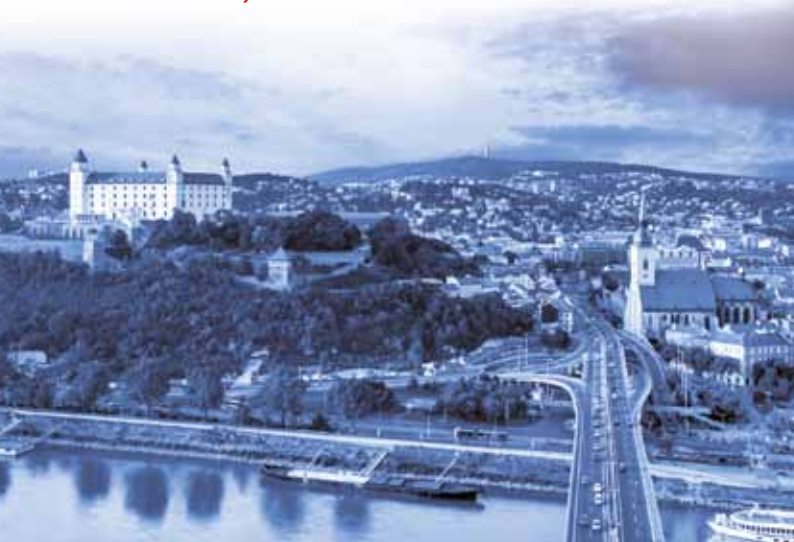




SLOVAKIA 2019 SLOVENSKO

MEDIA HANDBOOK

26th Ministerial Council
Bratislava, 5 - 6 December 2019





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FOREWORD



Dear friends,
If I had to sum up the work of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) after almost one year as its Chairperson, I would say that it opens windows of opportunity that might have otherwise remained closed. The Organization's work aims to de-escalate tensions, build confidence,

create dialogue in spaces where there is none, and slowly but surely fill in the divides created during the Cold War. Moreover, having traveled to 15 different OSCE field missions this year, I have seen first-hand that this Organization works closely alongside national actors, striving to create more stable and prosperous conditions for the people on the ground.

Slovakia took the helm of the OSCE in January 2019 because we wanted to do our part in supporting its comprehensive approach to security. At a time when the nature and scope of conflicts is rapidly shifting; when transnational challenges are proliferating; when the security threats that led to the Helsinki Final Act continue to cast a shadow over this continent, I would argue that we need this approach more so now than ever before.

This OSCE Ministerial Council convenes nearly 45 years after the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, and 30 years after peaceful

demonstrations for freedom, democracy and human rights led to the birth of my own country. If ever there was a time to focus on what unites rather than divides us, and to recommit to the principles of the Organization we formed to create a safer future for us all, this is it.

This 26th Ministerial Council Meeting of the OSCE not only acts as a window into the work of this Organization over this past year, but it is also a forum for dialogue among decision-makers on the most pressing security challenges facing this region. You – the representatives of the media – are the link between the Ministerial Council and the people on the ground that this Organization was established to serve. You can open the window even further; you can make this dialogue platform more robust.

I therefore welcome your active participation at this Ministerial Council and I wish you a pleasant stay in Bratislava!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Lajčák', written in a cursive style.

Miroslav Lajčák

Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia
Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE 2019

PROGRAMME OF PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

THURSDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2019

8:30 – 17:45

“Civil Society Platform” Conference

Opening and Closing Session open to media

Hotel Saffron, Radlinského 27, 811 07 Bratislava

THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2019

08:40

Doorstep by OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Lajčák

All accredited media

Media Centre, Annex, first floor

08:30 – 09:30 Arrival of Heads of Delegation

Pool [Journalists are requested to gather at 08:15]

Head of Delegation Entrance, Main Area, ground floor

10:00 Opening Session OSCE Ministerial Council

Pool [Journalists are requested to gather at 09:45]

Plenary Hall, Main Area, ground floor

From 10:00

Livestream of opening and plenary session of OSCE Ministerial Council

Media Centre, Annex, first floor

13:15 Family Photo

Photo pool [Journalists are requested to gather at 13:00]

Main Area, first floor

18:30

End-of-day doorstep by OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Lajčák

All accredited media

Media Centre, Annex, first floor

FRIDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2019

From 10:00

Livestream of plenary and closing session of OSCE Ministerial Council

Media Centre, Annex, first floor

Closing session of OSCE Ministerial Council

Pool [Journalists are requested to gather at 12:15]

Plenary Hall, Main Area, ground floor

Around 13:30

Press Conference with current and incoming OSCE Chairperson-in-Office

All accredited media

Big Press Conference Room, Annex, first floor

Please note that, although interpretation will be available to the audience during press conferences, recordings will only be possible in the floor language.

