



SLOVENSKÁ VÝTVARNÁ ÚNIA

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SLOVAK UNION OF VISUAL ARTS

Slovak NC Report 2011 - 2015

General Assembly of IAA Europe and IAA/AIAP, Pilsen, Czech Republic, October 17-18, 2015

Summary

A lot of work has been done. Board members specifically devoted a lot of time and energy to activities on the field of social and legal right of artists. A wide range of collaborating volunteers is also involved in the preparation of specific events and activities.

The Slovak Union of Visual Arts and **the Slovak Coalition for Cultural Diversity** that are linked in the person of the President Pavol Kral, have gained a lot of acknowledgement and are now a well-respected organizations both at home and abroad. **The Slovak Union of Visual Arts** – Slovak NC - is the biggest association of professional visual artist in Slovakia. **Slovak Coalition for Cultural Diversity** represents actually more than 200 entities, associations from all fields of art - music, visual art, literature, theatre, TV, film, etc. Number of individual members of these bodies is about 10 000: SCCD is therefore the most representative and respected “spokesman” for artists in Slovakia actually. We have chance to initiate and comment proposal of law for culture. President of SUVA and SCCD is (since 2012) member of Board for culture of Slovak Government, Vice-Chairman of Committee of Ministry of Culture for Strategy of Development of Culture, he and also other representative of SUVA and SCCD are member of other committees and advisory bodies of Ministry of Culture.

Even though the Coalition has had no official financial support at its disposal and all people work for free (except for the membership fee grant from the Ministry of Culture), over a short period of time it has become a partner to major state authorities and has been able to attract media attention.

In spite of the partial successes we have achieved, there are tasks yet to be finished. The major issue is improving the legal and social status of artists in Slovakia. That remains to be the main goal of SUVA and the SCCD, as there exist many persistent legal issues that have not been solved for more than two decades.

On the other hand, **cooperation with Ministry of Culture already provides some results; about 6 proposals of law are in the process actually. If the government fulfil the objectives of the approved strategy it is really important for the development and better future of culture in Slovakia.**

The list of ASSOCIATIONS - members of Slovak Union of Visual Arts

<http://www.svu.sk/index.php?rain=en/members>

A - R / Association of painters A – R

ARS for ART / Association of visual artists ARS for ART

ART CLUB 60 + 8 / Association of visual artists ART CLUB 60 + 8

ARTTEX / Association of visual artists ARTTEX

Ateliér.EM / Association of sculptors, painters and jewellery artists Atelier.EM

AURA / Association of jewellery artists AURA

INDIVISUAL / Association of sculptors, painters and graphics INDIVISUAL

KOPA / Association of visual artists KOPA

N´89 / Association of visual artists N´89

Obec reštaurátorov Slovenska / Community of Restorers of Slovakia
PER SPECTRUM / Association of visual artists
PRO SCENA - Slovenská scénografická spoločnosť / PRO SCENA - Slovak Association of Scenography
Resculpture.sk, asociácia sochárov / Resculpture.sk, Sculptors Association
ROZETA / Association of visual artists
Spoločnosť voľných výtvarných umelcov / Society of Free Visual Artists
SPOLOK C+S / C+S Association
Spolok maďarských tvorivých umelcov na Slovensku / Society of Creative Hungarian Artists in Slovakia
VEKTORYart / Association of visual artists
Združenie medailérov Slovenska / Association of Medallists
Združenie keramikov Slovenska / Creative Association of Ceramists
Združenie pre umenie KATEDRUM / Association for art's KATEDRUM
Združenie priemyselných dizajnérov Slovenska / Association of Industrial Designers of Slovakia
Združenie prvého mája / Association of The 1st May
Združenie slovenských profesionálnych fotografov / Association of Slovak Professional Photographers
Združenie textilných výtvarníkov TxT / Association of Textile Artists TxT
Individuálni členovia / Individual members

The list of members (unions, societies and associations) of Slovak Coalition for Cultural Diversity

<http://www.skkd.sk/index.php?Itemid=81>

AOSS – Asociácia organizácií spisovateľov Slovenska / Association of Slovak Writers' Societies
www.slovenskispisovatelia.com

ASFR – Asociácia slovenských filmových režisérov / Association of Slovak Film Directors

ASK – Asociácia slovenských kameramanov / Slovak Association of Cinematographers

ATAFS – Asociácia tvorcov animovaných filmov na Slovensku / Association of Slovak Animation Artists

FÚS – Folklórna únia na Slovensku / The Folklore Union of Slovakia, www.folklornaunia.sk/

