



## Youth & European Identities

**Why did 80% of Slovaks with voting rights, many of them young people, stay home instead of voting?**

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3 **LOEWE.** Dušek SVĚT LETENEK AIR TRAVEL SERVICE 4

Roseta BANKOMAT NEXT 6

one way deluxe ETHNO

1 MARKS & SPENCER Delmas 2

3 BIBELOT Kierovy 4

5 GRAND OPTICAL SCHIESSER 6

DIVA GANT U.S.A. 1949 8

MAGABOND 9

ONE WAY 11

Sport 14

16

18



## Low Turnout(17%)

- Voter apathy of Slovaks
- in the European Parliament elections
- should be “read” carefully.



## “feet choice”

- Election law does not say election participation is an obligation even though this still exists in some EU states.
- People know there are no repressive rules for so-called “feet choice” in elections like before 1989.
- Just to remind you under communism the turnout was 99% in every election.



# Candidates

- Even the candidacy of Peter Stastny, ice-hockey manager and symbol of Slovak success in the World Championship of ice hockey, **did not help**. He received MP mandate of 88,000 preference votes.
- SDKU (Slovak Christian and Democratic Union) also received 15% of votes and three mandates.



# Sunday

- Rather untraditionally, the law set **only one day** for the elections this time (for example in the Czech Republic it was Friday and Saturday) and many people voted here on the way from church.
- KDH (The Christian Democratic Movement) received 15% votes and 3 mandates.



## It is a warning for domestic political scene.

- It is their public protest against low political culture, fighting among currently governing political parties, against political instability in the country.
- “Effective” apathy that was noticed throughout Europe should be interpreted as a strong slap of Slovak citizens to their government and party politics.



## It is their message to the elected Slovak MPs for the European Parliament

- Citizens will be waiting whether Slovak MPs would be or would not be “in Slovakia with their hearts” as they promised. They will also notice where their “wallet” will be, in Brussels or in Bratislava. Funny like this was one of the campaign billboards of a political party which was saying where the candidate`s heart would be.
  - The fact is their mandate is weak. They received it from only 17% of voters.



Who did the Slovaks choose to represent them in the European Parliament?

- More **important** than low turnout are **final results** of the European Parliament.
- Among 14 elected MPs there **is not** a representative of Slovak Communist Party or Slovak National Party.
- Out of 14 MPs there are **five women** and **two representatives of the Hungarian ethnic minority**.



## *What did Europe take for granted?*

- YEAR 2003
- More than 50% of Slovaks approved the accession of Slovakia into the EU.
- Results of EYI research which we present show that young people associate the EU not with better life only, with advantages of migration freedom, broader labor market, safer future for their children, but **especially, recognition of their European identity of a relatively young European nation which achieved things which other nations achieved only after decades.**



## *What did Slovaks do for themselves?*

YEAR 2004

- In May 2004 Slovaks mobilized themselves in the **second round of presidential` s elections** even without being advised by the governing democratic political coalition. *One could even say: they went to vote against their will.*
- The reason of **high turnout** at the presidential` s elections was to definitely obliterate a chance of Meciar becoming the President of Slovakia.
- At this moment we are getting seated at the round table of the new Europe onto “our own chair”, Slovaks did not let themselves to be represented abroad for next five years by someone who they sent to past more than once (1998, 2002).



# People as Citizens

- The people of Slovakia are in their struggle with Slovakia's own state and clerks, their political parties and their privatizers learning, how to behave like citizens.
- They even learned that non-participation in elections is sometimes **the most effective way** how to express civic courage and responsibility, how to present their political will and opinion.