

THE NATIONAL MAP OF SLOVAKIA

Implementation of the National MAP of Slovakia
(Discussion paper)

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The second cycle of MAP brought a qualitative shift into the framework of the Slovak Republic's preparations for membership in the Alliance. The dialogue between the Slovak Republic and NATO was instrumental in identifying the areas that require preferential attention and allocation of available material and human resources. Successful interactions with the Alliance may be exemplified, in particular, by recent negotiations of the enlarged NATO team in Slovakia and their follow-up results that we have been able to attain in a relatively short time. This experience points to the significance of feedback in the process of preparation that has proved to be one of the key principles for cooperation between the Slovak Republic and NATO.

1. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES

The Slovak Republic recognises that the cornerstone of NATO is its shared and safeguarded system of values. It is evident today that only a predictable, stable, democratic country with market economy can be extended an invitation to become a member of the Alliance.

1.1. Amendment to the Constitution of the Slovak Republic

Positive trend of development of the Slovak Republic continues, as demonstrated in the political field by the passage of the amendment to the Constitution of the Slovak Republic by the National Council on 23 February 2001. The amendment improves conditions for Slovakia's integration into NATO and the EU which has been hailed, in this respect, by NATO member states representatives at PMSC meeting on March 9, 2001, and also in official statements of EU representatives. It provides that, with a view to safeguarding peace, security, and democratic order and under conditions provided for in an international treaty, the Slovak Republic may join a collective security organisation. This text has been inserted in anticipation of future accession to the North Atlantic Alliance. In this connection, and in order to ensure a more effective fulfilment of obligations expected upon accession to NATO, the amendment vests the power to decide on the deployment of armed forces of not more than 60 days in fulfilling the obligations of mutual defence against attack in the Government of the Slovak Republic (decision on deployments of longer duration will be made by the National Council of the Slovak Republic). Also vested in the Government are the powers to make decisions on the deployment or reception of armed forces in case of military exercises, observer peacekeeping missions and humanitarian assistance. It explicitly sets out the power of the Government to approve the transit of foreign armed forces through the territory of the Slovak Republic. The introduction of a general reception norm in the amended Constitution means the precedence of selected international treaties over the laws of the Slovak Republic. The amendment also strengthens the independence of the National Bank of Slovakia acting as central bank and the status of the Supreme Audit Office, creates constitutional prerequisites for the planned public administration reform, expands competencies of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic. The amendment has made an important contribution to promoting democracy in Slovakia also through strengthening the judicial power. Judges will no longer be appointed for a four-year probationary period and will obtain tenure at the moment of their first appointment. Constitutional amendment also emphasises the element of the protection of human rights in that it introduces the institution of their public defender, the ombudsman.

1.2. Protection of minority rights and freedoms

The Government of the Slovak Republic attaches permanent attention to the protection of minority rights and freedoms. This fact is also confirmed by the accession of the Slovak Republic to the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages, signed on 20 February 2001. In addition to issues that are common to all national minorities in Slovakia we are addressing a specific problem of the Roma minority, in particular through the institution of the Government's plenipotentiary for addressing the Roma issue. The measures in this field reflect the civil principle and promote equal opportunities for all with positive stimulation, objective solution of conflicts, value system of the European community and support for the nascent Roma intelligentsia on a partner basis. In 2001 the Government made a budget allocation of 30 million SKK for projects aimed at improving the situation of the Roma community and prepared also a project under the Minority Tolerance Programme designed primarily to deal with the problems of the Roma, allocated 1.8 million EURO from the PHARE programme fund. The Government also coordinates the implementation of the project on the "Improvement of the Situation of the Roma in the Spiš Region from Pre-Ins Facility" (amounting to 450,000 EURO) to be completed by the end of 2001. However, recent developments demonstrate that the Roma issue represents a challenge of European proportions and requires long-term solutions. Moreover, to be successful, programmes for the Roma community depend on an active approach and cooperation from the minority concerned. The key to improving the Roma situation in Slovakia is to increase their educational standards and to ensure an overall improvement of economic and social situation of the country.

