „Invisible Hand“ of the Media?
Jürgen Habermas: Faith and Guidance
Zdeněk Rotrekl: About Faith, Religion, the Youth and Other Things
Gianni Vattimo: Following a Covered Track
Miloslava Kodoňová: Christianity in Secular and Relativistic Environments
Roman Joch: What is Religion Good for?
Ulrich Wollner: Excursion Into the French Conservative Thinking of the 19th Century (2.)

Conservative Views on Society and Politics (Autumn – Winter 2002)

The articles deal with the EU issues from a conservative frame of reference and analyses the position of Slovakia after the accession to the EU.

Contents:

Peter Zajac: European Union: Seven Glimpses of Opal
Milan Krajniak: Conservative View on the European Union
Peter Gonda: Economic Assets and Risks of Integration of Slovakia Into the European Union
Radoslav Olekšák: Take It or Leave It
Jaroslav Daniška: In the Name of Europe Against the European Union
Igor Skúpy: Is the European Union a „Historical Mistake“?
Martin Hanus: „No“ to a Socialistic, „Yes “ to a Free Europe
Miloslava Kodoňová: The European Union As an Intellectual Project
Ladislav Hejdánek: Europe and History

Support of Culture

The Conservative Institute is active in the field of culture especially by annual awarding of the Domik Tatarka Award. The Conservative Institute also supported financially:

2004

- exposition Images of Faith by photographer Matúš Zajac,
- issue of a book 3 Essays (about photographs by Ľubo Stach),

2002

- photograph exposition of VŠVU students Three Workshops and an exposition catalogue issue,

2001

- issue of an exposition catalogue of Visual Arts Group A-R.

Dominik Tatarka Award

Within the framework of all activities targeted at the support of culture and arts the Conservative Institute in close co-operation with the Foundation of Milan Šimečka and the Jury of the Dominik Tatarka Award grants the Dominik Tatarka Award for literature every year. The Conservative Institute assumed the responsibility for granting the Award in 2000 and since 2004 the CI has been co-operating with the Jury of the Dominik Tatarka Award. The prize is one of the tools that help the Conservative Institute support culture and, particularly in this case, literature.

This prize is considered to be the most prestigious Slovak award for literature and it is given to the authors who write exceptional literary works following the humanistic

traditions of Slovak culture. The prize is an intellectual legacy of Dominik Tatarka, who was an important Slovak dissident of the 20th century.

Ten Years of the Dominik Tatarka Award

Ten years is time long enough to stop, look back and ask to which extent the prize has met its original intent.

When considering, together with Martin Bútora and Martin M. Šimečka, establishment of the Dominik Tatarka Award, in 1994 we had an obvious reason for it.

At that time, in Slovakia there was a period of inflation of various awards, recognitions and honours. We based our decision on the idea that it was necessary to establish an award which would represent strict conditions: unambiguously high level of writing and civic attitudes of author.

Dominik Tatarka was a personification of destiny of an artist who had met both criteria and guaranteed transparent orientation when selecting the prize holder.

The life peripetia of Dominik Tatarka help us to see that mistakes and failures do not have to necessarily represent stigma if they have resulted from a life long longing for freedom.

When we, altogether with Martin M. Šimečka, were elaborating the project of the Dominik Tatarka Award on March 1, 1995, we had two works „one which would be an underived literary work and another one reflecting culture and society“ in mind. But later both fields amalgamated into one in the statute.

Until 1999, the prize was sponsored by the company Coopex and Igor Rintel, who was one of the prize founders. Since 2000, the Conservative Institute of M. R. Štefánik has been the prize sponsor.

During the past ten years the Award statute has not changed. The Jury consists of eight members, out of which seven are permanent and one is always the last holder of the prize. Two rounds selection process has not changed either as well as the Jury members: Dana Kršáková, Daniel Fischer, Vladimír Petrík, Martin Porubjak, Martin M. Šimečka, Ján Králik as a representative of the Conservative Institute, Peter Zajac and the last prize holder.

