

Embassy of the Republic of Slovakia  
Thommas Heftyes gate 24  
0244 Oslo

December 15, 2003

Dear Ambassador Andrej Sokolik

### **Activity Report for July- December 2003**

#### **Projects**

The consulate has a functioning web-site which will be updated on a regular basis. We also now have electronic business cards which link to Corps Consular.

Euroreport magazine, in their December issue focusing on Slovakia's relationship to Norway, includes an interview with me as consul.

Petra Fencikova is in Norway on a traineeship program as proposed by Aiesec. This traineeship is sponsored by the Norwegian government through the program Linking-Up whose aim is to support cooperation between Norway and the twelve negotiating countries in the European Union. Currently she is working in Trondheim Kommune (Municipality) in the Business Support Unit, seeking to find new business opportunities with the Slovak Republic. Her mentor is Industry Manager, Birger Elvestad.

In cooperation with North & South Trønderlag Municipality, SND, Export Support Promotion Trønderlag and a various other trade and industry representatives, the Trondheim City Manager, Inge Noreide, is investigating the possible opportunities for Slovakian waste-water industries. We wish to present the current business situation in Slovakia together with future plans and financing possibilities within this sector.

We are working on a Slovakian travelling exhibition planned for August 1 to August 28, 2004. There will be nine different installations within this exhibition. Lujza Hamitouche Olsen will be responsible for this project. The exhibition's central theme is 'Light' and its changes in nature and a person's life. Each artist presents their own artistic interpretation of the theme and the result is as varied as the artist themselves. The exhibition will be officially opened by the Slovakian ambassador in Norway Andrej Sokolik at the Trondheim Artist Society's gallery. Slovakian wine will be served at the official opening.

## **Project**

Huseby School principle, Per-Egil Toldnes and his staff were invited to Bratislava to discuss the possibilities of further cooperation with Zuzana Homolova and her colleagues. The visit was in response to the previous visit of a selected group of artists from Bratislava who visited Huseby School during the 'Slovakisk mars i Trondheim' in March 2003. The visit took place in October this year and lasted four days. We wish for cooperation with more schools in order to share and exchange skills and expertise. The Slovakian education system clearly has a very high level of child and youth education within the applied arts field. Here in Norway, our strengths lie in the use of modern technologies in the classroom. In order to facilitate the cooperation of the schools, a joint gift of a video camera from the consul in Trondheim and Huseby School, was presented. The intention is to maintain a level of professional cooperation by way of the sharing of pedagogic techniques, methodology and the flowing of the artistic output from the student body. In addition, we will participate in common planning and production with regards to participation in international exhibitions and competitions.

## **August 2003**

The Commercial Section or the embassy arranged an investment seminar to find new investors for Slovakia to be held October 14. The seminar focused mostly on information and telecommunication technologies, the wood-processing industry, and the food industry. Norwegian invitations were sent out and we had frequent meetings with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and also the leader of The Export Club. Unfortunately, the results were disappointing.

## **September 2003**

Participated with my wife Karin, in Slovakia's national day in Oslo. The next day we met with Ambassador Andrej Sokolik and First Secretary Commercial Section Valeria Zolcerova.

## **October 2003**

Participated with my wife Karin in the Fourth Meeting of the Honorary Consuls of the Slovak Republic in Bratislava October 29-30. I have written a report on my participation in the meetings. Report is dated 5 December.

## **November**

Participated in a seminar in Oslo arranged by the Norwegian Foreign Affairs department. The department explained the consul's protocol requirements with respect to the Vienna convention.

## **December 2003**

Met with Petra Fencikova regarding the 'Environmental Business Opportunities in Slovakia project'. We had originally hoped to have a workshop in December but this has now been delayed until February 2004.

Interview with Euroreport magazine in December issue. Consulate contributed 5000 NOK to the magazine.

Planning of the Slovakian Travelling Exhibition to be held August 1 to August 28, 2004. Invitations to a pre-opening (Vernissaje) will be sent out before Christmas.

## Goals for 2004

- Working with establishing cooperation between the Slovak region Tresin and Trondheim.
- Organise *Environmental Business Opportunities in Slovakia* workshop in February 2004
- Realize Slovakian Travelling Exhibition in January 2004.
- Create a yearly Slovakian Cultural Evening every May with the ambassador and invited guests
- Continued follow up of the Norwegian-Slovakian Association in Trondheim.
- Travel to Slovakia to learn more about the SPA concept.
- Arrange a meeting with Slovaks who reside in this region.
- Participate in arrangements which promote Slovakia.

Respectfully,

Erik Frederiksen  
Honorary Consul

Attachments: Report from the Fourth Meeting of the Honorary Consuls of the Slovak Republic.  
Accounting Report for "Slovakisk mars i Trondheim".