The internal TV system (CCTV) available in the Media Centre will only broadcast the floor language of the meetings being held in the Plenary meeting room.



WI-FI

Access to the wireless network is available throughout the media centre.

Network: OSCE2019

Password: Bratislava2019

SOCIAL MEDIA

Hashtag: #OSCEMC19 #OSCESlovakia2019



Twitter: @OSCE, @SlovakiaMFA,
@Slovakia_OSCE, @MiroslavLajcak



Facebook: @osce.org, @mzv.sk, @LajcakMiroslav



Instagram: @osce.org, @miroslav.lajcak

OSCE MC event page: www.osce.org/event/mc_2019

Livestream: www.osce.org/live

MEDIA ACCREDITATION

Access to the Ministerial Council is only possible with a valid conference badge.

Badges must be worn visibly at all times and are non-transferable.

Conference badges can be collected in person upon presentation of a valid photo ID at the media accreditation desk at the meeting venue on

Wednesday, 4 December 2019	12:00 – 18:00
Thursday, 5 December 2019	07:00 – 18:00
Friday, 6 December 2019	07:00 – 12:00

For questions related to accreditation please address one of the accreditation officers at the media accreditation desk or contact media.osce@mzv.sk

Please note that on the spot accreditation is not possible.

VENUE

The 26th Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be held at the INCHEBA Expo Bratislava, on 5 and 6 December 2019. Meetings of the Preparatory Committee and other OSCE bodies will take place at the same venue starting on 2 December 2019.

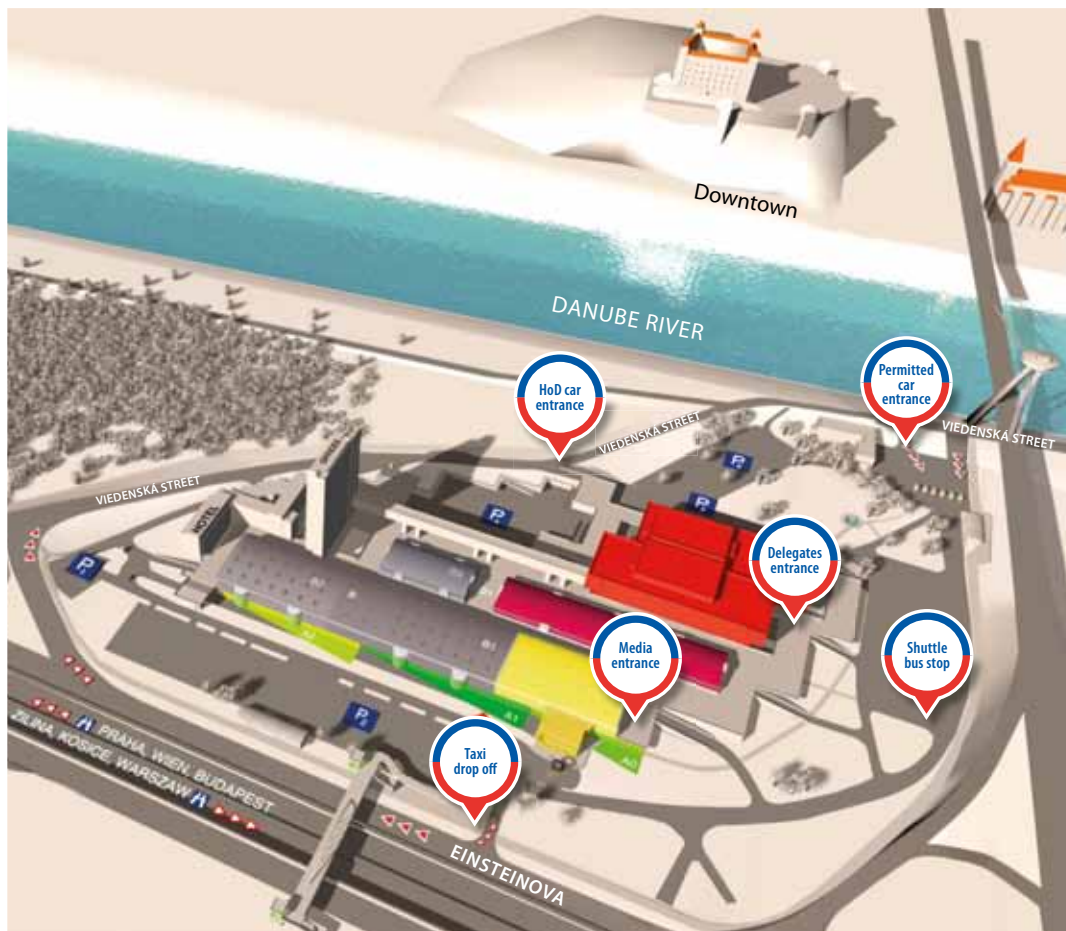
For more information on INCHEBA Expo Bratislava, see <https://www.incheba.sk/en>