Also the ceremony on the prize day followed by laudation and an essay based on the message of Dominik Tatarka presented by former prize holder remain the same. But distinction of an prize is always based on its holders. Ten years of the Dominik Tatarka Award are connected with these names: Milan Hamada (Sizyfos´ Fate) , Ivan Kadlečík (Brain Teasers), Pavol Vilikovský (Cruel Engine-Driver), Ivan Štrpka (Puppets which Lost Their Heads), Pavol Hruz (Navel of the World), Lubomír Lipták (A Century Longer than Hundred Years), Dušan Dušek (Walking to Heaven), Gabriela Smolíková, Peter Smolík and František Mikloško (Crimes of Communism in Slovakia 1948 – 1989), Ján Johanides (Bullet-Proof Woman), Katalin Vadkerty (Hungarian Matter in Czechoslovakia 1945 – 1948) and Rudolf Fila (On the Road).

This impressive list is complemented with names of the painters who donated their painting to respective prize holders: Daniel Fischer, Milan Bočkay, Dezider Tóth, Otis Laubert, Igor Minárik, and Klára Bočkayová, Lubomír Longauer, Milan Paštéka and Rudolf Sikora. On the tenth anniversary of the Dominik Tatarka Award also composer Ilja Zeljenka joined this society. Ten years is a period long enough for any of us to say whether the Dominik Tatarka Award fulfills its mission.

Peter Zajac
Chairman of the Jury of the Dominik Tatarka Award and
President of the Conservative Institute

Holders of the Dominik Tatarka Award 1994 – 2004

1994 –

MILAN HAMADA
Sizyfos' Fate

1995 –

IVAN KADLEČÍK
Brain Teasers

1996 –

PAVEL VILIKOVSKÝ
Cruel Engine-Driver

1997 –

IVAN ŠTRPKA
Puppets which Have Lost their Heads

1998 –

PAVEL HRÚZ
Navel of the World

1999 –

LUBOMÍR LIPTÁK
A Century Longer Than Hundred Years

2000 –

DUŠAN DUŠEK
Walking to Heaven

2001 –

FRANTIŠEK MIKLOŠKO, GABRIELA SMOLÍKOVÁ, PETER SMOLÍK
Crimes of Communism in Slovakia 1948 – 1989

2002 –

KATALIN VADKERTY
Hungarian Matter in Czechoslovakia 1945 – 1948

JÁN JOHANIDES
Bullet-Proof Woman

2003 –

RUDOLF FILA
On the road

Library of Conservatism

In 2004 the CI started to work systematically on the project aimed at establishment of the Library of Conservatism / Document Center of the CI. The Conservative Institute wants to create a documental base containing fundamental conservative works, magazines, specialised texts and articles dealing with conservatism, literature, studies and analytical works concerning different areas of public policies, the base which will serve for expert and analytical activities of workers, co-workers and the Board of Directors of the Conservative Institute.

The Library contains also publications issued by the Conservative Institute and is permanently supplied with conservative and classic liberal titles of foreign and home origin. We have started a closer co-operation with partner think-tanks – Civic Institute in Prague, The American Enterprise Institute, The Acton Institute in the USA and others – thanks to support of which the Library has been enriched with many important works. In 2004, the Conservative Institute acquired an important work by Thomas Aquinas: Summa Theologiae.

Summary of Other Activities

The people of the Conservative Institute get involved also into some initiatives carried out by other non-governmental institutions or co-operate with other think-tanks.

2004

- Initiative Against the European Constitution

Since August 2004, Ondrej Dostál, Director of the CI has been a co-ordinator of Initiative Against the European Constitution, the main goal of which is to prevent acceptance of the European Constitution in Slovakia and promotion of plebiscite on this issue.

<http://www.euroustava.sk>

2003 – 2004

- Initiative Citizens for Themselves

Ondrej Dostál, Director of the CI co-ordinated the initiative of non-governmental organisations Citizens for Themselves which formulated and promoted comments of non-governmental and non-profit organisations on tax reform with regard to its impacts on the third sector.

2003

- Slovakia On the Way Into the Unknown

Experts of the CI Ondrej Dostál, Peter Gonda, Radovan Kazda and President of the CI Peter Zajac participated in the project of the Institute for Public Affairs (IVO) Slovakia On the Way Into the unknown. The initiative produced a publication in which authors try to reveal trends of development in Slovakia by way of analysing and diagnosing the present condition of Slovak society.

