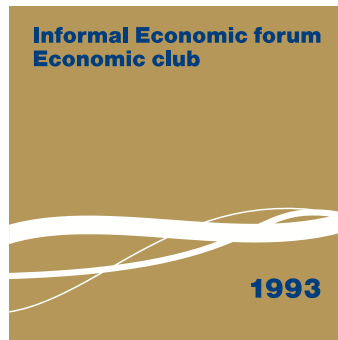


Informal Economic Forum – Economic Club association



THE BEST POLICY IS PROSPERITY

19 August 1993 – 18 April 2007, Europe, Slovak Republic, Bratislava

15th year of operation in 2007
Club's 5000th day will be 8 June 2007.



The initiative meeting took place on 19 August 1993.
At this forum, P. Kasalovský announced that he intended to associate economic and political leaders and to be independent of political parties. He declared the main objectives:

- 1 – challenge both government and opposition economic policy,
- 2 – assist the development of international relations,
- 3 – contribute to the reputation of the Slovak Republic.

Until 18 April 2007, 68 club meetings took place, of which nine were general meetings, and 196 events were organised in total.

As at 27 February 2007:

Number of regular members: 186

Number of honorary members from Slovakia: 6

Number of honorary members from abroad: 72

ASSOCIATION'S PRESTIGIOUS PRIZES



Golden Biatic since 1993

Prominent of the economy since 1995

The most popular member of the Slovak Government since 1998

The most popular parliament deputy since 1998

Best Bank since 1999

World Politician since 2003

These traditional prizes and honours are granted on the basis of a secret vote by club members and other personalities, but usually including votes from the public at www.hospodarskyklub.sk.



President of the Czech Republic prof. V. Klaus shows the certificate to cameras evidencing his victory in the enquiry "World Politician 2005" on the Prague Castle on 8 March 2006. To the right, Co-Chairman of the Club Committee R. Y. Mosny from the USA.



27. January 2006: Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic, L. Miklós, received a certificate from S. Hatina on the granting of the prestigious title "Prominent of the Economy".



Silver plaque for the winner of the World Politician 2006 enquiry, Russian President V. Putin.



Silver plaque for the winner of the Best Bank 2006, Slovenská sporiteľňa, a. s..



The first laureate of Golden Biatic, M. Kováč, handed over the new prize to Ph. Zepter of Monaco (first from the left, V. Veteška, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament behind him).

THE MAIN TOPIC OF THE MEETINGS IN
THE 14TH AND 15TH YEAR OF ACTIVITY WAS:
NEW THINKING IN THE NEW WORLD AND IN NEW EUROPE



At the end of summer 2002, leader of SMER, R. Fico, in an exchange of opinions with the Chairman of the Committee, S. Hatina, and Executive Deputy Chairman, P. Kasalovský.

Support to the club's goals was expressed, among international personalities, by Pope Benedict XVI, French President J. Chirac, Czech President prof. V. Klaus, WEF President prof. K. Schwab, and, from Slovakia, by Slovak President I. Gašparovič, Ján Chryzostom cardinal Korec, Speaker of the Parliament P. Paška, Prime Minister R. Fico, and former Foreign Minister E. Kukan.



In autumn 1996, T. Bata came to Bratislava to collect the first prize from former Czecho-Slovakia.



A week before his inauguration as the third President of the Slovak Republic, I. Gašparovič met the representation of the club (second from the left; on the right, V. Masár, former Governor of the National Bank of Slovakia; on the left, S. Hatina, and behind him, the owner of the Kalea company, K. Štefankovičová

PROMINENT INTERNATIONAL LAUREATES OF THE GOLDEN BIATEC ANNUAL PRIZE:



- 1994 Prof. K. Schwab, founder and president of the World Economic Forum
- 1994 M. Kučan, President of the Republic of Slovenia
- 1994 V. Masol, Ukrainian Prime Minister
- 1995 Prof. V. Klaus, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic
- 1996 J. Santer, President of the European Commission
- 1996 T. Bata, businessman, Canada
- 1997 sir L. Brittan, Vice-President of the European Commission
- 1997 H. Kohl, German chancellor
- 1997 A. Kvasniewski, Polish President
- 1998 D. Johnston, OECD Secretary-General
- 1998 R. Johnson, US Ambassador to Slovakia
- 1998 J. Naisbitt, political scientist, USA
- 1998 Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, economist, USA
- 1998 Voice of America
- 1998 F. Mayor, UNESCO Secretary-General
- 1999 H. Maucher, Chairman of the Board, Nestlé, AS, Switzerland, and WEF Vice-President
- 1999 G. W. Bush, Governor of Texas, USA
- 2000 Z. Niemczycki, entrepreneur, representative of Polish industry and trade
- 2000 F. Piech, Chairman of the Board, Volkswagen, AG, Germany
- 2001 V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation
- 2001 J. Chirac, French President
- 2001 G. Mueller, ISI President, USA
- 2002 Ph. Zepfer, businessman, Monaco
- 2003 A. Hochleitner, main representative of Siemens for Central and Eastern Europe, Austria




Letter of WEF President, prof. K. Schwab, on club's actions before opening its discussion on the several-months' topic No. 1, New Thinking in the New World and in New Europe.

