**Ceremonial announcement**

of the results of voting by the International Peace Committee on the laureate of the “2015 Peace Prize from Slovakia”, by the co-initiator of the prize and permanent representative of the Informal Economic Forum - Economic Club since 1993, Peter Kasalovský

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Since last year, more than in the past, we have been paying our attention to the issue of peace in our region, on our continent and in the world in general.

We have come to believe that the certainty of peace, and common sense, is less firm than we thought. In fact, quite a few of us are convinced that the certainty is transforming into an illusion and war conflicts are no less frequent than years ago, at a time when we thought that there was a general willingness to fulfil each of the CSCE’s baskets. After entering into this promising era, the Iron Curtain collapsed, which gave us the opportunity to take decisive steps forward - towards a peaceful coexistence, cooperation and generally better living conditions here in Europe and gradually elsewhere in the world.

When we disclosed the figures on the growth of nuclear armament over the period of the last thirty years, it was clear that we were terribly wrong. Not to mention the fact that individuals accepting the absurd possibility of confrontation - not in the economy but in all kinds of wars, not excluding nuclear - have emerged among the major players in global politics.

The growing fear of a possible end to peace in Europe, the so-to-speak erosive impact of the civil war in eastern Ukraine, Russian annexation of the Crimea, the developments in the Near and Middle East and the controlled growth of the number of migrants “marching” towards the buffer states and their camps and their subsequent redirection to Europe - these were the key issues leading to the formation of the International Peace Committee within our association.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I have approached Golden Biatec laureates both abroad and at home. As of 6 August 2015, the anniversary of the Hiroshima tragedy, which was the day of voting on the laureate of the “2015 Peace Price from Slovakia”, the following had become our members:

co-initiator Dr. Rongxiang Xu of USA and PRC, the leader of human body regenerative restoration science, who has been represented by his son Kevin Peng since his tragic death on 14 April 2015,

Prof. Jan Keller of the Czech Republic, sociologist, educator and author, member of the European Parliament,

Prof. Muhammad Yunus of Dhaka, Bangladesh, financier and civil society leader, the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner,

Prof. Vojtech Tkáč, former Slovak Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family,

Ing. Zoltán Černák, agro-entrepreneur, SME Palárikovo, s.r.o., former member of the Federal Assembly of Czechoslovakia,

Prof. Jozef Masarik, nuclear physicist, Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics at the Comenius University in Bratislava,

Ing. Mikuláš Miľko, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Cestovná kancelária Hydrotour, a.s., Bratislava,

JUDr. Anton Blaha, CSc., lawyer, Blaha, Erben & Partneri law firm

Ing. Imrich Béreš, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Prvá stavebná sporiteľňa, a.s., Bratislava,

Ing. Peter Čatloš, PhD, entrepreneur, Martin,

Rudolf Young Mosny and Nancy Mosny, managing directors of Q SQUARED DESIGN, LLC., N.Y., U.S.A.,

Dr. Ing. Jan Campbell of the Federal Republic of Germany, biocybernetist, neurolinguist, human design scientist, financier, architect and political scientist,

MUDr. Tomáš Šálek, President of the Slovak Society of Oncology

Ing. Ján Gabriel, Chairman of the Committee of the Informal Economic Forum - Economic Club association,

Ing. Heidy Schwarczová, PhD, rector and founder of the University of Central Europe in Skalica, and

Ing. Jan Blcháč, PhD, mayor of Liptovský Mikuláš.

The formation of the committee and the voting right was also accepted by doc. Ing. Peter Mihók, PhD, President of the Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chair of the World Chambers Federation and International Chamber of Commerce.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Nineteen members of the International Peace Committee took a secret vote by electronic mail on the first laureate of the “2015 Peace Prize from Slovakia”. Being the initiator and organiser, I’m bound by an obligation of confidentiality of the votes by the members of the Committee.

Seven personalities and two organisations were gradually nominated until 21 July 2015. After the voting deadline, i.e. after 6 August 2015, we received nominations for German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán.

Nominees:

**President of the PRC Xi Jinping** “for continuous improvement of the quality of living conditions of the PRC’s population, international cooperation and social progress”

**President of the International Court of Justice in The Hague JUDr. Peter Tomka (2012-2015)** “For strengthening the UN’s authority among the public worldwide thanks to his work towards judicial justice and resolution of relations between states”

**RIKEN Brain Science Institute, scientific and research institution, Japan** “For its brain research, innovation and influence on the mitigation of the impacts of globalisation on the economy and society”

**President of Russian Federation Vladimir V. Putin** “For his effort to achieve balance between the military strength of superpowers, powers and military pacts and responsibility for addressing global and regional confrontations”

**Ennio Morricone, Italian composer, musician and conductor** “For discovering the ‘code of humanity’ in music refreshing the souls of its listeners and encouraging their desire for a free life in peace”

**Raúl Castro, President of Cuba** “For bringing John Paul II’s idea of ‘letting Cuba open to the world and letting the world open to Cuba’ to reality and for his effort towards achieving a new quality of relations and closer ties with USA”

**Prof. Klaus Schwab, founder of the World Economic Forum, Switzerland** “For making our civilisation stronger and activating its abilities in all areas of human activity to the benefit of addressing global priorities”

**Pope Francis** “For providing inspiration for addressing civilisational, economic, and social problems in specific regions and countries and engaging in humanitarian and peace-building dialogues”

**Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Vice-President of the European Commission** “For her personal contribution to the successful conclusion of the 12-year diplomatic “chess game” and paving the way for restoring standard relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the world’s superpowers.”

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Dear Assembly,**

The International Court of Justice and its 2012-2015 President JUDr. Peter Tomka, the Japanese scientific, and research institution RIKEN Brain Science Institute and Federica Mogherini, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, each received one vote.

President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin each received three votes.

Ennio Morricone, Italian composer, musician and conductor, received four votes.

The winner of the vote is Pope Francis, who received 6 votes from the members of the Committee. I informed Pope Francis and his team of this fact in a letter dated 24 September 2015. As it happened, I did not receive his letter of thanks dated 6 August in reply to my notice of and grounds for nomination dated 12 July until mid-September. In these hard times for peace and security, my feelings about the fact which I learnt from my communication with the previous two popes that as a rule the Bishop of Rome - the Pope - does not accept awards and distinctions, could not be stronger.

I am currently awaiting Pope Francis’ reply to my letter dated 24 September 2015. On the basis of his reply, we will inform the public about how and when we will present our prize - the original “2015 Peace Prize from Slovakia” - to the utmost authority of the fight for peace and universally better quality of life all over the world - Pope Francis.

Bratislava, 29 October 2015