

# 15 YEARS THAT CHANGED US

Discussion evening on the occasion of the  
15th anniversary of Slovakia's accession  
to the EU and NATO

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April 30, 2019 | 8pm | Kafe SCHERZ

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Kafe SCHERZ, Palisady 27, Bratislava

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## THEMATIC OVERVIEW

On 1 May this year Slovakia will celebrate one of the most important milestones in its history - the accession to the European Union. On the occasion of this 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary the Institute for Policy and Reforms in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Bratislava, the media partner Hospodarske Noviny and supported by the Representation of the European Commission in Slovakia, organizes special discussion evening with guests and for the public.

Together, we will not only recall the past but above all think about, in the first part of the evening, whether joining NATO and the EU was a certain fulfillment of the efforts and at the same time satisfaction for the tribunes of 17 November, and how we should develop the November legacy in the present or in the coming years.

The second part of the evening will be then devoted to discussion with four young people who have not only successfully established themselves abroad but also at home, in Slovakia. We will talk about the future of the world and Slovakia being part of it. Because this is how the last 15 years have changed us: everything in the world affects also us, in Slovakia, and to isolate ourselves would be a disaster. So what is the future of the EU and the place of Slovakia in it? How do global and European institutions work? Will young Slovaks living abroad return to Slovakia? If so, when, under what circumstances? How can Slovakia change for the better?

The evening will be live streamed on the webpage of Hospodarske noviny's discussion forum - [HNClub](#).

**LANGUAGE:** Slovak – no translation

## PROGRAMME:

**20:00 - 20:15**

### OPENING

**KaFe Band - Katarina Feldek Band**

### OPENING REMARKS

**Jana Dzurindova, project manager of IPR**

- 20:15 – 20:45**      **PART 1:**  
**INTERVIEW – WHAT THE PAST HOLDS FOR THE FUTURE**  
*A two to five minute introduction of the guest, 20 minutes of  
curated questions from the moderator, audience questions*
- Guest:**            **Milan Knazko**, leading personality of the Velvet  
revolution in Slovakia
- Moderator:**      **Mikulas Dzurinda**, president of IPR
- Topic:**            Meaning and importance of 17 November from today's  
perspective
- 20:45 – 20:55**      **SHORT BREAK**  
**KaFe Band - Katarina Feldek Band**  
**Lubomir Feldek**, Slovak writer; performing spoken word
- 20:55 – 21:55**      **PART 2:**  
**PANEL DISCUSSION**  
*A two to five minute introduction of the topic and panelists, 25  
minutes of curated questions from the moderator, 25 minutes of  
audience questions ending with a summary and thanks*
- Panelists:**        **Jozef Batora**, professor at the Department of Political  
Science at Comenius University in Bratislava  
**Tomas Valasek**, director of Carnegie Europe in Brussels  
**Miriam Lexmann**, director of the EU Office of the  
International Republican Institute in Brussels  
**Juraj Seliga**, organizer of protests “For Decent Slovakia”
- Main topics:**     15 Years in the Club - Are We Growing Up?  
Slovakia and its place in the EU and in the world  
What is the future of transatlantic relations?  
Nationalism, terrorism, populism - can the EU face them  
effectively?
- Moderator:**      **Mikulas Dzurinda**, president of IPR
- 21:55 – 22:00**      **CLOSING**  
**KaFe Band - Katarina Feldek Band**
- 22:00**                **REFRESHMENT**  
*Finger food and informal conversation with a glass of wine*