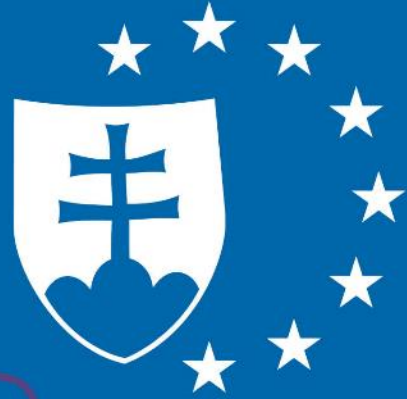


Legislative and policy update

JANUARY



SLOVAKIA

eKASA: All cash registers must be connected to the eKasa online system of the Financial Administration as of Jan. 1, 2020. At the end of December 2019, the Financial Administration registered 178,000 connected cash registers, translating into 87% of all active devices. The tax authority announced inspections at operations which record revenues, but some enterprises failed to connect their cash registers.

02/01/2020, SITA

EU FUNDS: Slovakia will have a new model of drawing on EU funds. The change regards the decision making on projects, which will be in the hands of local self-governments. Ministries will oversee the entire process, while the state's role will be technical support for projects.

08/01/2020, SITA

SALARIES: Inequality in Slovakia is falling slowly; women have improved their statistics in salaries as the latest data from the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) show. Slovakia was assigned 54.1 points out of 100, when one point means total inequality and one hundred points total equality.

06/01/2020, SITA

WAGES: The minimum monthly wage in Slovakia is rising from 520 euros to 580 euros as of 2020. The lowest gross earnings per hour worked will now rise to 3.333 euros from the current 2.989 euros. Compared to 2019, net income of a minimum wage employee will rise by 46.39 euros to 476.39 euros.

02/01/2020, SITA

SOCIAL: Employees who have not yet reached the age of 33 and are taking care of a child on a permanent basis are entitled to five weeks of paid leave from the beginning of this year. This change is enacted in an amendment to the Labor Code from the SNS workroom, approved by Parliament.

06/01/2020, SITA

WORK: New positions are being created as a result of automation and robotization, however, at the same time, there is an absence of “ready” applicants for these positions. The job content of existing positions is constantly changing. The gap between what companies need and what skills are available on the market is widening.

08/01/2020, SITA

ELECTIONS: More than 30,000 Slovaks have applied to vote by mail from abroad in the parliamentary elections slated for February 29 through the application Volby.Digital. Matus Kollar from the civic association Slovenko.Digital informed about this.

09/01/2020, SITA

SCIENCE: The Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAV) and Colorado State University (CSU) in Fort Collins signed a new Memorandum of Understanding that will support research of biodiversity. They will thus continue joint research of sensitive biomes – extensive areas with similar climates in Alpine areas.

14/01/2020, SITA

BUDGET: The Cabinet has approved spending limits for this year. On 15 January, it approved a draft correction mechanism prepared by the Finance Ministry based on worsened budgetary developments during 2019. According to the approved document, expenditures of the general government should not exceed the budgeted level for 2020.

16/01/2020, SITA

ENERGY: We will finish the nuclear power plant Mochovce. Slovak Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini stated this at news conference after talks of leaders of the Visegrad Group (V4) and Austria in Prague. “The Slovak Republic will continue to complete this facility because Slovakia wants to fulfill its commitment to be carbon neutral by 2050. Nuclear energy really plays a very important role for Slovakia,” said Pellegrini.

17/01/2020, SITA

INNOVATIONS: Representatives of eight Slovak companies have been selected for three-month acceleration stays in Israel and the USA in the near future thanks to a call focused on the innovation ecosystem in Slovakia announced by the Office of Deputy Prime Minister for Investments and Informatization.

17/01/2020, SITA

UNEMPLOYMENT: The registered unemployment rate in Slovakia stagnated at 4.92% in December of last year. It stayed the same as last November. Year-on-year, the unemployment rate was 0.12 percentage point lower last month, according to the report of the Central Labor Office.

21/01/2020, SITA

HEALTH CARE: Slovakia currently draws over 220 million from EU funds to improve its health care. The Health Ministry is the intermediary body for the Integrated Regional Operational Program 2014-2020, which is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund. In total there are 76 projects. Currently, 28 projects are implemented in the total amount of 187 million euros.

