

Common Imperative for Common Future

Slovak-Hungarian Youth Congress on Common Foreign and Security Policy

Hungarian-Slovak relations can be characterized as one of the most sensitive bilateral relations in Central European modern history. Both countries are currently presenting strong interests in spreading and promoting strong Euro-Atlantic values not only within their own societies but beyond their borders as well. The continuous sensitivity in Hungarian-Slovak relations pose a strong challenge as well as opportunity to focus on common goals both countries share as Allies and equal members of the NATO as means for resumption of mutual acceptance and partnership between these two nations.

Euro-Atlantic Center and Hungarian Youth Atlantic Council as Slovak and Hungarian national chapters of Youth Atlantic Treaty Association take a chance to open a new chapter of Slovak-Hungarian relations in the light of shared membership in NATO and EU. The intention of the project entitled “*Common Imperative for Common Future: Slovak-Hungarian Youth Congress on Common Foreign and Security Policy*” is to emphasize common interest and foster bilateral relations of the Allies in Central Europe while celebrating the NATO 60th anniversary and 5th anniversary of common EU membership.

Within the confines of a four-panel discussion devoted to an open dialog searching for the solutions for the common Hungarian-Slovak challenges in the light of shared interests in foreign and security policy. Several side-line activities are prepared to symbolically promote values and ideas for a promising new future in Slovak-Hungarian relations. The symbolic venue of the city of Komárno/Komárno, which has been divided by a border in 1918, may now serve as a reconciliation point and sincere call for strengthening Slovak-Hungarian relations reflecting also the no-border situation in the city after the 1st of January 2008.

Crossing the bridge of Komárno/Komárno which connects Hungarian and Slovak cities together will provide an opportunity for a symbolical opening of a new chapter in Slovak-Hungarian relations. Along with placing a memorial plaquette and playing a joint football match with mixed Hungarian-Slovak teams, the events are organized to convey the message of the Congress to emphasize the need for embracing the shared perspective as an incentive leading to a common promising future.

