

MONTENEGRO ON THE WAY TO EURO-ATLANTIC FAMILY



Crna Gora
Ministarstvo inostranih poslova

Profiles of Slovak Speakers

Security Seminar

Podgorica, Montenegro
March 30-31, 2009

Mr. Ambassador Igor Slobodník

Director General of Political Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic



He was born on October 23, 1962. After his graduation at the Faculty of Arts of the Comenius University in Bratislava in 1985 he worked for the Czechoslovak Press Agency in International Section and for Weekly Výber as Editor and lately as Editor-in-Chief. In 1992 he began to work at the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovakia on the position of Private Secretary to the Minister. Before he became Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United Kingdom in 1997, he had gained his first diplomatic experiences in Denmark as Chargé d'Affaires. After his return, he was part of the team in the **Department of the EU Chief Negotiator** at the MFA. In 2001, he was appointed Director General for Defence Policy and International Relations, at the

Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic. In 2003 - 2008 he held the position of Slovak Republic **Ambassador at the North Atlantic Council, Head of Slovak Mission to NATO** and lately he became the **NATO permanent representative of the Slovak Republic**. He speaks English, German, French, Russian, and Danish. He is married with two children.



EURO-ATLANTIC
QUARTERLY



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Mr. Ambassador František Lipka, Ph.D.

Ambassador of the Slovak Republic



He was born on February 22, 1946 in Bratislava. He studied Serbo-Croatian Language and Serbo-Croatian Literature at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Comenius University in Bratislava. In 1981 he studied at Sorbonne University in Paris and later that year he received Ph.D. degree for Doctoral Thesis on Serbian Poetry of 20th Century. He began his professional career as an assistant and later as a lecturer at the Slavic and Indo-European Department of the Faculty of Philosophy, Comenius University in Bratislava. In 1972-1976 and 1982-1987 he lectured Slovak Language at the Faculty of Philosophy, University in Novi Sad (Yugoslavia). His diplomatic career started in the Analytical Working Group of Minister's Office at the Department of Cultural Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the CSFR in 1987. He was appointed as Ambassador of CSFR to Yugoslavia in 1990 and in 1993 he became the **first Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Yugoslavia**. Later that year he advised to the Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 1993 – 1997 he served as Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to France and UNESCO and was also responsible for OECD accession. After he had directed the Scandinavian and Benelux Desks at the MFA for 3 years, he became Ambassador to Belgium and Luxemburg in 1999. In 2006 he was appointed to act as **Chairman of of Republican Referendum Commission for organizing Referendum on Legal State/Status of the Republic of Montenegro**. Beside his professional life, he also published 7 books of poetry and translated thirty books from Serbian, Croatian, Slovenian and Macedonian languages to Slovak language and in 1995 he was Chairman of the International Jury for O.I.V. awards (International Organization of Vine and Wine, Paris). Ambassador Lipka received several awards e.g. Grand Officier de l'Ordre National du Merite de la République Française (France); Officier de l'Ordre du Merite Agricole (France); Grand Croix de l'Ordre de Leopold II. (Belgium); Medaille de l' O.I. V. (Medal O.I.V.). He is fluent in French, Serbian and Croatian languages and has a passive knowledge of English, Russian, Slovenian and Macedonian languages. František Lipka is married and has one child.

Mr. Ambassador Rastislav Káčer

President of the Slovak Atlantic Commission



Mr. Kacer was elected the President of the Slovak Atlantic Commission (member of the Atlantic Treaty Association), an non-governmental organization in July 2008 after completion of his five year term in Washington DC as the **Ambassador of Slovakia to the United States**. Prior to this Rastislav served at different levels of government for 16 years. Rastislav began his career as policy analyst at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs rising to Head of the Analytical Unit. Between 1994 and 1998 he served at NATO Headquarters in Brussels and on this return from Brussels became head of Policy Planning Staff and the Director General for Security Policy and



EURO-ATLANTIC
QUARTERLY



MONTENEGRO ON THE WAY TO EURO-ATLANTIC FAMILY



Crna Gora

Ministarstvo inostranih poslova

Multilateral Affairs in the Ministry. In 2001 he became the **Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defense responsible for the negotiations and accession process of Slovakia to NATO**. In July 2008, Rastislav was elected President of the Slovak Atlantic Commission which is a member of the Atlantic Treaty Association. Rastislav is widely recognized as expert on U.S. Domestic and Foreign Policy, Transatlantic Relations, Defense and Security Issues. Currently Rastislav oversees FIPRA assignments in Strategic Government Relations for Foreign Investors, Governments and International Institutions. Rastislav also serves as a Special Adviser to the FIPRA Group in Defense Policy and Procurement Team. Rastislav speaks fluent Slovak, English, French and Russian. In September 2008 he joined the consulting company FIPRA Slovakia – Public Policy & Regulatory Advisers, where he is serving as the Chairman of FIPRA Slovakia.