HOS – Herecká obec Slovenska / Slovak Actors' Association

ISH - Iniciatíva za slovenskú hudbu, o.z. / Initiative for the Slovak Music, NGO

LITA – autorská spoločnosť / Society of Authors, www.lita.sk

OAT – Odbory audiovizuálnych tvorcov / Audiovisual Sector Unions

SC P.E.N. – Slovenské centrum P.E.N. / Slovak Pen Centre, www.scpen.sk

SJS – Slovenská jazzová spoločnosť / Slovak Jazz Society, peter@peterlipa.com

SOZA – Slovenský ochranný zväz autorský / Slovak Performing and Mechanical Rights Society,
www.soza.sk

SSN – Slovenský syndikát novinárov / Slovak Syndicate of Journalists, www.ssn.sk

SSPOL – Slovenská spoločnosť prekladateľov odbornej literatúry / The Slovak Society of Translators of Scientific and Technical Literature, www.sspol.sk

SSPUL – Slovenská spoločnosť prekladateľov umeleckej literatúry / Slovak Literary Translators' Society,
www.sspul.sk

SSSk - Spolok slovenských skladateľov / The Society of Slovak Composers, www.composer.sk

SVÚ - Slovenská výtvarná únia / Slovak Union of Visual Arts, www.svu.sk

USTT – Únia slovenských televíznych tvorcov / Union of Slovak TV creators

ZAI – Zväz autorov a interpretov / Union of Authors and Performers) <http://zai.eu.sk>

ZDHS – Združenie dychových hudieb Slovenska / The Slovak Association of Brass Bands, www.zdhs.sk

ZDS – Združenie divadelníkov na Slovensku / Association of Slovak Theatre Artists)

Slovak NC report since the last GA IAA/AIAP in Guadalajara, Mexico, April 2011

2011 – 2012 Review of activities and future goals

- The initiative for changing the proposal of the tax and social system reform (May 2011 – October 2011) was one of the most important SUVA and SCCD activities. It was a part of our long-term effort to improve the legal and social status of artists in Slovakia. We had got enormous support from Slovakia's artists and eventually achieved partial results. Our international partners also supported us in our activities. An extensive report of more than 50 pages concerning the initiative is available at webpage of IFCCD, Canada: <http://www.ficdc.org/cdc2081>.



The first press conference



Protest meeting of artists at Gallery of Slovak Union of Visual Arts



Journalists interested in actual information about the protest of artists



Main TV News: meeting of representative of artists and a small business with Prime Minister



*Headline on screen: Artists and entrepreneurs with loops (symbol of protest), evening TV news
The report about the protest of artists in Parliament*

- Day of Art 2011, September 13th: Performers from various artistic fields (musicians, actors, visual artists, writers, translators) joined their forces in a program that was running concurrently on 5 stages in the historical center of Bratislava for 6 hours. The event was organized under the auspices of Bratislava's Mayor within the campaign that was supporting demands of the SCCD regarding the discussed tax reform.



Opening of the protest event of artists at Main square in the center of Bratislava

Results of our initiative for changing the proposal of the tax and social system reform

It is obvious that our active participation in an effort to change several forthcoming measures, has made sense. Our efforts begin to bear fruits:

There has been a noticeable change of attitude of responsible officials

- from statements that it is too late to negotiate because everything was already decided, to negotiation and meetings of leaders of artists with almost all competent members of government (with Minister of culture, with Minister of finance, a few times with Minister of Social affairs, 2 times with Prime Minister), with representatives of all government parties and Members of Parliament

- after the initial very negative reactions from the official sites, the understanding of some fundamental requirements of artists have been already publicly presented

There has been a noticeable change of attitude by the media

- from ignorance or very rare information to penetrating into the headlines and even to the first reports in almost all the main broadcast media (personal maximum of Pavol Kral was interviewed for about 12 media in one day)

- from indifference and misunderstanding, to more positive attitude towards the demands of artists

Perhaps there has been also (at least) a small change in perception of the Culture with a wider audience

- in addition to solving particular problems, we have the ambition to open wider discussion about the meaning of culture and arts and their place in society

- might this was the first step to the dialogue

And at last but not at least: There has been a noticeable change of attitude by the artists themselves

- from disgust and indifference to the interest to participate and help

- great part of artists have not been joined over the years in Slovakia as now, from the youngest to the oldest artists from all fields of art have been involved

- we have got lot of positive answers and comments, wishes of good luck in our effort; at least one example of spontaneous reaction of art director (F.Palonder) at Facebook after publishing our Response to statement of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic:

“I´ve stopped breathing... No one have ever fought for me like this! Even I myself did not!”