1.3. Security policy strategic documents

The developments that have already taken place in 2001 seem to suggest that this will be the year of a positive turnaround in this area. On 27 March 2001 the Parliament adopted the Security Strategy of the Slovak Republic by a majority of 102 votes (exceeding even the three-fifth "constitutional quorum"). This key document for security policy of Slovakia will be used as the basis for other strategies, concepts and legislative measures. Security strategy of the Slovak Republic defines the category of vital interests of the State among which belongs membership in NATO and, at the same time, outlines the risks and threats that must be adequately addressed through individual policies. The Parliament adopted the Security Strategy of the Slovak Republic by a majority which included the votes from both coalition and opposition deputies, thus confirming the existence of the political consensus concerning the issue of fundamental security and foreign policy orientation of the State. It will be followed by the Defence Strategy of the Slovak Republic which the Government has approved on 28 February. Military Strategy of the Slovak Republic is under preparation. The latter document is of key importance in that its aim is to translate the risks and threats identified in the Security Strategy of the Slovak Republic to an effective and credible military policy, intelligible for the international community. The General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic is tasked with the preparation of the draft of this document by the end of April. The most important concept and legislative documents in the security policy field, scheduled for adoption in 2001, include the Concept of the Security System of the Slovak Republic and a constitutional statute on security.

1.4. Neighbour relations and regional cooperation

The Slovak Republic wants to be not only a recipient but also a contributor to stability and security. Slovakia has pursued this objective through the development of good neighbourly relations, its involvement in international cooperation, and its contribution to peacekeeping operations. Special place in the Slovak foreign policy belongs to the cooperation within the Visegrad Group (V4). In the light of NATO enlargement process, V4 is seen as an effective instrument for drawing upon Alliance membership experience of the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary. We appreciate the support given by the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary to the ambition of the Slovak Republic to integrate into NATO.

1.5. Public opinion support for Slovakia's accession to NATO

In the framework of political preparations, the Slovak Republic will lay special emphasis on increasing public support for membership in the Alliance. In spite of the trend of increasing population support for this goal, we still cannot be satisfied with its current level (approx. 50%). For this reason, we will launch a full range of activities in 2001, with NGO participation, aimed at the regions with lower support for NATO entry and at working with regional media. The objective is to provide maximum amount of information to citizens in the form that is accessible for them. Training courses organised for secondary school teachers will represent the basis for systematic education of pupils in security issues.

1.6. Economic development

Political stability and credibility must rely on a solid economic base of the State. Current economic indicators confirm that consistent reform measures have set Slovakia out in the right direction. They were instrumental in stabilising macroeconomic development, as demonstrated by the reduction of inflation rate in February 2001 below a 7% mark, and in bringing internal and external debt of the country under control. However, the most serious challenge continues to be the high rate of unemployment which is a serious political and social problem.

The Government of the Slovak Republic sees one of the solutions to this problem in an increased inflow of foreign investment. Although foreign investment in 2000 was the highest since 1993, the Slovak Republic still lags behind other V4 countries in this specific indicator of economic development. The Government is very much aware of the fact that NATO membership represents a boost to economic growth, as demonstrated by the development in the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary after their entry into the Alliance, and intends to use this argument in its communication with the public.

Priorities for 2001

1. Development of cooperation with NATO, its member countries and aspirants with the goal of effective preparation for membership in the Alliance, fully utilizing the EAPC and PfP.
2. Enhancement of friendly relations with neighboring states emphasizing the close cooperation within the V-4 group.
3. Further strengthening of democratic institutions.
4. Continuation of strategic enterprises and banks privatization.
5. Strengthening effectiveness of controlling, coordinating and support mechanism within the PRENAME structure.
6. Enhancement of the quality of cooperation with journalists and thus ensure the broadest possible access of the media to objective information on the accession of the Slovak Republic to NATO and on the security policy of Slovakia.
7. Cooperation with non-governmental organizations.
8. Unification of communication with the public.
9. Enhancement of the information standard of youth at secondary schools and universities on the security policy of the state.
10. Intensification of communication with opinion-shapers and institutions in NATO member states.
11. Gradual implementation of the national crisis management system proposed in 2000, capable of dealing with:
 - a) any crisis situation of military and non-military nature on the territory of Slovakia,
 - b) participation of Slovakia in international crisis management of military and non-military nature.
12. Coordination of organizational, conceptual and expert preparation for Slovakia's participation in NATO crisis management exercises including support activities.
13. Elaboration of Security System Conception of the Slovak Republic (KBeSY) and its submission to State Defense Council in April 2001 and subsequently to the Government of the Slovak Republic (Resolution of the SR Government No: 648/2000)

