

**AIDE MEMOIRE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC TO THE BILL OF THE
REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY ON HUNGARIANS LIVING IN NEIGHBOURING
COUNTRIES
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The Slovak Republic (SR) has carefully been following the course of discussions on the Bill on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries, which was approved by the Government of the Republic of Hungary (RH) on March 21, 2001. We consider it a natural thing as the SR has also been interested in its countrymen living abroad since multi-ethnicity has been a historical phenomenon in the Region of Central Europe meaning mutual enrichment of the nationalities living here. However, the on-going discussions prove that the bill that was laid on the table has been raising a number of doubts. During his latest official visit to Budapest, the Prime Minister of the SR, Mr. Mikuláš Dzurinda expressed the words to that effect, too.

The SR has mainly been worried about the efforts to create and institutionalise legal bands of the RH with citizens of neighbouring countries, which is in direct contradiction with the basic principles of international law, with generally accepted relevant European standards and obligations that the RH assumed in its bilateral relations with the SR. We perceive this as an interference with the jurisdiction of other states in various fields.

In this connection, the SR herewith reminds of the fact that the Act of Foreign Slovaks of 1997 has been applied exclusively on the territory of the Slovak Republic, this way also regulates the relations to all countrymen and has not been of a discriminating nature. Based on the present state of events in the Republic of Hungary, there has emerged the question if an increased amount of attention paid to the citizens of neighbouring countries may not cause harm to rightful needs of persons belonging to national minorities-citizen of the RH.

The Bill in its form that has been laid on the table means disputing of a number of presently valid obligations of the RH stipulated to the SR, and thus of credibility of the RH as a contracting party.

The SR herewith states that the discussed bill has been bringing into the Region of Central Europe a certain element of non-stability in the present EU pre-accession period, it carries a potential of disturbing the basements of good neighbourhood relations and of disputing the principles of the integration processes. We especially regret to have to start that the Hungarian side did not make use of the existing mechanism for implementation of the Treaty on Good Neighbourhood Relations and Friendly Co-operation between the SR and the RH for discussing of disputable matters before the legislative process in the Hungarian Parliament.

The SR herewith expresses its conviction that the RH will take into consideration the objections raised to the proposed bill from the side of the SR, of further countries and of international institutions in conformity with our joint interest in a successful integration into the EU and in building up the atmosphere of trust and understanding in mutual relations.

[Quelle: <http://www.foreign.gov.sk>]