Media representatives can access the site of the Ministerial Council through Gate B0 only.

Bratislava has two main train stations. There are regular hourly trains from Vienna Central station to both stations in Bratislava.

- If you arrive at Bratislava Petržalka, please take Bus No. 80 direction “Kollárovo nám.” and get off at the stop “Einsteinova”. The bus runs every 12 minutes.
- If you arrive at Bratislava Hlavná stanica, please take Bus No. 93 direction “Vyšehradská” and change at the stop “Zochova” to the bus no. 80 direction “Kollárovo nám.” and get off at the stop “Einsteinova”.

Public transport can be used free of charge with a valid Ministerial Council badge.



MEDIA CENTRE

A fully equipped media centre will be available at the OSCE Ministerial Council venue. The media centre will be located on the first floor of the Annex of the Ministerial Council venue.

The entire Conference venue will be restricted and secured, with access possible only by visibly wearing a valid conference badge at all times.

The **opening hours** of the media information desk and media centre

Wednesday, 4 December 2019	12:00 – 20:00
Thursday, 5 December 2019	07:00 – 22:00
Friday, 6 December 2019	07:00 – 20:00
(depending on closing of MC)	

For urgent enquiries outside opening hours, please contact:
+43 – 676 717 4592, +421 – 918 660 634

The following facilities are available in the media centre:

- 135 workplaces, some equipped with desktop computers
- Photocopy machines and printers
- Wireless internet access
- 6 CCTV screens broadcasting the plenary sessions and announcements for journalists
- TV and radio booths cabled for receiving the TV feed
- Audio splitters for audio feed
- 2 press conference rooms
- 4 booths for bilateral interviews
- Interview and camera zone with stand-up positions
- Catering and lounge area
- Media information and pool desk

POOL ARRANGEMENTS

At the Media Information Desk, journalists can receive information and register for access to events during the Ministerial Council for which pool arrangements will apply due to space, security and protocol restrictions.

Pool participation is primarily for photographers and camera-operators.

Journalists are requested to register for a pool **ahead of time and in-person** at the Media Information Desk.

As space is limited, registration will be provided on a first-come-first-served basis.

The complete pool programme will be available at the media information desk.

All journalists admitted to a specific pool must gather at least 15 minutes before the pool departs at the media information desk in order to receive a separate, mandatory “floater badge”. Journalists will be escorted as a group. At the end of the press opportunity, the pool will be escorted back to the media centre. Journalists that arrive late at the pool meeting point will forfeit their access to the pool.

Please note that MC media events outside the media centre will be covered exclusively by the TV host broadcaster. A world feed and footage will be provided free of charge to all media.

