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## **Information on the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Non- Governmental Non-Profit Organisations (CG NGNPO)**

The CG NGNPO was created by the government of Slovak Republic by its Resolution No. 738 of 31 August 1999 when the Charter of the CG NGNPO was approved as well. Before that, draft Charter of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations was elaborated in the context of the new government of SR (elected in 1998) entering the office and in compliance with the tasks for the area of civil society resulting from the Programme declaration of the Government of the Slovak Republic, in the context of the Declaration by the 6 Stupava NGO Conference and on the basis of outputs from repeated meeting with the representatives of the Gremium of Third Sector (Grémium tretieho sektora), Donors Forum (Fórum donorov) and the representatives of other umbrella and service NGOs in the Slovak Republic

### **From the Charter of CG NGNPO:**

#### **Article 1**

The Charter of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations (hereinafter the "Council") stipulates the status, scope, principles of the operation of the Council, composition of and membership on the Council, the rights and duties of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and members of the Council, and the organisation and administrative framework of the operation of the Council.

#### **Article 2**

##### **The Status of the Council**

The Council is an advisory and initiating body of the Government of the Slovak Republic to support the activities of non-governmental non-profit organisations. These mainly include civic associations, foundations and non-investment funds, associations of legal entities, property associations and charity and humanitarian organisations, which carry out publicly beneficial activities, in particular in the field of humanity and charity, care for children, youth and sports, education, human rights protection, healthcare, culture, protection of the environment and regional development.

#### **Article 3**

##### **The scope of activities of the Council**

/1/ The Council shall carry out tasks according to its own work plan that links up and complies with the work plan of the Government and the plan of legislative tasks of the Government of the Slovak Republic.

/2/ The scope of activities of the Council shall mainly include:

- a) initiating and evaluating policy materials and measures for decisions by the Government of the Slovak Republic concerning the support of non-governmental non-profit organisations,

- b) initiating legislative drafts and commenting legislative drafts relating to the conditions of activities of non-governmental non-profit organisations,
- c) cooperating with central bodies of state administration of the Slovak Republic on programmes of cooperation between the state and non-governmental non-profit organisations at all levels of public affairs administration, defining procedures and criteria for the access of non-governmental non-profit organisations to public funds, on the granting system of subsidies from the state budget to non-governmental non-profit organisations and proposing appropriate representation of non-governmental non-profit organisations in decision-making, monitoring and evaluating bodies,
- d) initiating activities of a publicly accessible information system with a databases structure on non-governmental non-profit organisation as well as programmes of the Government of the Slovak Republic, its decisions and adopted tasks that shall be based on the needs of non-governmental non-profit organisations and the Government of the Slovak Republic,
- e) shall establish specialised working groups for addressing exceptionally intricate problems.

#### **Article 4**

##### **Composition of the Council and Membership on the Council**

/1/ The Council is composed of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and members.

/2/ The Government of the Slovak Republic appoints and removes the Chairman of the Council and the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, Minorities and Regional Development is the Chairman of the Council.

/3/ The Chairman of the Council appoints and removes the Vice-Chairman and members of the Council upon a proposal by non-governmental non-profit organisations, ministers of the relevant ministries and other central bodies of the state administration of the Slovak Republic after their names list approval by the Government of the Slovak Republic.

/4/ The Chairman of Council appoints and removes the Secretary of the Council upon the proposal by the Council.

/5/ Representatives of non-governmental non-profit organisations, ministries and other central bodies of the state administration of the Slovak Republic having a competence with respect to non-governmental non-profit organisations are members of the Council. Their list is in the annex hereto.

/6/ Non-governmental non-profit organisations and their umbrella and service organisations nominate the representatives of nongovernmental non-profit organisations after agreeing with the Chairman of the Council. State secretaries proposed by the relevant ministers represent the ministries. The representatives nominated by the competent central body of the state administration of the Slovak Republic represent other central bodies of the state administration of the Slovak Republic.

/7/ Only a national of the Slovak Republic who is a person of integrity can be a member of the Council.

/8/ Membership in the Council is a honorary function. The members of the Council are irreplaceable in their function. The member shall inform the Secretary of the Council about his/her absence from the meeting in writing in advance.

*Note: The entire Charter – see enclosure*

#### **A) Activities of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations during the 1999-2002 period:**

The government elected in 1998 had positively changed its attitude to civic society organisations, however, many plans and tasks that would be of benefit for the development of partnership relations with the NGO sector and that were included in the Programme Declaration of the Government had not been fully translated into concrete results. All of them were tasks where the state has also its share of responsibility, however, they require a cross-sectoral and systemic approach, general acceptance of the roles and activities of the NGO sector on the side of the state, local governments and public opinion in the shaping and developing the civic society.

During the period 1999-2002, 17 representatives of state administration and 19 representatives of NGOs were members of the CG NGNPO, Deputy Prime Minister Pál Csáky was the Chairman of the CG NGNPO, State Secretary of the Ministry of Finance Vladimil Podstránsky was the Vice-Chairman. The Secretariat of CG NGNPO was organisationally under the Human Rights and Minorities Section of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic and Director General of the Section Jana Kviečinská was at the same time the Secretary the CG NGNPO.

In the previous period the CG NGNPO sat five times. It has established working groups the members of which are also non-members of the CG NGNPO and which work on the design of concrete technical, topical drafts and tasks.

The plans and proposals made by the NGOS for the Government of the Slovak Republic, which were also discussed at the CG NGNPO were based on current discussions concerning the development and prospects of the non-governmental non-profit sector, the need to adopt or amend pieces of legislation laying down the institutional framework and the need to look for mechanisms that would result in its financial stability.

#### **B) Activities of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations in the period after parliamentary elections in 2002:**

The Government of the Slovak Republic, by its Resolution No. 223 of 23 March 2003 approved the proposal for the renewed composition of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations. This proposal deals with the representation of central state administration bodies and non-governmental non-profit organisations on the Council of the Government for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations, with a view to the changes that have occurred since the 2002 parliamentary elections at the level of state administration and in the internal self-organisation of the third sector in Slovakia.

Current CG NGNPO is composed of 40 members.

18 of them are representatives of state administration: Deputy Prime Minister for the European Integration, Human Rights and Minorities Pál Csáky remains the Chairman of the CG NGNPO; other state representatives are: 13 State Secretaries of Ministries, one representative of National Bank of Slovakia, one representative of Statistical Office of SR, one representative of Government Office – Section of European Affairs and the Chief Hygienist of SR. The State Secretary of the Ministry of Finance Vladimil Podstránsky remains the Vice-Chairman of the Council.

22 members are representatives of „platforms“ of NGOs while as „platforms“ of NGOs are considered formal or informal groupings of NGOs representing certain areas of NGO activities.

*Note: The entire List of Members of CG NGNPO – see enclosure*

The new CG NGNPO met on its first session on 8 April 2003. The Work Plan of CG NGNPO for 2003 was approved, as well as creation of two Working Groups: one for legislative and economical issues and one for the issues concerning the NGOs involvement into the process of integration.

The Secretariat of CG NGNPO is organisationally under the Human Rights and Minorities Section of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic and Director General of the Section Jana Kviečinská is at the same time the Secretary the CG NGNPO.

Administrational assistance for the Secretariat is covered by Tereza Horská, who is Senior Counsellor of the Human Rights and Minorities Section of the Office of the Government.

**Contact address and persons of the Secretariat of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations:**

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