2. DEFENCE AND MILITARY ISSUES

Based on our experience from the previous period and in conformity with NATO recommendations, emphasis will be laid on adjusting defence and military capabilities of the country to the challenges of the new security environment in Europe, on completing the preparation of concept documents, on improving the quality of personnel management and human resource development, on long-term plans for developing individual components of the defence and armed force sectors, on strengthening control mechanisms, on the implementation of Partnership Goals, and on the building of command, control and communication systems. Of primary importance in this connection is to avoid setting unrealistic tasks that would surpass the possibilities of the State and that would be out of line with security risks identified in the Security Strategy of the Slovak Republic. The fulfilment of the tasks connected with the reform of armed forces will be fostered to a considerable extent by the documents "Proposal of Armed Forces - the 2010 Model" and "Long-term Plan of the Development of Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic" which are to be completed by the end of this year and are consulted on an ongoing basis with the Alliance. In the defence-planning field, the Slovak Republic will endeavour to create legislative and institutional conditions for the introduction of multiannual planning with a view to increasing the transparency of budgeting and to strengthening management and control functions of the Government. Using the data from the inventory of personnel and capabilities and identified staffing requirements, a comprehensive personnel management system will be finalised. Professionalisation of armed forces will be gradually strengthened in the medium term, with emphasis on rapid reaction forces, i.e. units assigned for NATO-led operations which should become the first units for collective defence after the entry into NATO. Special attention should be attached to recruitment resources and to introducing changes into the training of warrant officers and non-commissioned officers. By the end of 2002, at least 800 members of the defence ministry sector will be able to use English language at the level of STANAG 6001 level 1-3, and the tendency as regards the level of language training is to shift the focus from STANAG 1-2 levels to STANAG 2-3 levels. Top priority in the process of armament and equipment modernisation will be attached to rapid reaction units and to the procurement of armament, equipment and material for the implementation of partnership goals adopted under MAP. The changes in medium-term logistics plans will be preferentially oriented to promoting operational interoperability and performance of assigned units. In the area of command and control systems, units assigned for NATO-led peacekeeping operations have been equipped in 2000 with modern equipment enabling full communication interoperability. Other assigned units will start receiving this equipment this year. Based on the analysis of the existing defence infrastructure of the Slovak Republic, the concept of the development of defence infrastructure of the Slovak Republic in the 2003-2010 period with an outlook to 2015 will be developed in consultations with

NATO bodies by the end of 2001. Based on the results of on-going assessments of the structure of armed forces, further changes can be expected in the planning of defence spending and adopted plans may be accordingly revised. Adopted objectives will be consulted with the Alliance in the next few months.

Priorities for 2001

1. Implementation of tasks of the Concept of reform of the defense system.
2. Elaboration of standard documents of defense planning within Ministry of Defense.
3. Implementation of tasks in the preparation of a national defense infrastructure.
4. Implementation of PGs according to the set priorities.

3. RESOURCE ISSUES

As regards financial provision for the above-mentioned key objectives, defence spending allocation made in the 2001 budget has been set at 1.95% of the GDP. At the same time, the amount designated for operating expenditures will be reduced to 83% while the proportion of investment (into armament and construction) will amount to 17%. Without firmly fixing the thresholds of expenditures in the future defence budgets, the Government decided on 7 February 2001 to maintain the share of defence spending in the GDP at no less than 1.89% of the GDP until 2006.

Priorities for 2001

1. Development of principles in the methodology of financial contributions to the NATO budget based on the consultations with NATO member states and drafting of compatible guidelines.
2. Methodology for medium-term and long-term planning of financial resources.
3. Providing funds for agencies participating in the PRENAME and ensuring of growth of the funds available to a level comparable with NATO member states.
4. Continuation in comparing and adapting of mechanisms, used in NATO member states for covering the arms procurement needs. Concentration of effort, when covering the defense procurement needs of Slovakia, to use supplier-customer relations of the private sector.
5. Specification of areas dealing with the issues of transforming the economy into the war status regime and preparation of their use in settling the future international cooperation of Slovakia for the needs of the Alliance related to the procurement planning.
6. Preparation for the introduction and implementation of a codification system of military technology, ammunition and material.
7. Continuation in the development of a high-quality information base, compatible with NATO member states and its preparation for information exchange in the frame of cooperation with NATO.
8. Definition of a national CEP system, including gradual implementation of relevant NATO terminology.
9. Achievement of goals set in the " Update of the general part of the PWP for the year 2001" for the area of CEP.
10. Continuation in the information system readiness enhancement for support of CEP decision-making and its compatibility with information systems of NATO member states. Approximation of measures (structure and scope) to ensure functioning economy and social sphere in crisis situations to the models used by NATO.
11. Expert training focused on managing staff to deal with crisis and emergency situations, corresponding to NATO methods; language training to enable easy communication with NATO partners.
12. Adoption of civil protection measures to achieve compatibility mainly in the area of monitoring and warning systems.
13. Achievement of compatibility of standards regulating the system of detection and evaluation of WMD (NBC) attacks and impacts of crisis situations.
14. Development of regional cooperation with neighboring states based on bilateral and multilateral agreements.
15. Specifying areas dealing with the issues of transformation of the economy into the emergency and exceptional status regime and the preparation of their use when dealing with the issues of future international cooperation of the Army of the Slovak Republic for the needs of the Alliance in harmony with the NATO CEP concept.
16. Subordinating the activities with NATO and its member states to the goal of achieving a compatible national CEP system capable of interoperability with similar systems in the Alliance.
17. Based on experience of NATO member states, with regard to the specifics of the Slovak economy, continuation in optimizing and following restructuring of state material reserves and development of a system of emergency stocks to deal with non-military crisis situations.
18. Work on projects in the framework of NATO Scientific Committee civil program.
19. Preparation of new projects in the framework of NATO SC civil program; preparation of projects and other participation in the programs CIPRE (Center for information policy in research and education for Central and Eastern Europe).
20. Submit concept documents in science and technology for approval by the Government of the SR. Identification of environmental aspects in all parts of the Slovak Armed Forces in relation to introducing of the EMS.