Mr. Miroslav Wlachovský

Department of Operational Planning and Project Support, MFA of the Slovak Republic



Miroslav Wlachovský was born on February 3, 1970 in Bratislava. He studied philosophy-sociology at Philosophical Faculty of Comenius University in Bratislava. During his studies he worked as freelance writer for Czech weekly magazine Reflex and Radio Free Europe. After graduation, in 1994, he started to work at Slovak Institute for International Studies (SIIS), a think-tank attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. He was responsible for editorial policy of the institute and worked as editor-in-chief of quarterly International Issues. In 1995 he left the SIIS and joined Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA), an independent citizen association focused on foreign policy and international issues. Together with a group of former colleagues they established the Research Center of SFPA. In 1995-1998 he was its first director. After elections in 1998 he has joined the MFA. On November 9, 1998 he became Director of the Department of Analysis and Policy Planning at the ministry. In his new position he was responsible for preparing and finalizing concepts and strategic foreign policy materials for the Slovak government. He also worked as a foreign policy speechwriter for the leadership of the ministry and the Prime Minister office. During the period of Slovakia's **preparation for NATO membership** he was a **chairman of interagency committee for public relations** and he was **major contributor to NATO Public Awareness Campaign Strategy**. In July 2001 he joined the team of Slovak Prime Minister Mikuláš Dzurinda as his Foreign Policy Advisor. As PM's advisor he was responsible for preparation of PM's foreign policy agenda and speechwriting. He was **part of a Slovak delegation to NATO summit in Prague**, where Slovakia was officially invited to become member of the alliance as well as EU summit in Copenhagen in December 2002, where Slovakia finalized its negotiations of EU membership. Since February 2003 Miroslav Wlachovský worked as Political Counselor at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, DC; in 2005 he was promoted to DCM.



EURO-ATLANTIC
QUARTERLY



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Ministarstvo inostranih poslova

Mr. Vladimír Tarasovič

Research Fellow, Center for European and North Atlantic Affairs

Education:

- 2004 - PhD Study at the Faculty of Aeronautics, Technical University, Košice
- 1997 – 1998 15th Generalstabslehrgang, National Defence Academy, Vienna, Austria
- 1995 The College of Strategic Studies and Defense Economics, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Garmisch – Partenkirchen, Germany
- 1974 – 1978 Military Air Force Academy, Košice, SR

Special Courses:

- 2003 National Security Studies Seminar, Canadian Forces College, Toronto, Kanada
- 2002, 1999, 1996 C-41 – NATO European Security Co-operation Course, The NATO School (SHAPE), Oberammergau, Germany
- 1999 Civil Military Co-operation Course, Stato Maggiore della Difesa, Rome, Italy

Career Details:

- 1978 – 1979 Platoon Leader, Military Air Force Secondary School, Prešov, SR
- 1979 – 1980 Company Commander, Military Air Force Secondary School, Prešov, SR
- 1980 – 1993 Staff Officer, Military Air Force Secondary School, Prešov, SR
- 1993 Group Chief, Military Air Force Secondary School, Prešov, SR
- 1993 – 1994 Senior Officer, Air Force & Air Defence HQ, Slovak Army, HQ, Trenčín
- 1994 Department Deputy Chief, Air Force & Air Defence HQ, Slovak Army HQ, Trenčín
- 1994 – 1998 Senior Officer, Centre for Security Studies, MoD, Bratislava
- 1998 – 1999 Department Deputy Director, Centre for Strategic Studies, MoD, Bratislava
- 1999 – 2000 Senior Officer, Centre for Defence Studies, MoD, Bratislava
- 2000 Senior Officer, Defence Policy and Defence Planning Department, MoD SR
- 2001 - 2004 Senior Officer, Research Section, Defence and Security Institute, MoD SR
- 2004 Deputy Director, Institute for Security and Defence Studies, MoD SR



EURO-ATLANTIC
QUARTERLY



MONTENEGRO ON THE WAY TO EURO-ATLANTIC FAMILY



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Mrs. Eva Mihočková

Journalist



Eva Mihočková is a journalist currently writing for **Plus7dní weekly**. She is based in Bratislava, Slovakia but she comes to Brussels and Strasbourg quite often to cover top issues from **EU and NATO politics**. Eva has a long professional experience as a journalist focused on international relations. Her career started in 1998 when she became a reporter of Slovak television in the documentary department. On 10 September 2001 she joined the team of a news television TA3 and the very next day she was already reporting on the 9/11 attacks. A wide variety of stories covering Slovak parliamentary issues as well as EU and NATO top events have earned her a reputation of a credible, senior journalist in Slovakia. Eva was following closely the **integration process of Slovakia with EU and NATO**. She was also hosting the main evening political talk-show in TA3. In April 2006 she accepted an offer from Slovak television and started to work as a senior reporter focused on parliamentary issues and EU politics. While presenting many seminars and conferences on international and European issues she started to work as a deputy editor in chief in EurActiv.sk portal, which is a pan-European portal delivering news and information on EU politics. Eva speaks fluent English and French.

Mr. Július Lőrincz

Journalist



He began his work as a journalist in the year of 1959. He started his career as the reporter and economy reporter for the Czechoslovak radio and then for the regional newspaper Hlas ľudu. He was working for the leading opinion **daily paper Pravda** during years 1968 – 2002, reporting about international affairs with the emphasis on the **Balkan** issues. He was covering the civil wars in former Yugoslavia directly from the conflict zones (Sarajevo, Knin, Kosovo), making interviews with Milovan Djilas, Kiro Gligorov, Vojislav Kostunica, Zoran Djindjic, Ivica Racan, Milan Babic, Vuk Draskovic, Mira Markovic, Ibrahim Rugova, Veton Surroi, Boris Tadic, Milo Djukanovic, Ranko Krivokapic. He was also writing for the editorial page of Pravda about **integration of Slovakia into NATO and EU**. In 2002 he started to work at the Slovak embassy in Zagreb as the counselor. He spent three years in this position. Also after retirement he is still active in various NGOs and journalism organizations.