The first laureate of the prestigious prize of Golden Biatec was the first president of the Slovak Republic, M. Kováč. This honour was also given to presidents R. Schuster and I. Gašparovič. In 2001, Golden Biatec and honorary club rights were granted to Ján Chryzostom cardinal Korec.

The prestigious award "Prominent of the Economy" went exceptionally to foreign personalities – R. Chazbulatov, economist and scientist, and I. Melenc, French physician. In 13th to 15th year of operation (2004 – 2006), foreign VIPs were tested in the club's enquiry "World Politician". In 2004, the winner was the Russian President, V. Putin; in 2005, the Czech President, prof. V. Klaus, and in 2006, the Russian President, V. Putin. The highest ranked personalities were Pope John Paul II and, after his death, also Benedict XVI.



J. Naisbitt (to the right) speaks in 1998 what world they wanted and wished together with the co-author of the bestseller Megatrends 2000, P. Aburden. Next to him, the initiator of club's activity, P. Kasalovský.



Declaration of the IEF Economic Club of 18 April 2007 on the Future of the EU and its Relations with the United States to the National Council, the Government and the President of the Slovak Republic, the European Parliament and the European Commission

For more than a year and a half, we have thought it honest and essential to openly talk about the future of Europe, the European Union, and its relations with the US. Since autumn 2005, the meetings of our association – the Informal Economic Forum Economic Club – have paid attention to these issues, which are not only a matter of political leaders, but also the non-governmental and civil sectors. The halting of EU institutional reform and, almost equally, the overall state of the EU were the strongest impetus for our discussion on these issues under the title “New Thinking in the New World and the New Europe”.

We are of the opinion that the new home for European nations and their states, which was made attractive by many political legends of the 20th century, in particular French President F. Mitterand and German Chancellor H. Kohl, is not being completed thoroughly and unreservedly. The process of European-wide integration appears to lack the necessary support and energy in the quality of the new relations within the EU organism. The EU should be a new home for European nations and their states and its appeal has and will continue to be given by the most precious values of our civilisation’s development. These are equality, brotherhood and freedom, which always require proper attention, in particular because they are always a necessary condition for a new quality of traditional and generally known human ideals.

The real reasons why the process of approval of the European Constitution has been blocked still have not been clearly expressed. How many leading politicians from individual Member States, not to mention their citizens, know, or at least guess, where the EU is going institutionally?! Why shouldn’t we demand that political leaders finally give a statement on their particular idea of the future of Europe and the EU?! We should ask what is being done for the sake of the declared efforts and make an attempt at self-reflection – have we done too little, just enough or more than enough? And this includes the issues of peace, freedom, solidarity and joint management of affairs. We have tried to do this in our discussions and many of us are of the opinion that politicians too often tend to present the desired as the already accomplished.

How well do we in the EU know each other? Are we closer to each other? How many of us feel that they belong to their own nation and country, to Europe and the EU, and to the part of mankind, which is democratically – out of the will of the majority – changing the world for the better, eliminating evil and its causes? Is the EU’s model of economic success actually realistic and functional? How is it guaranteed? To what extent are the efforts centred on people? On what basis do we believe that in terms of knowledge and culture, we are wealthier than other parts of the world? We feel that the responsibility for global developments lies not only with individual Member States, but also with the community of EU Member States as a whole. Are we united in our views on conflict situations or do we behave like the select few who have the right to judge others? Are we dealing with them according to the degree of danger they pose or according to our free will? Are the issues of climate change and consequences of globalism really a priority in the actions of our leaders?



Poor efficiency of the executive power in confrontation with terrorism and the world of crime has resulted in unacceptable interventions in human rights, civil rights and even privacy. The failure of specific security solutions is ever more frequently unreasonably ascribed to our inexperience. Regrettably, military action continues to have a greater weight and power than cultural diplomacy. Are we, in our conscience, helping to create a world that is economically and socially better? How have we really mitigated the risk of international and regional military conflicts? Are we really contributing to the eradication of hunger, poverty, illiteracy and diseases, to which we committed ourselves almost 40 years ago?

Already a decade ago, we called on the Slovak Parliament and Government, and in particular the representatives abroad, to increase information about our obligations, our rights and the developments in European institutions, and we have to repeat this appeal again. The lack of information causes lack of interest in public affairs and leads to doubts, mistakes and wrong stances. Our friends, partners and even competitors see us as a society with successful, well-targeted reforms based on responsibility of the individual and overall exemplary economic dynamics. Nevertheless, the task of reducing our indebtedness and, above all, coping with the historical challenge of spending only what we can produce, will not be an easy thing to do.

