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Press release:

Rastislav Káčer- new President of the Slovak Atlantic Commission

Mr. Rastislav Káčer, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States of America (2003-2008) and former State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic became a new President of the Slovak Atlantic Commission (SAC).

Rastislav Káčer is one of founding members of the Slovak Atlantic Commission and from that time onward he helped the non-governmental organization SAC to achieve its goals. Rastislav Káčer was elected unanimously as President of SAC by the General Assembly of SAC on July 21, 2008 in Bratislava.

Mr. Róbert Vass, who has worked as Chairman of SAC for many years, became a new Secretary General of SAC and will continue to carry on his duties as the head of executive branch of the organization.

Coming up from new statutes of the Slovak Atlantic Commission, position of chairman of SAC expired and two new positions were created: President of SAC already mentioned, who is also head of the Administration board and position of Secretary General, who presides the executive branch.

After elections, discussion on concept of future activities and development of SAC was held, together with introduction of draft programme for up-coming period. According to opinion of Amb. Káčer, it is necessary to enhance position of the Slovak Atlantic Commission as essential platform for searching consensus in crucial questions of foreign, security and defence policy. Perspective of SAC should be built on *„strong non-party platform within the Slovak security community that tables issues according to values, non-partially and seeks for topics that are rather unifying than divisive in nature when discussing our national interests“*.

According to Amb. Káčer, today politics is excessively conflicting, *„there is lack of approach that could unite us in fundamental questions of values“* and it is mission of SAC to bridge this gap. Slovak Republic culturally, ideologically and politically belongs to Euro-Atlantic space. SAC should cultivate discussion on common values and interests that entire Euro-Atlantic community is built on.

International conference GLOBSEC has become a flagship event of SAC and significant forum of security community in the region. Looking up to future, format of the conference GLOBSEC should become even more respected platform for discussion of international security issues. Amb. Káčer expressed his belief that following GLOBSEC conference will be at the same time immensely important and suitably scheduled event followed by significant NATO summit held on occasion of its 60th anniversary.

During the discussion, members of the Slovak Atlantic Commission highlighted positive outcomes that SAC achieved in a field of public diplomacy in Slovakia under leadership of chairman Róbert Vass and expressed their belief that new board of directors will further unfold this tendency. SAC was founded in 1993 and its exclusivity rests upon its membership in the Atlantic Treaty Association(ATA) structure, where SAC represents Slovak Republic.