INTERVIEW REQUESTS

Requests for interviews from delegations and press briefings should be addressed to the OSCE Communications and Media Section (COMMS). COMMS staff will be available at the media information desk or can be directly contacted via press@osce.org

MEDIA COVERAGE OF BILATERAL MEETINGS

Media coverage of bilateral meetings is only possible upon request of a delegation.

Delegations are responsible for contacting media representatives and the media information desk in the media centre or through their liaison officer **at least 20 minutes** before the start of the bilateral meeting to allow for media representatives to be escorted.

IT SUPPORT

IT support stands ready to provide technical advice to journalists upon request.

E-mail: ithelpdesk@mc2019.sk

BROADCAST SERVICES

A pool signal will be provided by RTVS (Host broadcaster).

There will be no dedicated cable-TV/radio booths. All broadcast material will be available on an FTP-share only.

Please contact the host broadcaster for further information.

Contact person for TV Broadcasters:
Monika Müsslerová
Phone (4-6 December): +421 918 782 068
Email: monika.musslerova@rtvs.sk

The pool signals will be in HD SDI and 16:9.
If you do need a 4:3 signal, kindly bring your own analog converter.

PHOTOS

Official photos will be available at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mzvsr>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/osceorg/>

Credit: name of the photographer/ Slovak MFEA

MEALS

Coffee points are available in the media centre from Wednesday, 4 December in the afternoon to Friday, 6 December. Coffee, tea, water, fruit juice and snacks will be offered free of charge.

Additionally, a buffet lunch will be served from 12:30 to 14:30 free of charge in the media centre on Thursday, 5 December and Friday, 6 December.

SIDE EVENTS

Several side events will take place on 5 and 6 December 2019. For specific information, please follow the information on the screens.

Please note that all events marked * are open to media. The following side events are foreseen; changes may occur due to conflicting schedules:

THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2019

14:00 – 16:00 Hybrid threats [meeting room “West”]

Organizer: United States of America

15:00 - 16:30 Opening of the OSCE Virtual Competency and Training Centre on the Protection of Critical Energy Networks [small press room] *

Organizer: Slovak Chairmanship

16:00 – 17:00 Border security and counter-terrorism

[meeting room “North”]

Organizer: Interpol in cooperation with the OSCE Secretariat

16:00 – 17:00 Effective multilateralism in action: OSCE co-chairing of ICAT, a year in review

[Meeting room “West”]

Organizer: OSCE Secretariat

16:00 –17:15 Humanitarian aspects of the crisis in and around Ukraine [big press room]*

Organizer: Slovak Chairmanship

16:30 – 17:30 More inclusion, stronger peace: Launch of the OSCE Toolkit on Inclusion of Women and Effective Peace Processes [small press room] *

Organizer: Slovak Chairmanship

17:30 – 18:30 Political prisoners [big press room]

Organizer: Ukraine

18:00 – 19:00 Cooperative Security Initiative [small room] *

Organizer: Slovak Chairmanship in cooperation with GLOBSEC

FRIDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2019

08:30 – 09:30 Contributing to security and safety needs in the OSCE area: OSCE cross-dimensional approach to SALW and SCA [big press room] *

Organizer: OSCE Secretariat

09:00 – 10:00 Young Voices for a Safer Future

[small press room] *

Organizers: Special Representatives on Youth with support from the Slovak Chairmanship, Albania and the Kingdom of Spain

10:00 – 11:00 Twenty years after the Istanbul Platform for Co-operative Security: The OSCE's contribution to “effective multilateralism” through its co-operation with other international and regional organizations

[big press room] *

Organizer: OSCE Secretariat

10:30 – 12:00 Creating a Legacy - the evolution of SMM in its first 5 years [meeting room “North”]

Organizer: OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre

11:30 – 12:30 Future of international economic cooperation in a Greater Eurasia in the times of digital transformations

[small press room] *

Organizer: IIASA

GENERAL INFORMATION

CURRENCY

The official currency in Slovakia is the Euro. For more information about ECB foreign exchange reference rates, see: <https://www.nbs.sk/en/statistics/exchange-rates/ecb-foreign-exchange-reference-rates>

BANKS AND CREDIT CARDS

Most banks are open from Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 18:00. Almost all banks have ATMs that accept overseas bank cards and are accessible from outside. It is recommended to check with the issuing bank before departure whether a bank card is valid in Slovakia. Credit cards, such as American Express, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in Slovakia.

