

## Factsheet: The Slovak National Council



### 1. At a glance








Slovakia is a parliamentary democracy. The Slovak Parliament (National Council of the Slovak Republic or *Národná rada Slovenskej republiky*) is a unicameral body composed of 150 Members, elected by universal suffrage under proportional representation. Members are elected directly to four year term from one nationwide constituency. Only a citizen who has the right to vote, has reached 21 years of age and has permanent residency in the Slovak Republic is eligible to be elected.





The National Council approves domestic legislation, constitutional laws and the state budget, and monitors the government activities. Its consent is required to ratify international treaties, and is responsible for approving military operations. It also elects individuals to some positions in the executive and judiciary as provided by law. The Speaker of the National Council ranks second in the hierarchy of State, after the Head of State, and represents the Council at national and international level.

Following the last elections of 5 March 2016, the ruling left wing SMER–Social Democracy (SMER–SD/S&D) remained the strongest party but lost its majority. For the first time since the establishment of an independent Slovakia in 1993, the Slovak Democratic and Christian Union – Democratic Party (SDKÚ-DS/EPP) as well as the centre-right Christian Democratic Movement (KDH/EPP) failed to cross the threshold, losing their representation in the National Council. On the other hand, other new parties entered the Parliament for the first time ever: the right-wing populist We Are Family (Sme rodina/Not affiliated), the centre-right #Network (#SIET/Not affiliated) as well the far-right nationalist Kotleba – People's Party Our Slovakia (ĽSNS/Non-attached).

The current coalition government, led by Peter Pellegrini (SMER-SD/S&D), is formed by SMER–Social Democracy, the Slovak National Party and Most-Híd parties.

### 2. Composition

Results of the elections of 5 March 2016				
	Party	EP affiliation	%	Seats
	<b>SMER-sociálna demokracia (SMER-SD)</b> SMER–Social Democracy		28,28	49
	<b>Sloboda a Solidarita (SaS)</b> Freedom and Solidarity		12,10	21
	<b>Obyčajní ľudia a nezávislé osobnosti (OĽaNO-NOVA)</b> Ordinary People and Independent Personalities		11,02	19
	<b>Slovenská národná strana (SNS)</b> Slovak National Party (SNS)	Not affiliated	8,64	15

	<b>Kotleba - Ľudová strana Naše Slovensko (ĽSNS)</b> Kotleba - People's Party Our Slovakia	Non-attached Members	<b>8,04</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>Sme Rodina</b> We are family	Not affiliated	<b>6,62</b>	<b>11</b>
	<b>Most-Híd</b> Bridge	Not affiliated	<b>6,5</b>	<b>11</b>
	<b>#SIET</b> #Network	Not affiliated	<b>5,6</b>	<b>10</b>
				<b>150</b>
<b>Turnout: 59,82%</b>				
<b>The next elections must take place in spring 2020 at the latest.</b>				

### **3. Officeholders**

<p><b>Speaker of the Slovak National Council</b></p>  <p>Mr Andrej Danko (SNS/Not affiliated) since 23 March 2016</p>	<p><b>Chairperson of the Committee on European Affairs</b></p>  <p>Mr Ľuboš Blaha (SMER-SD/S&amp;D) since 23 March 2016</p>
<p><b>Secretary-General of the Slovak Parliament: Mr Daniel Guspan, since 26 April 2013</b></p>	

### **4. Participation rights of Members of the European Parliament**

<b>Participation rights for Slovak MEPs in plenary sittings</b>	No
<b>Participation rights for Slovak MEPs in committee meetings</b>	Partially (Slovak MEPs have right to attend the deliberations of the EU Affairs committee in an advisory capacity.)
<b>Availability of videoconferencing system in the Slovak National Council</b>	No

### **5. Information links**

- Official website: <http://www.nrsr.sk>
- [Rules of Procedure in English](#)
- [List of committees](#)

- [Recent documents submitted by the Slovak National Council to the Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange \(IPEX\)](#)
- [European Parliament Liaison Office in Bratislava](#)

## **6. Contacts**

<p><b>Contact in the EP Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments:</b></p> <p>Mr Pekka Nurminen Office MTY 08R008 1047 Brussels Tel.: +32 2 28 40572 <a href="mailto:pekka.nurminen@ep.europa.eu">pekka.nurminen@ep.europa.eu</a></p>	<p><b>Brussels-based contact of the Slovak National Council:</b></p> <p><i>vacant</i></p>
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