2001 - 2004

- Global Report On the State of Society

Ondrej Dostál, Peter Gonda and Radovan Kazda – regularly co-operate with the Institute for Public Affairs (IVO) in preparation of an analytical Global Report on the State of Society, which monitors and analyses basic trends of development in the following areas: minorities, social policy, the economy, public finance and agriculture.

Media Releases

The analysts for the Conservative Institute regularly publish in selected (mainly domestic) print and electronic media. These presentations in the media cover authorial articles and commentaries, expert studies and analytical works, interviews and participation in discussions.

The articles, commentaries, expert studies and analytical works by analysts for the CI are also available at www.konzervativizmus.sk in Slovak language and some also in English language at www.institute.sk.

Conservative View

Within the years 2003 – 2004, the CI published its and its co-workers attitudes and opinions in a column called Conservative View in the weekly newspaper Domino Forum. The column presented articles dealing with economic and social issues as well as the articles focusing on integration of Slovakia into the European Union. Peter Gonda was an editor.

Conservative Letters

Since November 2004 the CI has been issuing the monthly newsletter Conservative Letters. The newsletter has an ambition to become a forum for conservative attitudes. Authors (workers and co-workers of the Conservative Institute) publish their analytical works, studies and commentaries regarding contemporary issues, drafts of various laws and various issues of public policy. The newsletter offers also information about various activities of the Conservative Institute and news from the world of conservatism both from home and abroad.

Web and E-mailing

The CI has its web site www.konzervativizmus.sk provides space for presentation of conservative ideas and information about events in the Slovak conservative environment and abroad as well as about activities of the CI.

Information about upcoming events organised by the CI and invitations to those events as well as information about news on the web site are automatically delivered to all interested persons via e-mail.

Media Partners

Týždeň

Critical weekly magazine Týždeň is the main media partner of the CI.

.týždeň

<http://www.tyzden.com>

Right Spectrum

The Right Spectrum is a conservative – liberal e-zin on pages of which usually young and critical authors comment on current situation in society and politics. The Right Spectrum wants to attack moral relativism and support good and time-tested conservative values.



<http://www.prave-spektrum.sk>

Association of Eurosceptics EUnie.sk

The Association of Eurosceptics EUnie.sk runs the web site www.eunie.sk on which the members publish their opinions on contemporary European Union implying that only free and by nobody limited co-operation and making of new business or personal contacts among ordinary people living in respective European countries may lead to a prosperous and stable society.



<http://www.eunie.sk>

Portal EU.ePortal.cz

The Portal is run by the civil association EPORTAL, Prague



<http://eu.eportal.cz>

Domino Forum

Domino Forum, a critical weekly newspaper for politics, economics, civilisation and culture was the main media partner of the Conservative Institute in the years 2003-2004. The newspaper presented articles dealing mainly with economic and social issues as well as with the accession of Slovakia to the European Union in a column called Conservative View.



<http://www.dofo.sk>

Partners

Permanent Conference of the Civic Institute (SKOI)

SKOI is a civic association, non-governmental non-profit organisation established in September 1993. The association wants to support and contribute to building of a free, open and responsible society. SKOI is an association of free citizens who promote and respect the civic society values. The values of a society which respects moral ideals, observance of principles of rule of law, plural political structures and market economy.



<http://www.skoi.sk>

Free Society Institute

The Free Society Institute is a civic association established in 2003 following transformation of the Institute of Austrian Economy. Its goal is to support ideas of freedom and private ownership, and cast doubts upon widely spread myths concerning beneficial influences of the state on life of society.



<http://www.isloboda.sk>

Association for Social Reform

The main objective of the Association for Social Reform is an exchange of a functionless social system for a proven system based on work and personal responsibility. Only this type of system may lead, according to the association members, to decrease in unemployment and its negative effects and to an increase in maintaining of human dignity, responsible behaviour of parents and return to the traditional spiritual values.