The concept, the project and then the construction of the new home for European nations and their states, have indeed been one of the wonders of our civilisation. Its organisation and overall success is not only an important factor of stability, but also an example of economic and social progress, multinational civil society and peaceful development both in Europe and the world over. Still, it needs better order and more self-discipline. Today, we can also see the needs of the nearest future, when, as it seems, the need will arise to create a new quality of relations and even harmonise the policy in the EU and its Member States with that of the United States. Without such a strategy, finding solutions to global priorities, in particular the environment and global security, will be increasingly more complex and problematic.

Ten years ago, on 23 May 1997, we unanimously adopted a declaration on Slovakia's membership of the EU and NATO. We reaffirmed the validity of its content on 20 January 2003, when a section of the domestic and foreign public seemed to underestimate their importance. Today, we reiterate that they are a far-sighted solution to the development of relations between nations and their states in Europe and the world. Still, we believe that substantial improvement of the provision of information about the activities and intentions of European institutions is a basic prerequisite for their viability. The urgent need to initiate maximum support for comprehensive mutual convergence of the populations of the Member States appears to be no less important. Institutional reform also needs the opinions of the broadest possible layers of civil society and responsible Europeans to be heard.

Informal Economic Forum – Economic Club association

Founder and administrator

Dr. Peter Kasalovský

Co-chairmen

Ing. Slavomír Hatina, Dr.h.c.

Rudolf Y. Mosny

Deputy Chairmen

Ing. Peter Hrinko

Dr. Peter Kasalovský

Members

Ing. Zdeněk Dokulil

Ing. Jozef Dolník

Ing. Ladislav Sedmák

Ing. Vladimír Synek

Auditor

Ing. Štefan Kardoš

INFO: www.hospodarskyklub.sk

Contact:

NEF Hospodársky klub,

Viedenská cesta 5 (Incheba Hotel),

854 04 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Fax : 00421 2 67273029

E-mail : pkasalovsky@hospodarskyklub.sk, nef93@chello.sk

Partners:



Lázně Luhačovice, a.s.,
Luhačovice, Czech Republic



SEWA,
Slovak Electronic Waste Agency



Latemrecycling, s.r.o,
Bratislava



Recyklačný fond

Meridian Global Advisor,
U. S. A.

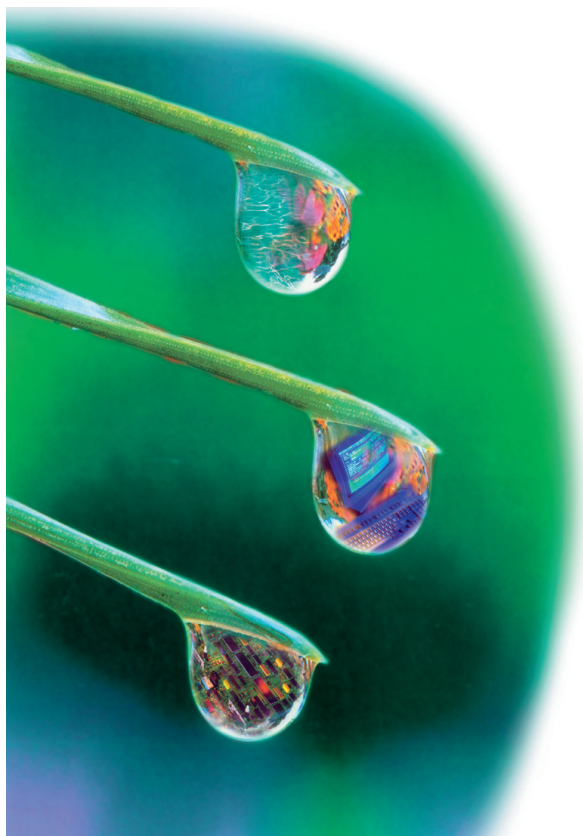
SEWA[®]

- not – profit joint stock company, established by expert associations ADAT and ITAS
- open collective system for WEEE, authorised organization for packaging materials, portable batteries and accumulators

New logo, as declaration of responsibility in WEEE, packaging materials, portable batteries and accumulators management:



COMPLEX SOLUTION FOR PRODUCERS AND IMPORTERS TO SECURE THE FULFILMENT OF OBLIGATIONS IN THE AREA OF EEE, PACKAGING MATERIALS, PORTABLE BATTERIES AND ACCUMULATORS



- to ensure the obligatory limits of collection and recovery of WEEE, packaging waste, used portable batteries and accumulators
- to organize the take-back from retail distribution points, collection and treatment of WEEE, packaging waste, used portable batteries and accumulators
- to fulfil the registration, reporting, keeping of records, statistical and other obligations
- the consistent selection of partners for collection and treatment of WEEE, packaging waste, and portable batteries and accumulators

®

SEWA[®]
professional and effective environmental management of WEEE