- GA IAA Europe, Berlin, Germany, October 2011: Pavol Kral, Slovakia, was elected President of IAA Europe. Andrea Kozarova, Slovakia, started cooperation with IAA Europe as a Secretary. Office IAA Europe continues its work at Bratislava (since 2010).

- Movement of artists for rescue of Meulensteen Art Museum Danubiana, December 2011 – February 2012: this movement of artists, led by President of SUVA Pavol Kral, for the rescue of exceptional museum ended in success: not only prevent the closure of the museum, but its extension has been approved.



Meulensteen Art Museum Danubiana, Bratislava - Čunovo



... and again protest meeting of artists at the Gallery of Slovak Union of Visual Arts ...

- The World Art Day – April 15th, 2012: similar event, organized by the Slovak Union of Visual Arts on Leonardo da Vinci's birthday. This event was organized within the 2011 initiative of International Association of Art which declared da Vinci's birthday a World Art Day. The action caught the attention of the media, we have seen many responses. Photo report from event here:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.392318877468132.96674.200745866625435&type=3>
<http://www.iaa-europe.eu/wad/World%20Art%20Day%20-%20Slovakia%202012.pdf>

- Council for Arts, the counselling body of the Minister of Culture, was established in February 2011: The SCCD and SUVA were represented by its President. One of the most important tasks of this Council was preparation of analytical and conceptual report called "The strategy of cultural development in Slovakia in 2012 – 2016." Some ideas and theses from this material were implemented into the Manifesto of the new Slovak government. Representatives of the Council meet with the new Minister of Culture and some outcomes of the meetings have direct impact on relevant laws and regulations. Thus, the establishment of inter-ministerial committee was recommended – a body that would focus on solving issues of artists, authors and culture in general.

- We collaborated in preparation of the Annual Report of Slovak Republic on implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

which was completed at the beginning of 2012. The official version was signed by State secretary of Ministry of Culture and by Pavol Kral, President SUVA and SCCD.

- Draft agreement between the SCCD and the Section for international cooperation of the Ministry of Culture was worked out by the SCCD Board - based on the negotiations with the General Director of the section. The intention is to develop long-term and systematic cooperation between the Ministry and the SCCD.

- Prior to the parliamentary elections the Slovak Pen Club, the SCCD and other associations initiated discussions with Slovak political parties. The goal was to draw attention to persisting problems of culture sector in Slovakia and to possible solutions as well. After the discussions, the SCCD held a press conference to inform media about how were the most burning culture issues reflected in programs of individual political parties.

- In order to increase efficiency in sharing information with its members as well as with public, the Board of SCCD approved launching of the SCCD web page www.skkd.sk.

- In August 2012, based on the initiative of the Minister of Culture, a representative of the SCCD was also nominated to the Governmental council for non-profit organizations.

- According to the already approved statutes, a President of the SCCD became (November 2012) a member of the newly established Governmental Council for Culture. To solve specific problems, working groups were created and closely cooperated with this Council. Based on the agreement of the SCCD Board members and the Minister of Culture, one of these working groups focused on the topic that we considered the most important – the statute of an artist. The group closely cooperated with the Head of the Office of the Ministry of Culture since June 2012.

- The SCCD delegated members of its Board to negotiate with representatives of the Ministry of Culture and discuss implementation of the Government Manifesto and other issues of artists, authors and culture sector in general. The issues include (along with the already mentioned “status of the artist”):

- ongoing changes in tax and social insurance laws
- Copyright Act issues
- legal inclusion of artworks in new public constructions (Act on Construction)
- legal changes that would recognize purchasing artworks as tax deductible costs
- financing of culture
- laws related to sponsorship, etc.

- Increasing international collaboration: The SCCD approved closer cooperation with the European Council of Artists (ECA). The official application to ECA was submitted in August 2012 – after previous informal contacts with its members (Pavol Kral took part at Conference and GA of ECA at Madrid, Spain, November 2011).

- Following the request of the IFCCD, the SCCD Board agreed to organize the IFCCD Congress and the ECCD conference in Bratislava in autumn 2012. These events were successfully held in the Gallery of Slovak Union of Visual Arts on Sept 20 - 23, 2012.

- Pavol Kral took part at Conference and GA of ECA at Vilnius, Lithuania, November 2012

- We continued in organizing the exhibitions of visual art at national (about 25-30 / year) and also international level (exchange of exhibitions – common project with NC of Latvia and NC of Lithuania, exchange with Czech republic art association, exhibition from Austria, Russia, Croatia, Slovenia, etc).