24/01/2020, SITA

ECONOMY: The Slovak economy will not grow even at a 2% rate this year. Analysts with commercial banks expect on average that GDP growth will reach 1.9% in 2020. This stems from the January round of the National Bank of Slovakia (NBS) survey among bank analysts. Compared to December, they did not change their economic growth outlook for this year.

29/01/2020, SITA

BREXIT: Despite Brexit, Slovak entrepreneurs do not have to be concerned about any noteworthy changes in the near future. The United Kingdom officially left the European Union on January 31. Consequently, a transition period begins that will last until the end of 2020. During this period the situation will not change de facto from the state before the departure.

31/01/2020, SITA

EUROPE & WORLD

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: Protecting the Treaties in the interest of all Europeans: the College takes solemn oath to serve the EU. By this solemn oath, the members of the Commission undertook to comply with the Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and to exercise their responsibilities in full independence and in the general interest of the Union.

13/01/2020 [European Commission](#)

EUROPEAN UNION: A strong Europe in a world of challenges: von der Leyen reflects on the priorities of the Croatian Presidency. The priorities of the Croatian Presidency – a Europe that develops; a Europe that connects; a Europe that protects; and an influential Europe - coincide with the priorities of the von der Leyen Commission, which will allow the two institutions to work closely together.

13/01/2020 [European Commission](#)

EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL: The EU is committed to becoming the first climate-neutral bloc in the world by 2050. This requires significant investment from both the EU and the national public sector, as well as the private sector. The European Green Deal's Investment Plan - the Sustainable Europe Investment Plan - presented on 14 January will mobilize public investment and help to unlock private funds through EU financial instruments, notably InvestEU, which would lead to at least €1 trillion of investments.

14/01/2020 [European Commission](#)

TRADE: An updated version of the Services Trade Policy Database, jointly developed by the WTO and the World Bank, was presented at the WTO on 16 January. The database now contains new information on the services trade policies and regulations applied by 68 economies and incorporates data on 23 sub-sectors, including financial services, telecommunications, distribution, transport and professional services.

16/01/2020 [WTO](#)

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: MEPs want a strong set of rights to protect consumers in the context of artificial intelligence and automated decision-making. Parliament's Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee approved on 23 January a resolution addressing several challenges arising from the rapid development of artificial intelligence and automated decision-making (ADM) technologies. "Humans must always be ultimately responsible for, and able to overrule, decisions" that are taken via ADM processes, especially in relation to the medical, legal and accounting professions and the banking sector, MEPs underline.

23/01/2020 [European Parliament](#)

BREXIT: EU chiefs sign Brexit deal ahead of parliamentary vote. Brussels' two top officials, the presidents of the European Commission and the European Council, signed off on Britain's EU divorce agreement Friday (24 January). In a tweet, Michel said: "Things will inevitably change but our friendship will remain. We start a new chapter as partners and allies."

24/01/2020 [Euractiv](#)

ERASMUS+: The 2018 annual report on Erasmus+, published on 28 January, shows that over the last three decades, more than 10 million people have participated in what turned out to be a life-changing experience for many of them. With a budget of €2.8 billion, a 10% funding increase compared to 2017, 2018 was yet another record year. Erasmus+ funded more than 23,500 projects and overall, it supported the mobility of over 850,000 students, apprentices, teachers, and youth workers in 2018.

28/01/2020 [European Commission](#)

EQUAL PAY: MEPs urge the EU Commission to present an ambitious Gender Equality Strategy, including measures to reduce the gender pay gap. In the resolution adopted on 30 January, the Parliament welcomes the commitment of the new Commission President to make 'equal pay for equal work' the founding principle of the new European Gender Strategy to be presented in March.

30/01/2020 [European Parliament](#)

BREXIT: The European Union will work hard to forge a future as an ally and partner of Britain after their divorce on 31 January, European Commission head Ursula von der Leyen claimed. After protracted divorce talks, Britain left the bloc it joined in 1973. With a transition period lasting until the end of the year, new talks on issues from trade to security will start soon. According to von der Leyen, Britain could no longer have unrestricted access to the European internal market.

31/01/2020 [Euractiv](#)