Dr. Peter Kasalovský

Co-initiator of the International Peace Committee and Permanent Representative

of the Informal Economic Forum Economic Club since 1993

**Announcementof the laureates**

**of the ‘2015 Peace Prize from Slovakia’ for 2017**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In January 2015, together with Dr Rongxiang Xu, a world-leading scientist in the field of regenerative restoration of the human body, we founded the ‘2015 Peace Prize from Slovakia’ and, within our Association, the International Peace Committee. Since then, the prize has been awarded to eight laureates selected by a secret vote on the day of the Hiroshima tragedy anniversary.

The ‘2015 Peace Prize from Slovakia’ is not covered by millions of dollars or euros. It is covered with the greatest possible respect that mortals can have for what individuals or groups of people do for life in peace. Their actions are human and humane and promote common sense, health, education and a dignified life for all, today or in the near future.

In 2015, the prize was awarded to Pope Francis, whose prize is kept in the custody of Prof. Štefan Kassay, and to OECD Secretary General José Ángel Gurría *‘for his work for the benefit of economic cooperation and development between the OECD and non-member states, which we see as a unique and, therefore, indispensable contribution to peaceful relations in the world, essential in terms of our civilisation.’*

In 2016, the honour was given to Syrian patriot and entrepreneur Muhammed Attar ‘for his selfless financial support to Syrians and people suffering from the civil war, for organising more than eight thousand volunteers providing first aid to the injured and children and for promoting the resolution of the humanitarian crisis in Syria’ and, for the first time, to a personality from Slovakia – Anton Barcík, the CEO of Považská cementáreň, a.s., in Ladce ‘for his major contribution to the creation of an open-air spiritual centre above the quarry on the Butkov mountain, the chapel of the Divine Mercy, and the access Way of the Cross‘.

In order to promote peace-making activities, in the current year of 2017, we extraordinarily awarded Slovak businesswoman Monika Babčanová ‘*for her relationship with Amazonian Indians and for providing them with comprehensive and financial support from her own unique jewellery production’* and film producer Rudolf Biermann ‘*for his historical Czech-Slovak film Masaryk and his contribution to the development of national culture’.* In May this year, the ‘2015 Peace Prize from Slovakia’ was received by Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz ‘*for his lifetime work and everything he has done for the Christian Europe and the whole civilisation as the closest aide to St. Pope John Paul II’,* and by a representative of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, on behalf of the citizens of the People’s Republic of China, *‘for their contribution to stability of peace, unique socio-economic development and global progress, as well as the modern Silk Road programme’*.

In accordance with the rules of the ‘2015 Peace Prize from Slovakia’, nine personalities from abroad were nominated; the tenth person on the ballots was Gerhard Schroeder and, together with them, Rudolf Schuster, the Slovak President in the 1999-2004 period, was nominated.

The list of the nominees was published at [www.hospodarskyklub.sk](http://www.hospodarskyklub.sk) and through the TASR press agency. Like last year, the visitors of our website at [www.hospodarskyklub.sk](http://www.hospodarskyklub.sk) can vote for their favourite until the end of 2017.

A total of twenty members voted on the day of the Hiroshima tragedy anniversary on 6 August. Five members of the International Peace Committee did not vote. By the end of August, the prize guarantor received twenty ballots. Most of the voting members took the opportunity to vote two of the nominees just like they did the year before.

Please let me announce the result of the vote.

The 35th President of the United States, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, has been selected as laureate in memoriam. He received eleven first-place votes and four second-place votes, totalling fifteen votes.

Thillo Sarrazin, a German politician, financier, sociologist and writer (5 and 4 votes, 9 votes in total), together with Gerhard Schroeder, the former German chancellor and entrepreneur (2 and 7 votes, 9 votes in total), came second.

Two other nominees, Russian President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and Czech pioneer of holistic and psychosomatic medicine Jan Hnízdil, also received votes.

**Distinguished Assembly,**

Twelve of the sixteen Slovak personalities participating in the vote cast their votes for the laureate from the Slovak Republic. Rudolf Schuster, Slovak President in 1999-2004, a member of the International Peace Committee and 1999 Golden Biatec laureate, was selected the laureate of the ‘2015 Peace Prize from Slovakia’ for 2017.

In response to multiple requests from our membership and after amending the Statute of the International Peace Committee, Eva Mišíková, Daniel Bohmer, Ján Breza, Ladislav Vaškovič, Josef Kružela and Viťazoslav Moric will become new members of the Committee. I propose that the Committee’s membership be extended to thirty-one.

**Distinguished Assembly, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I have approached Caroline Bouvier Kennedy, John Fitzgerald Kennedy’s daughter, ambassador, lawyer and writer, and proposed that she would collect the ‘2015 Peace Prize from Slovakia’ at our assembly on 7 December or next year. We will be commemorating this unique personality and 55 years since his assassination throughout next year. Also, at that time, the next laureate – the winner of the public vote and the traditional vote by members of the association and other personalities at the end of 2017 will be known. I will talk about the ‘Year of J.F.K.’ later.

**Distinguished Assembly**,

Today, we will award the ‘2015 Peace Prize from Slovakia’ for 2017. I am delighted to announce that the President of the Slovak Republic in 1999-2004, a member of our association and its International Peace Committee, Rudolf Schuster, has become the prize laureate.

The official grounds are as follows: *For following-up on the tradition of promoting the life and hardships of Brazilian Indians of the Paresi tribe by enthusiasts from Medzev led by Ján Benedikt and Alojz and Michal Schuster from 1927 and 1928, its continuation over three generations of the Schuster family in the 1991-2017 period and his creative mapping using both the written word and film as a medium and thus promoting Slovak-Brazilian friendship.’*

I would like to ask HE Rudolf Schuster to collect his ‘2015 Peace Prize from Slovakia’ for 2017. Let the fanfares sound.  On behalf of our association, celebrating an anniversary, and its International Peace Committee, I am extending my congratulations and thanks to the laureate for his actions for the benefit of our country, the Slovak nation and citizens, together with Ján Gabriel and Ivana Šoóšová.

Bratislava, October 19, 2017