2013

A/ Co-operation with the Ministry of Culture

The Slovak Government Board for Culture: SUVA and SCCD represents its President Pavol Kral who continuously informs the members of the Board and individual members about the discussed materials including the appeals for the amendment procedure of the discussed materials.

Councils of the Slovak Government Board for Culture

- Council for the Art: SUVA and SCCD represents 2 members
- Council for the Culture Edification Activities: SCCD represent 1 member
- Media Council: SCCD represents 3 members

Workgroups of the The Slovak Government Board for Culture:

- Workgroup for the Analysis of the Remuneration of Employees in the field of Culture and the Way of its Improvement: SUVA and SCCD represents 2 members
- Workgroup for the Status of the Artist: SUVA and SCCD represents 3 members
- Temporary Workgroup for the Amendment of the Authors Act in Slovakia: SUVA and SCCD represents 3 members
- Workgroup for the Artistic Works in Architecture: SUVA represents 2 members

B/ Cooperation with the Ministry of Interior

SUVA and SCCD is represented in **the Slovak Government Council for the NGOs** – 1 member

C/ International activities

- SUVA and SCCD President Pavol Král' was invited to the **German Commission UNESCO Annual Conference in Frankfurt, April 2013**, where he was one of the speakers as the representative of one of the active ECCD organisations; he presented our activities and elaborated Status of the Artist;

- The analysis **Status of the Artist** was **published on the IFCCD website at Canada** already in January; English version was prepared in co-operation with the IFCCD Secretary Charles Vallerand;

- Member of the SCCD Board Jozef Švoňavský took part together with the representatives of the Slovak Ministry of Culture in the **international conference on the cultural diversity in October 2013 in Prague;**

- Member of the SCCD Board Mirka Brezovská was in 2013 participating in the **ECCD sessions in Paris and Brussels;**

- SCCD Board elaborated **the project of co-operation with Ukraine;**

- In May 2013 we were **invited by the Government Office to participate in preparation of the "Norwegian Grants".**

D/ Review of our activities – SVU Yearbook: <http://preview.triad.sk/svu/svu13-14.pdf>

E/ **World Art Day, 2nd year** – April 14, whole day event at gallery, photo report here:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.573477012685650.1073741831.200745866625435&type=3>

2014 priorities

A/ The Strategy of cultural development in Slovakia in 2014 – 2020: Pavol Kráľ, Vice-chairman of the Committee of Ministry of Culture for **The Strategy of cultural development in Slovakia in 2014 – 2020** continuously informed the members of the Board resp. members of the Coalition about the materials discussed in the Slovak Government Council for Culture including the appeals for the amendment procedure of the discussed materials. [The Slovak Government approved the Strategy in May 2014 and by the end of the year it has also approved its Action Plan with the concrete dates of the tasks](#) (info also in the Slovak Union of Visual Arts Yearbooks 2013/2014 and 2014/2015):

- it contains several positive proceedings; [the most important point is the Government's commitment to increase the culture spending from present about 0,39 % GDP to 1 % GDP by the year 2020](#)

B/ Cooperation Agreement on the implementation of the national project "Creation of the national system of qualifications": transfer of the implementation from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Culture.

C/ Participation in the preparation of new Authors Act: SUVA in cooperation with SCCD intensively participated in the preparation of the new Act.

D/ International co-operation in 2014

- 10 - 12 February 2014 member of Board SCCD [Mirka Brezovská](#) participated in the [European Coalition for Cultural Diversity session in Brussels](#) – the trip was financed from the grant of the Ministry of Culture

- 19 - 20 September 2014, [Stockholm, Sweden](#): President SUVA [P.Kráľ](#) took part in the workshop where he was invited by the international workgroup dealing with the implementation of the Swedish model, so called [MU agreement](#) into the legislation of other European countries; the participants came from Sweden, Norway, Lithuania, Latvia, Germany, Switzerland, England and Scotland; [the topic is directly related to our main goal – improvement of the legal and social position of artists](#);

- 4. November 2014 in [Brussels](#) – [International Symposium "The Situation of the Visual Arts – New perspectives of the Author's Rights of the Visual Artists"](#) under the auspices of MEP Helga Trüpel, organised by Werner Schaub and German NC. The partner of the Symposium was IAA Europe.

- 28 November 2014 [Mirka Brezovská](#) took part in the [ECCD session in Brussels](#).

- December 2 – 5, 2014 - P. Kral and Secretary IAA Europe [Andrea Kozarova](#) took part in the meeting of the [international IAA/AIAP Executive Committee in Seoul, Korea](#). The main topic was the preparation of the next year meeting in Plzen, Czech Republic and the [international conference with the topic Status of the Artist](#).