<http://www.cassovia.sk/organizacie/zzs/>

Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA)

SFPA was established in August 1993 as an open neutral discussion forum focusing on international issues and the issues of Slovak foreign policy. Its main task is to provide space for open exchange of opinions. It is a voluntary association of legal entities and natural persons interested in foreign policy issues.



<http://www.sfpa.sk>

Transparency International Slovakia (TIS)

Transparency International is an international, non-governmental non-profit organisation focusing on issues related to transparency, corruption and bribery on both international and domestic levels. It has been active in Slovakia since September 1998.



<http://www.transparency.sk>

The Ekopolis Foundation / EPCE Slovakia

The EPCE programs support civic activities focus on achieving the social change. The common feature of these changes is building a society where human rights and right for healthy environment is respected, society where the public administration is transparent and serves the public, society that is tolerant to minorities and the society where active citizens who want to improve life in their communities do find support for their efforts.



<http://www.ekopolis.sk>

Civil Society Development Foundation (NPOA)

NPOA Goals are also to improve and broaden the information of general public, media and policy leaders on role and functions of the NGOs in the open civil society, to enforce ability of the NGOs in order to lobby for improvement of the legal framework of the NGO sector with policy leaders and related governmental institutions and to help newly established as well as existing NGOs in order to gather necessary information and services for their activities.



<http://www.npoa.sk>

Open Society Foundation (OSF)

The organization work to achieve the goal of open society by funding and operating an array of activities dealing with the arts and culture broadly defined; the strengthening of civil society; economic development and reform, education at all levels and in diverse subject areas; human rights, with special attention to the rights of marginalized groups; legal reform and public administration; media and information, including publishing, electronic communication, and support for libraries; and public health.



<http://www.osf.sk>

International Republican Institute in Slovakia (IRI)

IRI began work in Czechoslovakia in 1990, after the fall of the communist regime. After the division of the country into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993, IRI focused its activities in Slovakia and opened an office in Bratislava in 1994. Since then, IRI has worked in a variety of areas to strengthen Slovakia's political parties and democratic institutions, promote voter information and participation, and improve political communications.



<http://www.iri.org>

Christian Democratic Movement (KDH)

KDH is based on heritage of the European Christian culture. It is a movement – political party of the citizens who are not afraid to assume responsibility for themselves, their families, their municipality and state. It tries to promote Christian and conservative values in political life of society, state and international community.



<http://www.kdh.sk>

Civic Conservative Party (OKS)

OKS is a civic, democratic and conservative party. OKS sees politics predominantly as creation and promotion of values, as a public servis. The goal of the OKS is to implement the system of European conservative political values i.e. principles of consistency, truthfulness, honesty, solidarity and observance of both written and unwritten bounds and rules in our political life.



<http://www.oks.sk>

Christian Democratic Youth of Slovakia (KDMS)

KDMS is a youth organisation members of which profess to Christian and conservative values and respect traditions. KDMS is a civil association wanting to contribute to social, economic and cultural uplifting of Slovakia. Their objective is to spread and promote positive values among young people and to protect young people's rights and interests in everyday life.



<http://www.kdms.sk>

Young Conservatives (MK)

The Young Conservatives is an association of young people who respect liberal and conservative values, i.e. freedom of an individual, respect towards truth, personal responsibility, and untouchability of private property, authority of natural justice, ethics and rejection of any form of moral relativism. Their views are based on the traditions of the helenistic judaistic Christian western civilisation, they realise uniqueness of this civilisation in history and they pursue the legacy of the first Czechoslovak Republic as well as the legacy of Anglo-American conservatism and classical liberalism.



<http://www.mkonzervativci.szm.sk>

Civic Institute (OI)

The Civic Institute in Prague is a non-governmental non-profit cultural and educational conservatively oriented institution related to no political party focusing on support, spread and development of the ideas and values which are needed to have a free society.



<http://www.obcinst.cz>

Center for Economy and Politics (CEP)

The Center for Economy and Politics (CEP), Prague, is a civil association established by Václav Klaus in 1998. The main objective of the CEP is spreading and support for ideas of free society and market economy.



<http://www.cep.in.cz>

Liberal Institute

The Liberal Institute in Prague was established in 1990 and it defines itself as a center for development of freedom, private ownership and market economy and for enforcement of rule of law.