BUSINESS HOURS

Shops are generally open from Monday to Saturday from 10:00 to 18:00, though times may vary. Shopping malls are open until 21:00. On Sundays, large stores and shopping malls are open.

ELECTRICITY

The electric current used is 220/230 volts, 50 Hz (continental European standard).

CLIMATE

In December, the average temperatures in Bratislava are usually around -1,7°C to 2,8°C.

TIME

UTC/GMT +1 hour

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT BRATISLAVA

Bratislava is a metropolitan city with almost half a million population. It became the capital of Slovakia in 1993 when the Slovak Republic was founded. Its location is unique: it is the only capital in the world located on the border of three countries – Slovakia, Austria and Hungary, and the closest one to another capital – Vienna. Bratislava is the political, educational, cultural and economic center of Slovakia. Unique history, attractive sights, rich cultural life, excellent local gastronomy, quality wine and modern shopping centers make Bratislava an ideal city-break destination. As an environmentally friendly city on the Danube, Bratislava and its region has unspoilt natural treasures and protected natural habitats of European significance. More information about Bratislava can be found on the following website: www.visitbratislava.com.

CONTACTS

Your first point of contact regarding all technical and procedural questions should be the Media and Information Desk at the Media Centre.

COMMS Duty Mobile: +43 – 676 717 4592

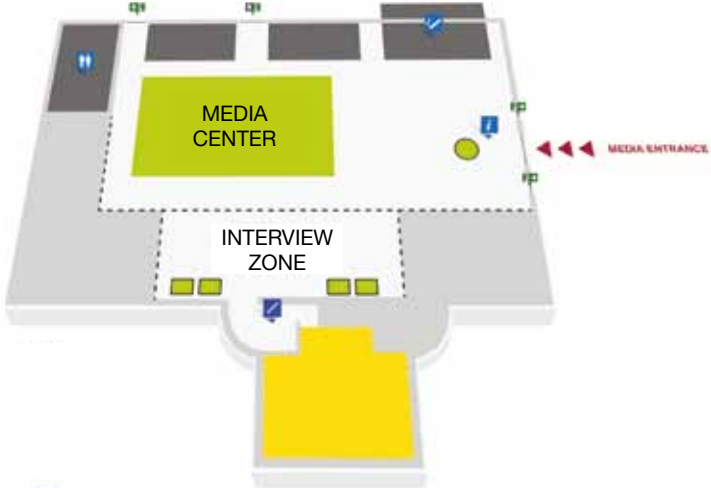
Róbert Zolák

Media Advisor, Slovak MFA

robert.zolak@mzv.sk, +421 918 660 634

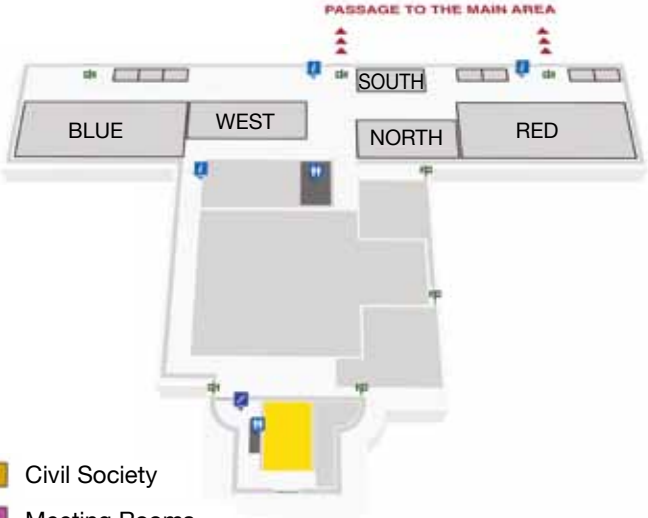
ANNEX

LEVEL +1



- Main Press Conference room
- Media Center
- Media and CSO Desk
- Snack Bar

GROUND FLOOR



- Civil Society
- Meeting Rooms
- OSCE Conference Services
- Catering
- Small Press Conference Room



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