

**8th Meeting of the Brazilian-Slovak Chamber of Commerce (BSCC)
Session with the Minister of Economy of the Slovak Republic,
Mr. Karel Hirman**

Residence of Brazil, Bratislava, 25 November 2022, 10 am

Minutes of the meeting

The 8th meeting of the Brazilian-Slovak Chamber of Commerce (BSCC) was held on 25 November 2022. The event was organized at the Official Residence of Brazil in Bratislava and had 26 participants including the guest of honor, Minister of Economy of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Karel Hirman. The full list of participants is presented below:

BSCC Members

H.E. Ambassador Milan Cigáň, President of the Brazilian-Slovak Chamber of Commerce
H.E. Eduardo Ricardo Gradilone Neto, Ambassador of Brazil to Slovakia, Embassy of Brazil
Mr. Daniel Sajták, CEO, Eskada s.r.o.
Mr. Oldřich Holíš, CEO & Founder, EuroCoffee s.r.o.
Ms. Andrea Lopatka, Assistant, EuroCoffee s.r.o.
Mr. Peter Bak, Attorney at Law and Partner, BAK & Partners s.r.o.
Mr. Ervin Haramia, General Director, Aliter Technologies a.s.
Mr. Peter Falis, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Danube Capital Advisors s.r.o.
Mr. Juraj Čajko, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Trnava Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry/Euro-brew s.r.o.
Mr. Milan Michalík, Director of Foreign Projects, PPA Controll a.s.
Minister Ricardo Maschietto Ayrosa, Embassy of Brazil
Counsellor Ana Cláudia de Faria Rodrigues, Embassy of Brazil
Technical assistant Ms. Alica Plašienková, Embassy of Brazil
Administrative assistant Ms. Simona Dujíčová, Embassy of Brazil

Guest of honor

H.E. Minister of Economy Mr. Karel Hirman

Other guests

Mr. Zulf Hyatt-Khan, Deputy Chairman, The Council of Slovak Exporters
Mrs. Diana Štrofová, Director for External Relations, AZC Services a.s.
Mr. Robert Laszlo, CTO/CEO & Founder, Needronix s.r.o.
Mr. Patrik Laszlo, Needronix s.r.o.
Mr. Martin Halász, Special Projects Manager, Sensoneo j.s.a.
Mrs. Monika Majerníková, Special Projects Division Deputy Director, Sensoneo j.s.a.
Mr. Branislav Klocok, Director General, OFZ a.s.
Mr. Gabriel Szabó, Executive Vice President of Downstream, MOL Group
Mr. Rastislav Dutka, General Director, FUN Radio
Mr. Norbert Brath, General Manager, Secop s.r.o. and spouse Mrs. Miroslava Brathová

2. The Ambassador of Brazil welcomed all the guests and specially thanked the Minister of Economy, Mr. Karel Hirman, for accepting to be the key-note speaker at the meeting. He mentioned that 2022 is a very special year, thanks to the celebration of the bicentenary of Brazil's independence from Portugal, the establishment of an Honorary Consulate in Kosice, headed by Mr. Daniel Sajták, and the launching of the last book by President Rudolf Schuster about the trips of four generations of his family to Brazil, with a preface by Brazilian Foreign Minister Carlos França. He also highlighted other important activities and events that occurred during the year, namely the visit of EMBRAER representatives to strengthen our cooperation in the area of defense, a new project involving children and the promotion of the Portuguese language in Slovakia, the elections of a new government in Brazil and Brazil's membership of the UN Security Council (as a non-permanent member).

3. The President of the BSCC thanked everyone for attending the meeting and introduced the Minister of Economy by reading his brief CV and recalling his previous experiences.

4. The Minister of Economy delivered his speech, in which he addressed the impact of the conflict in Ukraine on energy security in Europe. He affirmed that the energy crisis, which is currently the most crucial topic under discussion in Brussels, is an existential challenge to society and the economy, and Slovakia has been particularly impacted. He furthermore talked about Slovakia's efforts to meet the European sustainability and carbon neutrality target for 2050, focusing on an innovative approach, with the use of green hydrogen as an example. Underlining the fact that Slovakia is fully integrated into the gas distribution systems in the region, he evoked the need for Slovakia to overcome the role of a transit corridor, which is why the investments in nuclear energy currently underway are of vital importance for ensuring energy security and turning Slovakia into an exporter of electricity.

5. Concluding his speech, the Minister of Economy highlighted the bilateral partnership with Brazil as the most important one in Latin America. Besides the potential to increase commercial exchange, which he sees with a "great future", he stated that Slovakia supports the conclusion of the agreement between the European Union and Mercosul, seeking the liberalization and stimulation of commercial exchanges between the two blocks, capable of increasing economic growth and contributing to the resolution of global sustainability issues. Among the areas of greatest potential for strengthening bilateral relations with Brazil, he cited health, digital technology and energy as the most promising from the point of view of mutual benefit.

6. The Minister of Economy's remarks were followed by a discussion on the topics, during which the Minister answered several questions from the BSCC members and other guests.

7. A short refreshment break followed, after which the Counsellor Ana Cláudia de Faria Rodrigues, Head of the Commercial Sector of the Embassy of Brazil, made a presentation on the current numbers of the Brazilian economy, highlighting the macroeconomic indicators of recovery and progress on the agenda of modernizing the economy and improving the business environment in the country. After her remarks, a question and answer session was once again opened, available to the meeting's participants, about

current economic and political issues. At the same time, BSCC offered a brunch buffet to all the attendees, which lasted until the end of the meeting.

8. The President of the BSCC thanked all participants, concluding by expressing his intention for the Chamber to be more active in the upcoming period in view of the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. Having all items in the agenda been addressed, the meeting was adjourned.

Milan Cigán
President of the Brazilian-Slovak Chamber of Commerce

Bratislava, 25 November 2022