## An appeal to Robert Fico, Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic

## Ask Pope Francis to convene a peace conference

## The time has come to call on the world leaders to launch a meaningful and constructive public dialogue on peace. You are certainly aware of permanent threats looming over peace. The world should finally take heed of the fact that there also small nations living on this Earth, and that these nations have an equal right and obligation to make efforts at ensuring peace and better living conditions for all inhabitants of our planet.

## There is no less poverty, hunger, human misery, no fewer wars today than when we entered the new millennium. Huge social disparities arising from the economic and especially financial colonisation of most countries and their populations represent a bottomless abyss. Unfortunately, many representatives of superpowers, major powers and economically strong countries are convinced of their superiority, but less so of their obligation to make this world more humane.

## This kind of order and organisation of the world inevitably creates tensions within the countries, but also in the relations between the countries or their groupings. Seventy years from the end of World War II war, conflicts not only flare up and continue, but they drag on and there seems to be no end to them. Genuine Europeans are alarmed by the fact that the war has also spread to their continent.

## Eighty-three years ago, Tomáš Baťa encouraged people to realise that moral misery is the cause, while economic decline is the consequence ... He stressed the necessity to overcome the crisis of confidence, but also that this cannot be achieved by technical or credit interventions alone. “Confidence is a personal matter, and confidence can only be restored on the basis of moral attitudes and personal example”.

**On several occasions last spring, our contemporary Pope Francis warned that the global economic system built on money-worship, wars, inequality and** [**youth unemployment**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/07/youth-unemployment-worldwide-joblessness_n_4019601.html) **cannot survive! He voiced sufficiently loud his opinion amounting to an embarrassing truth: “We are excluding an entire generation to maintain a system that is not good.”**

**In the face of that statement, the leaders of the today’s world seemed to have lost their hearing and showed no readiness to pass from words to deeds. More than thirty years after the CSCE, the time has come again to sit at a round table; however, nothing is happening. But it was Pope Francis who criticised the constantly growing indebtedness of the countries and the idol called “endless growth” at whatever cost, and especially trade in death.**

**Is there an authority in the world that has the moral right to call upon the representatives of superpowers, major powers and groups of countries urging them to launch a dialogue on peace and security at the global and regional scale? Pope Francis is such a personality and, as it seems, the only person capable of open and public communication about the priorities of the mankind.**

**World order and functioning is not immutable or predetermined. If the human race is to survive, it is high time for a dialogue about how to ensure equal rights to life in peace for all. It is essential to lift the secrecy from the thinking and from the acts of today’s leaders, and to demand them to take actions leading to lasting peace.**

**Over the years of our existence in this world, we have come to the conviction that the holders of power almost invariably give precedence to state, national and their own interests. Is it at all possible to place the needs of civilisation and humanity above those interests? We should bear in mind the wisdom of Greenland’s Eskimos that “everything is possible and nothing is impossible”.**

**Because we are convinced that this perennial wisdom still applies today, we appeal to you to try to generate a momentum towards peace by addressing Pope Francis.**

 **In Bratislava, June 5, 2015**

**International Peace Committee**

**of the Association Informal Economic Forum – Economic Club**

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