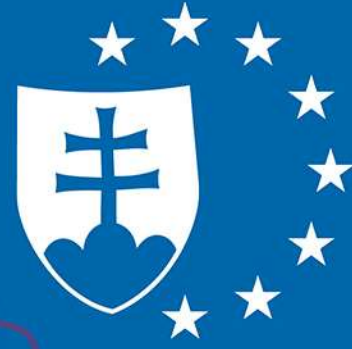


# Legislative and policy update

DECEMBER



## SLOVAKIA

**SALARY:** Only 18% of employees were paid a thirteenth salary this year. Its average gross amount is 989 euros. This shows an analysis of the Platy.sk web portal, which belongs to the company Profesia. This is a slight increase compared to last year.

3/12/2019, SITA

**BUDGET:** Parliament approved the country's state budget for next year and the public general government budget for 2020 to 2022. The approval of the law of the year ended the historically fastest discussion on a budget ever in the Slovak Parliament. In 2020, general government deficit should stand at 0.49% of GDP.

4/12/2019, SITA

**ENERGY:** Slovak households will pay more for electricity and natural gas in 2020. Average prices for electricity supply will go up 7.6% and average prices for natural gas will be nearly 4% higher. Households will also pay more for heat, by an average of almost 2%.

6/12/2019, SITA

**REGISTER:** In total, 18,722 companies had a business relationship with the state or other public sector entities in autumn 2019, showed the databases of the consulting company Bisnode.

6/12/2019, SITA

**COMPETITIVENESS:** Slovakia fell behind in the global competitiveness, in particular, in terms of quality and efficiency of public institutions, innovative ability and activity of companies, research spending, development and innovations and efficiency of labor market. Slovakia is the weakest in R&D innovations and the strongest in health and basic education.

9/12/2019, SITA

**ECONOMY:** In 2019, small entrepreneurs accounted for 91 percent of all companies in Slovakia but generated only 14 percent of the total added value. The performance of our small companies is weak. If they managed to distribute work more effectively, they would find space for further growth.

13/12/2019, SITA

**EU FUNDS:** The European Commission has officially green-lighted the merger of the Operational Program Integrated Infrastructure (OP II) and the Operational Program Research and Innovation (OP VaI). Thanks to the merger under the program under the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic, 100 million euros will be saved for Slovak science, research and innovation.

13/12/2019, SITA

**HEALTH CARE:** Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini will temporarily lead the Health Ministry. President Zuzana Caputova entrusted him with this task after accepting the resignation of Health Minister Andrea Kalavska. Minister Kalavska left her post after the Cabinet withdrew the draft bill on stratification of hospitals from the December parliamentary session

18/12/2019, SITA

**ECONOMY:** The National Bank of Slovakia (NBS) has lowered its estimate of Slovak economic growth for the whole forecast period until 2021. In the latest December forecast, it lowered its prognosis for GDP growth by 0.2 percentage points compared to the last September forecast for 2019.

18/12/2019, SITA

**TAXES:** One of the most significant changes in the Slovakia's taxation approved in 2019 was the reduction of the corporate income tax and the income tax of the self-employed from 21 percent to 15 percent, the Slovak Chamber of Tax Advisors (SKDP) opines. This change only affects the companies and self-employed whose annual income from business does not exceed 100,000 euros.

27/12/2019, SITA

**INVESTMENTS:** The Economy Ministry and the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO) have concluded 32 investment projects in 2019, which are expected to bring 3,600 new direct jobs. The total investment is to reach some 245 million euros.

30/12/2019, SITA

## EUROPE & WORLD

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: On Sunday, 1 December, the von der Leyen Commission took office. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, attended a ceremony at the House of European History in Brussels on Sunday, to mark the 10th anniversary of the Treaty of Lisbon. On this occasion, the President received the Treaties from David Sassoli, President of the European Parliament, in a symbolic hand-over.

1/12/2019 [European Commission](#)

FINANCE: The EU will have an improved supervisory framework for European financial institutions in place by the end of 2019. The Council adopted on December 2nd a first fundamental review of the functioning of the European system of financial supervision (ESFS).

2/12/2019, [Council of the EU](#)

WTO: On 11 December, the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Appellate Body essentially stopped functioning, as it was no longer able to take on any new appeals. This is a regrettable and very serious blow to the international rules-based trade system, which, for the past 24 years, has relied on the WTO's Appellate Body – and dispute settlement generally.

10/12/2019, [European Commission](#)

SURVEY: Parliament's autumn Eurobarometer survey traditionally asks citizens which political issue the European Parliament should deal with as a matter of priority. With regard to European values, a clear majority of citizens see protecting human rights worldwide (48%), freedom of speech (38%), gender equality (38%) and solidarity between EU member states (33%) as the main fundamental values to preserve in the European Union.

10/12/2019, [European Parliament](#)

GREEN DEAL: On December 11, The European Commission presented [The European Green Deal](#) – a roadmap for making the EU's economy sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities across all policy areas and making the transition just and inclusive for all.

11/12/2019, [European Commission](#)

ECB RATES: At December 12th meeting the Governing Council of the European Central Bank (ECB) decided that the interest rate on the main refinancing operations and the interest rates on the marginal lending facility and the deposit facility will remain unchanged at 0.00%, 0.25% and -0.50% respectively. The Governing Council expects the key ECB interest rates to remain

at their present or lower levels until it has seen the inflation outlook robustly converge to a level sufficiently close to, but below, 2% within its projection horizon, and such convergence has been consistently reflected in underlying inflation dynamics.

12/12/2019, [European Central Bank](#)

PAYMENT RULES: Consumers and businesses will be able to save money thanks to new EU cross-border payments rules. New [EU rules](#) will ensure that all cross-border payments in euro in non-eurozone Member States - Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Hungary, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, United Kingdom\* - will be priced the same as domestic payments.

16/12/2019, [European Commission](#)

EUROPEAN SEMESTER: On December 17th, the European Commission launched a new European Semester. It presented an ambitious, rebooted growth strategy focused on promoting competitive sustainability to build an economy that works for people and the planet. The [Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy](#) delivers the economic and employment policy strategy for the EU, placing sustainability and social inclusion at the heart of the EU's economic policymaking.

17/12/2019, [European Commission](#)

GREEN LIST: The European Commission has welcomed political agreement between the European Parliament and the Council on the creation of the world's first-ever “green list” – a classification system for sustainable economic activities, or taxonomy. This will create a common language that investors can use everywhere when investing in projects and economic activities that have a substantial positive impact on the climate and the environment.

18/12/2019, [European Commission](#)

CAPITAL MARKETS UNION: The European Commission welcomed the provisional political agreement reached on December 18th evening between the European Parliament and the Council on its proposal to boost [Crowdfunding](#) in the EU. The proposal, a key building block of the [Capital Markets Union](#), aims to harness the opportunities presented by emerging technology-enabled innovations in the financial sector, known as FinTech.

19/12/2019, [European Commission](#)