

**Príloha  
k č. 118/2000 Z. z.**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Council of Europe**  
**concerning the statute of the Information Office of the Council of Europe in Bratislava**

The Government of the Slovak Republic and the Council of Europe,

With the reference to the Resolution (99)9 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the creation of Council of Europe Information Offices to succeed the present Information Centres of the Council of Europe established under the aegis of the host institutions,

Taking into consideration that the Slovak Republic is a Contracting Party to the General Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Council of Europe and that the Information Office of the Council of Europe (IOCE) and its staff shall enjoy the privileges and immunities provided for in Articles 3 to 8, 17, 18, 19 and 21 of the above mentioned agreement,

Considering that it is necessary to conclude a Memorandum of understanding to govern certain questions linked with the establishment of the Information Office of the Council of Europe in Bratislava

have agreed as follows:

1. The Information Office of the Council of Europe in Bratislava shall possess juridical personality. It shall have the capacity to conclude contracts, to acquire and dispose of movable property. The IOCE in Bratislava is a Council of Europe institution, it is financed from the Council of Europe budget, and the Slovak Republic shall provide it with adequate premises free of charge.

2. The premises of the Council of Europe Information Office in Bratislava shall be inviolable. Its property and assets as well as archives and documents shall be immune from search, requisition, confiscation, expropriation, or any other form of interference whether by administrative, judicial or legislative action.

3. The IOCE in Bratislava is exempted from all direct taxes in respect of all its activities.

4. The IOCE in Bratislava may hold a bank account in foreign currency.

5. Export and import of goods by the IOCE in Bratislava for its official use shall be exempted from all customs duties, prohibitions and restrictions under the condition that they will not be sold on the territory of the Slovak Republic for the period of 5 years. Import and export of the Council of Europe publications for the purposes of the IOCE in Bratislava shall be exempted from all customs duties, prohibitions and restrictions.

6. The IOCE in Bratislava and its officials are permitted to display the Council of Europe's emblem.

7. The staff of the IOCE will include Council of Europe temporary staff\*) and other employees of the host country recruited locally. The officials of the IOCE are the Council of Europe temporary staff posted in the Office.

8. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall communicate to the Government, the name of the officials of the Centre to which the privileges and immunities provided for in Art. 18 of the General Agreement on Privileges and Immunities shall apply.

9. The officials of the Information Office of the Council of Europe will remain subject to local laws and regulations. However, such the staff shall:

- (a) be immune from legal process in respect of all acts performed by them in their official capacity as employees of the Council of Europe in the extent of their objectives and terms of reference,
- (b) be exempted from taxation on the salaries and emoluments paid to them by the Council of Europe,
- (c) as far the waiver of their immunity is concerned, Article 19 of the General Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Council of Europe shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

10. The newly created IOCE in Bratislava will benefit of all resources, equipment and documentation previously at the disposal of the former Information

---

\*) The status of the staff of the Office will be automatically adapted to the new status of the staff which might be adopted by the Committee of Ministers, taking into account their specific tasks and place of work.

and Documentation Center of the Council of Europe in Bratislava; these assets remain the property of the Council of Europe.

11. This Memorandum of Understanding will become effective on signature and will remain in effect

for the duration of the Information Office of the Council of Europe in Bratislava presence.

Done in Strasbourg, on 27. January 2000 in two originals in English.

For the Government  
of the Slovak Republic:

**Eduard Kukan**

For the Council of Europe:  
**Walter Schwimmer**