<http://www.libinst.cz>

Association of Entrepreneurs of Slovakia (ZPS)

The Association of Entrepreneurs of Slovakia is an association of interest established after the „velvet“ revolution in November 1989. After 1989, the ZPS has become an important representative of the privat business sphere that practically did not exist in Slovakia before. Therefore the ZPS focuses on fundamental issues related to creation and guarantees for adequate business environment.



<http://www.zps.sk>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Ministry co-ordinates activities of state authorities oriented on the Slovak Republic's integration into the European Union and the North-Atlantic Alliance. It is responsible for conducting the foreign policy itself and the fulfilment of the Government's Policy Statement in the field of foreign policy, the priorities of which include Slovakia's integration into the OECD, NATO and the EU, development of relations with neighbouring countries and regional co-operation.



<http://www.foreign.gov.sk>

Embassy of the United States of America

The Embassy of the USA in Bratislava supported further integration of Slovakia into the European and Trans-Atlantic structures (NATO, OECD, and EU) and continues its support for economic and political reforms in Slovakia.



<http://www.usembassy.sk>

Trust for Civil Society in Central & Eastern Europe (CEE Trust)

The Trust for Civil Society in Central & Eastern Europe promotes the development of civil societies in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. To carry out this purpose, the CEE Trust meets the urgent need for funding to help non-governmental organizations (NGOs) gain greater self-reliance and self-sufficiency. The CEE Trust was launched in January 2001 as an independent organization with endowment support from a group of private grant-making foundations. Current donors include Atlantic Philanthropies, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Ford Foundation, German Marshall Fund of the United States, Open Society Institute, Pfizer Foundation, and Rockefeller Brothers Fund. The CEE Trust is an independent public charity incorporated under the laws of the United States of America and governed by a Board of Trustees.



<http://www.ceetrust.org>

Acton Institute

The Acton Institute, USA – its mission is to spread ideas of a free and moral society pursuing personal freedom and religious principles.



<http://www.acton.org>

American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI)

The American Enterprise Institute, USA was established in 1943 and it is one of the biggest and most renowned American think-tanks. Its task is to preserve and strengthen freedom foundations, a limited government, private business, vital cultural and political institutions and maintenance of strong foreign and defence policies.



<http://www.aei.org>

Heritage Foundation

The Heritage Foundation, USA is a research and educational think-tank established in 1973. Its mission is formulation, spreading and defending of conservative views in public based on the ideas of free market, limited governmental role and individual freedom i.e. the traditional American values.



<http://www.heritage.org>

Management Report

The Conservative Institute of M. R. Štefánik is a non-governmental think-tank established on the principles of a non-profit non-investment fund accruing assets through which it executes initiates and supports such projects implementation of which is in compliance with the mission of the CI as it has been formulated in the Mission Statement of the CI.

Fund revenues – donations by natural persons and legal entities, 2% of income tax assignment, grants for projects, own activities (conference fees, sale of own products) and interest on bank accounts.

Fund expenditures – cover various activities (projects, conferences, publications) that serve the purpose of the Conservative Institute existence.

2004

Total revenues amounted 1 617 200 SKK and total expenditures – 1 272 116 SKK.

2003

Total revenues amounted 1 054 090 SKK and total expenditures - 946 742 SKK.

2002

Total revenues amounted 1 553 723 SKK and total expenditures - 2 347 403 SKK.

2001

Total revenues amounted 705 486 SKK and total expenditures - 839 437 SKK

Support Us

You may support the Conservative Institute by:

- Co-operation in common projects and research
- Exchange of information and experience
- Books, magazines and literature for the Library of Conservatism
- Financial contributions - account number: IBAN SK85 1100 0000 0026 2245 5666 BIC (SWIFT CODE) TATRSKBX

CI Store

You may order publications or magazines (mainly only in the Slovak language):

- by phone – + 421 2 546 300 62,
- via e-mail – conservative@institute.sk
- or visit us personally in the office of the Conservative Institute

If you are interested in receiving the newsletter Conservative Letters via mail or e-mail, contact us either by phone or e-mail.

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Edited by: Dušan Sloboda

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