



AGREED MINUTES

between

**GOVERNMENT OFFICE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
SECTION OF EUROPEAN POLICY**

and

INSTITUTE FOR INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION (ITALY)

ROME, 20th April 2006

AGREED MINUTES
between
Section of European Policy of Government Office of the Slovak Republic
and
Institute for Industrial Promotion (Italy)

The Institute for Industrial Promotion (IPI) and the Section for European Affairs of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic, from this point on referred to as the Parties, in representation of their National Governments and following the previous agreements,

CONSIDERING the high degree of complementarity of the Italian and the Slovak economic systems and their possible cooperation,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the importance of the social and economic roles of SMEs in a market based economy and in a competitive globalised context and the need to reinforce and further develop the economic cooperation between Italy and the Slovak Republic for the support and development of SMEs,

CONSIDERING the specialization of IPI in offering technical assistance to Partner Countries in the fields of Industrial development and promotion,

CONSIDERING that a cooperation between the Parties will support the development of the industrial sector and will contribute to the modernization of the Slovak productive system, creating important opportunities for both Countries.

The Parties have met and agreed upon the opportunity of cooperating on peculiar sectors for the industrial and economic development of the Slovak Republic and on the basis of the previous experiences of IPI, particularly regarding structural funds management, analyses and planning of production systems, management process, systems facilitating the access of firms to innovation, innovation and technology transfer networks, frameworks of multilateral and bilateral international industrial cooperation process.

As components of a larger industrial cooperation process between the two countries and in compliance with their reciprocal juridical systems, the Parties will use their experience to further create, develop and reinforce their industrial systems.

1. Preliminary phase

In the preliminary phase and being necessary, before starting concrete projects, to picture the industrial situation in the Slovak Republic, the Parties agreed that on a reciprocal basis IPI and Section for European Affairs of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic could be informative points of the industrial systems of their Countries in order to provide information on the defined areas of interest.

The preliminary phase will thus consist in providing the Italian party with basic information on the Slovak innovation/production system, at confirming the common interest areas and subsequently of defining projects for the implementation of an industrial development program.

At this point of the agreement each party will cover its own costs, consequently a transfer of money between the parties is not foreseen.

2. Definition of the Areas of Interest

The parties are willing to confirm the priority areas to be developed, taking as basis the deep interest expressed by the Slovak party in starting a cooperation in the following areas:

- Structural funds program management;

Effective use of European Funds at national level

- Technological transfer in the relation between enterprise, region and university;

Organization of innovative Cente

Construction of innovation Process University – Business

Transfer of experiences from implementation of activities between private and public sector

- Multilateral cooperation with the Mediterranean countries, Western Balkan countries and Ukraine;

Decentralization of Public Administration

Guidance in creation of conditions for Free Trade Zone

Assistance in the introduction of Extended Decentralised Implementation System - EDIS

Financial management of EU funds

Trade and tourism

3. Implementation phase

Phase 1 and 2 are propaedeutic to the implementation of concrete projects in order to achieve a knowledge transfer from IPI experts to the industrial Slovak reality and utilizing the specific Slovak

knowledge in realizing multilateral cooperation with the Mediterranean countries, Western Balkan countries and Ukraine.

The Parties convene that after having selected some priority areas, operative programs as agreed during phase 2 will be launched in order to apply the study recommendations and solutions.

The Parties also agreed that future programs of mutual interest will become operational upon signing an integrative agreement separated from this Agreed Minutes where the requesting party will be in charge of the costs related to the program.

This Agreed Minutes will come into force when signed by the Parties.

Rome, 20th April 2006

For the Institute for Industrial Promotion
Republic

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