

1. THE ESTABLISHMENT AND THE ROLE OF THE BANK

The National Bank of Slovakia was established by the Act of the Slovak National Council No. 566/1992 as the issuing bank of the Slovak Republic. The Bank commenced operating on 1 January 1993. The new constitutional set-up of the Slovak Republic underlay its establishment.

The major role of the National Bank of Slovakia is to ensure currency stability. To meet this task, the following activities fall under the Bank's jurisdiction: monetary policy, issuance of banknotes and coins, money supply management, banking supervision, and other activities as stipulated by law. The Bank represents the Slovak Republic at international monetary institutions and coordinates the tasks arising from this representation. Apart from the above tasks, the Bank enjoys legislative powers as well. It submits bills pertaining to currency and money supply to the Government, and proposes, together with the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, bills pertaining to foreign exchange operations and banking.

The supreme bodies of the National Bank of Slovakia are the Bank Board and the Directorate.

The Bank Board is the highest management body of the National Bank outlining Slovakia's monetary policy and the instruments for its successful implementation, and making decisions on regulations to be imposed by the Bank in order to control the money supply and inflation. The members of the Bank Board are the Governor, two vice-governors, two chief executive directors, and three other members. The Governor and the vice-governors are appointed and dismissed by the President of the Slovak Republic upon the proposal of the Government and endorsement by the Slovak National Council. The National Bank of Slovakia is represented by the Governor.

The Directorate is the executive body of the National Bank of Slovakia. It is responsible for implementing the decisions of the Bank Board. The members of the Directorate are the Vice-Governor entrusted by the Governor and the chief executive officers of the Bank.

The National Bank of Slovakia, within the scope stipulated by law, supports the government's economic policy. However, the Bank performs its main tasks independently of government directives.