

SLOVAK-UKRAINIAN DISCUSSION FORUM II

Venue	Bratislava, Austria Trend Hotel (address: Vysoká 2A)
Date	October 25, 2016
Organizers	Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (RC SFPA) and the National Institute for Strategic Studies of Ukraine (NISS) in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
Language	English
Description	The forum serves as regular platform for extended bilateral consultations on topical issues of bilateral Slovak-Ukrainian relations with participation of governmental officials, representatives of public administrations, and expert, NGO and business communities from both countries. The mission of the forum is, first, to contribute to better understanding of national positions on issues relevant for bilateral relations and interaction, second, to deepen mutual understanding of both domestic and foreign policies of both countries, and third, to explore possibilities for better bilateral coordination on international arena. The forum aims, first, to evaluate the most current issues of bilateral cooperation, and second, to elaborate policy recommendations for governments of Slovakia and Ukraine. Sessions of the forum are held once a year alternatively in Ukraine and Slovakia. The agenda for the each session should include two major issues identified and agreed by NISS and RC SFPA in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of SR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

AGENDA OF THE 2ND SESSION

Goal The aim of the second session of the forum will be to discuss two major topical issues for the bilateral Slovak-Ukrainian cooperation: first, what Slovakia can do as the Presidency country in the EU Council in the second half of 2016 to boost European integration process of Ukraine, and second, how to deepen bilateral cooperation in the field of energy, including security of natural gas supply, energy sector reform and improving energy efficiency with focus on municipal level.

9:00–9:10

Welcome

Alexander Duleba Director, Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association

Maksym Rozumnyi Head, Centre for Studies on Russian Federation, National Institute for Strategic Studies of Ukraine

9:10–11:00

Panel I.

Slovak Presidency in the EU Council 2016: agenda for the EU relations with Ukraine

Chair

Alexander Duleba Director, Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association

Speakers

Peter Wagner Head of the Support Group for Ukraine, European Commission

Dmytro Shymkiv Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration of Ukraine; Secretary of the National Reforms Council of Ukraine

Ivan Mikloš Head of the Group of Advisers to the Prime Minister of Ukraine and Co-chairman of the Strategic Advisory Group for Support Ukrainian Reforms

Peter Mišík Director General, Political Section, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

Q&As

11:00-11:30

Addresses by

Lukáš Parížek State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of SR

Olena Zerkal Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (tbc)

11:30–12:00 Coffee break

12:00–13:30 **Panel II. Deepening cooperation in the field of energy: lessons learned and next steps**

Chair

Aleksey Yizhak Senior Researcher, National Institute for Strategic Studies of Ukraine, Kyiv – Dnipro

Speakers

Andrii Frolov Deputy Chief, Monitoring and Energy Balance Office, State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving of Ukraine

Artur Bobovnický Director, Innovations and International Cooperation Section, Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency

Pavol Hamžik Ambassador-et-Large for Energy Security, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of SR

Mykhailo Gonchar Director, Centre for Global Studies Strategy XXI, Kyiv
Q&As

13:30–13:45 **Concluding remarks**

Maksym Rozumnyi Head, Centre for Studies on Russian Federation, National Institute for Strategic Studies of Ukraine

Alexander Duleba Director, Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association

13:45 Luncheon