

## JOAQUÍN ALMUNIA AT DISCUSSIONS IN THE NATIONAL BANK OF SLOVAKIA



*the conditions of the ERM II. They also spoke about the present state of fulfilment of other criteria, especially interest rate, exchange rate and public finance criteria.*

*The talks also concerned co-operation with the European Commission in the process of enlarging the Eurozone and the very topical theme of the future of the Pact for Stability and Growth.*

*At the press conference, commissioner Almunia emphasised the importance of the central bank communicating with the public in the stage of preparation for the introduction of the euro in the Slovak Republic.*

*During his visit to Slovakia, the European commissioner Joaquín Almunia (in the centre of the photograph above) also met representatives of the management of the National Bank of Slovakia on 10th March 2005. The Governor of the National Bank of Slovakia Ivan Šramko emphasised the importance of this working meeting at a press conference, describing it as very useful and interesting.*

*The talks were especially concerned with European integration and in this context especially the present and future activity of the Slovak Republic in Economic and Monetary Union – above all our approach and final entry to the Eurozone, which Slovakia plans to achieve on 1st January 2009.*

*The commissioner was informed about all the important steps the central bank and the government have undertaken in this area up to now, as well as the tasks still awaiting the Slovak Republic. These include the approval and implementation of the now prepared National Plan for the Introduction of the Euro in the Slovak Republic. Governor Šramko further informed commissioner Almunia about the practical steps, which will accompany the introduction of the euro and their expected timing.*

*The Monetary Programme of the National Bank of Slovakia up to 2008 was also discussed. It is concerned with the need to fulfil the Maastricht criteria. Governor Ivan Šramko informed Joaquín Almunia about the new character of the monetary policy of the NBS, which is inflation targeting under*



*Photos from the press conference  
at the National Bank of Slovakia*