Development of a database on environment pollution in facilities of the Slovak Armed Forces.

4. SECURITY ISSUES

Top priority is being attached to draft legislation on the protection of classified data that has been approved by the Government and is currently posted for deliberations before the National Council of the Slovak Republic. One of the key provisions in this law concerns the status of the National Security Office (NSO), to be subordinated directly to the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic and/or the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic. Institutional and organisational prerequisites will thus be created for putting in place a system of a clearly defined supervision over and coordination of classified data protection and encryption of data, performed at the level of a supra-ministerial state authority, in line with the requirements of the security system and organisation of security bodies in NATO countries. Among the 2001 priorities is also the creation of institutional, organisational, legal and technical prerequisites for ensuring conformity between principal areas of classified data protection and minimum requirements of NATO.

Priorities for 2001

1. Development of governmental bodies for protection of classified information (PCI) in harmony with the hierarchy and structure of NATO security bodies with emphasis on MOD, SIS, MFA and ME.
2. Building workplaces of personnel security of governmental bodies for PCI and National Security Authority and starting security vettings in line with new legislation.
3. Preparation and starting of operation of the technical system for PCI with emphasis on information security (INFOSEC).

5. LEGAL ISSUES

The amendment of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic will make it necessary to translate into laws the issues related to potential commitments resulting from collective defence, especially as regards the HNS (Host Nations Support). These laws include, in particular, a constitutional statute on the security of the Slovak Republic, law on the defence of the Slovak Republic, and the law on armed forces. The activities in this area will also include further legislative process in connection with drafting defence-related laws (law on economic mobilisation, law on civil protection of the population, compatible laws, law on waste, and other legal norms.). In the compatibility clause required for every law under Chapter 5 of MAP, compatibility of the given legal standard with NATO standards will be assessed. Assessments will be made also of the existing and proposed legal norms related to taxes, damage claim compensations, weapons and ammunition, police services, traffic on ground communications and exemption from the payment of landing and parking fees for aircraft from NATO countries. The amendment of the Constitution which provides for the precedence of international treaties over the laws of the Slovak Republic will require the putting into place of a mechanism for implementing this principle within the country.

Priorities for 2001

1. Based on the amended Constitution of the Slovak Republic, involvement of problems related to potential obligations of the Slovak Republic into legislation.
2. Continuation of preparation of defense related legislation.
3. Preparation of "compatibility clauses" between documents listed in Chapter 5 of MAP and Slovak national legislation.

On 28 March 2001 the Government of the Slovak Republic adopted the Updated Annual National PRENAME 2001 Programme. The need for this document resulted from the analysis of the results obtained to date in the process of the Slovak Republic's preparation for NATO membership, from financial means actually allocated, and from the prioritisation of objectives in individual MAP areas based on the obtained experience and recommendations from the Alliance. The document therefore reflects the realistic approach of Slovakia to the process of its preparation for inclusion into NATO. It describes the current status and sets out realistic objectives for the forthcoming period. While so doing, it does not lose the perspective of the principal goal of the Slovak Republic, i.e. building a hopeful position in expectation of a possible decision by NATO to extend invitations to new member states. We expect such decision to be made at the next NATO summit in Prague in 2002.