



## SLOVAKIA

**BUDGET:** The state budget deficit in August widened by 213 million euros. At the end of the eighth month, the government authorities reported a deficit of 1.639 billion euros, which meant year-on-year growth of the deficit by almost 900 million euros.

3/9/2019, SITA

**CASE:** On September 3, State Secretary at the Ministry of Justice Monika Jankovska resigned. Jankovska returned back to the judiciary as a judge.

4/9/2019, SITA

**BLOCKCHAIN:** A Center of Excellence was set up in Slovakia as a result of the international cooperation between China and CEE in the area of blockchain. The aim of the Centre of Excellence is to become a leading research and innovative player for blockchain and technology of distributed database of transactions that are to be implemented in industrial applications in different sectors, such as power, finances, aviation and logistics.

4/9/2019, SITA

**CORRUPTION:** On Sept 4, Cabinet approved [National Anti-Corruption Program](#) of the Slovak Republic with fourteen goals, the fulfillment of which is expected to weaken corrupt behavior. The Program also counts with active involvement of the Rule of Law Initiative led by AmCham.

5/9/2019, SITA

**ECONOMY:** Our economy is to be boosted with tens of billions of euros in the next decade. The first proposal is about 30 billion euros, however, this sum is not final. Slovakia has carried out investments from EU funds for approximately 27 billion euros since the country's entry into the European Union in 2004.

6/9/2019, SITA

**WAGE:** The average nominal monthly wage of an employee in Slovakia in the second quarter of this year increased by 9.7% year-on-year to 1,101 euros. According to the Statistics Office, this was the highest year-on-year growth of the average wage since the first quarter of 2008.

9/9/2019, SITA

**PRICES:** Consumer prices in Slovakia in August were 2.8% higher than in the same period last year.

16/9/2019, SITA

**REGIONS:** Since October last year, when the Cabinet approved an action plan for the Kosice-surroundings district, 959 new jobs have been created in this district. The unemployment rate has dropped by over 2.2 percentage points to 9.2% from the previous year.

19/9/2019, SITA

**ECONOMY:** The Slovak economy will grow significantly slower this year than originally expected. Also the Finance Ministry's latest macroeconomic forecast confirms the expected slowdown. According to the document, Slovakia's gross domestic product will grow 2.4% this year.

20/9/2019, SITA

**LABOR:** One-third of the 121,000 Slovaks working part-time cannot find a full-time job. According to the latest data from the European statistical office Eurostat, on average, 19% of Europeans aged 20 to 64 are part-time workers.

20/9/2019, SITA

**BANKS:** Some bank fees are likely to increase in November. Financial houses are once again announcing changes in their price lists and fees.

23/9/2019, SITA

**CONSTITUTIONAL COURT:** Parliament on September 25th managed to elect the remaining four candidates for Constitutional Court judges in a fifth vote: Ladislav Dudits, Libor Dula, Peter Melicher and Peter Straka.

25/9/2019, [TASR](#)

IT: Millions of euros will be spent to improve cyber security in the state administration. The Office of Deputy Prime Minister for Investments and Informatization (UPVII) has launched an open demand-oriented call for projects to improve information and cyber security, for which 20 million euros is earmarked from the EU funds.

26/9/2019, SITA

## EUROPE

VAT: EU countries lost €137 billion in Value-Added Tax (VAT) revenues in 2017 according to a study released by the European Commission in September 2019. The overall difference between the expected VAT revenue and the amount actually collected has reduced somewhat compared to previous years but remains very high.

5/9/2019, [European Commission](#)

GDP GROWTH: Seasonally adjusted GDP rose by 0.2% in both the euro area (EA19) and the EU28 during the second quarter of 2019, compared with the previous quarter, according to an estimate published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In the first quarter of 2019, GDP had grown by 0.4% in the euro area and by 0.5% in the EU28.

6/9/2019, [European Commission](#)

COMMISSION: On September 10, President-elect Ursula von der Leyen presented her team and the new structure of the next European Commission. The new Commission reflected the priorities and ambitions set out in the Political Guidelines. The Commission is structured around the objectives President-elect von der Leyen was elected by the European Parliament.

10/9/2019, [European Commission](#)

CLIMATE CHANGE: The European Commission on September 11th 2019 adopted a Communication reaffirming the EU's commitment to accelerated climate ambition. The European Union has been at the forefront of global climate action, negotiating an inclusive international framework to respond to this challenge, while acting domestically with unity, speed and decisiveness. The EU has put concrete actions behind its Paris Agreement commitments, in line with the Juncker Commission priority of establishing an Energy Union with a forward-looking climate change policy.

11/9/2019, [European Commission](#)

JOB VACANCY: The job vacancy rate in the euro area (EA19) was 2.3% in the second quarter of 2019, stable compared with the previous quarter and up from 2.1% in the second quarter of 2018, according to figures published by Eurostat. In the EU28, the job vacancy rate was also 2.3% in the second quarter of 2019, stable compared with the previous quarter and up from 2.2% in the second quarter of 2018.

16/9/2019, [European Commission](#)

INFLATION: The euro area annual inflation rate was 1.0% in August 2019, stable compared to July. A year earlier, the rate was 2.1%. European Union annual inflation was 1.4% in August 2019, stable compared to July. A year earlier, the rate was 2.2%. These figures were published by [Eurostat](#), the statistical office of the European Union.

18/9/2019, [European Commission](#)

INNOVATION: On 24-26 September 2019, the first European Research and Innovation Days took place in Brussels. The event brought together decision-makers, industry, finance, academia and businesses to debate and shape the future EU research and innovation landscape. It was the moment to discuss strategic priorities and Horizon Europe, the next EU research and innovation programme (2021-2027).

24/9/2019, European Commission

INNOVATION: The city of Nantes in north-west France became the European Capital of Innovation 2019, the Commission announced on September 25th 2019 at the European Research and Innovation Days.

25/9/2019, European Commission

EDUCATION: Coinciding with the [second European Education Summit](#), on Sept 26 the European Commission published the 2019 Education and Training Monitor analysing how education and training is evolving in the EU and its Member States. The [2019 Monitor](#) shows further progress towards important EU education and training targets, but also highlights the need to better support teachers and make the teaching profession more attractive.

26/9/2019, [European Commission](#)

COMMISSION: On September 27th 2019, the European Commission launched its [Europa Connectivity Forum](#) – an innovative multi-stakeholder international conference aimed at fostering dialogue and strengthening ties between governments, financial institutions, and private sector actors in Europe and beyond. Building on the already close cooperation between the EU and its Asia-Pacific partners, this first edition of the Forum was held under the theme EU-Asia Connectivity: Building Bridges for a Sustainable Future.

26/9/2019, [European Commission](#)