E/ Other topics we dealt with in the year 2014:

- **Artist Status:** more details - see publication Status of the Artist link: <http://preview.triad.sk/svu/StatusOfTheArtist-Engl-Slovak.pdf> and SVU Yearbooks http://preview.triad.sk/svu/Rocenka_SVU_2014-15.pdf and <http://preview.triad.sk/svu/svu13-14.pdf>

- **Fund for Support of Art:** P. Král' has proposed amendments on behalf of SCCD; [the Government has approved the Act proposal in September 2014](#)

- **Extended Meulensteen Art Museum Danubiana officially opened after reconstruction** (September 2014), **awarded The best project of the year 2014 in Slovakia.** We can remind our successful movement for rescue of Meulensteen Art Museum Danubiana, December 2011 – February 2012. <http://www.danubiana.sk/en/danubiana/about-us>



- Just 2 weeks later another significant achievement of visual artists in Slovakia: **officially opened Kunsthalle Bratislava, which will focus on the most current trends in modern fine art**



F/ Review of our activities – SVU Yearbook: http://preview.triad.sk/svu/Rocenka_SVU_2014-15.pdf

G/ World Art Day – 3rd year, April 12, whole day event at gallery, high school of arts, and theatre

2015

1/ Legal and social position of the artists, situation in culture, co-operation with the Ministry of Culture preparing the legislation – actual results where we actively participated:

a/ **The Amendment of the Author Act**: the new Author Act was intensively being prepared for some 1.5 year. It was [approved by the Parliament on July 1, 2015 and signed by the President on July 24, 2015](#).

b/ **The amendment of the Construction Act** was [approved by the Government on 27 July 2015](#) - <http://www.culture.gov.sk/aktuality-36.html?id=524>; it solves also the protection of artistic works in the buildings during additional works or reconstructions; it should be valid from the beginning of July 2016

c/ **Status of the Artist** – positive result of the negotiations for the first time after 25 years;

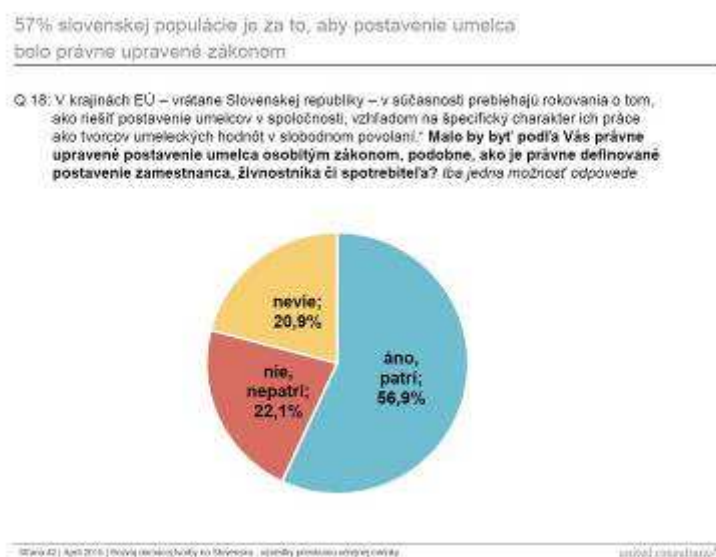
- April 2015 - [we have reached the consensus between the representatives of artists and the Ministry of Culture](#).

- June 2015 - [completed the consultation process to the definitive form of the legislative act](#)

- August 11, 2015 - [proposal discussed at the Government Legislative Council](#)

- August 26, 2015 - [Status of the Artist approved by the Government](#); it has a chance to pass in autumn 2015 to the Parliament and if approved we could solve the following steps. There is a hope that the Act could be valid from the beginning of January 2016. All principles we have promoted, as optionality, expertise, verifiable results and education were included, the result is reasonable and if it works, we shall have legislatively defined professional artists. Then we can start solving other concrete steps.

Interesting is the shift of public attitudes. SOZA agency prepared (in cooperation with us) the public opinion poll where they asked if the position of artists should be defined in the legislation as specific and 56.9% of respondents answered yes (just 22.1% against, 20.9% did not know to answer)



Positive reactions to the publication Status of the Artist from Australia; they have asked P. Král to write an article and it was published in their monthly magazine; in Australia they deal with similar problems, their executive director expressed the will to come to Plzen and participate in the conference.

d/ **Fund for support of arts**: increase of the budget with 45% in the year 2016 in comparison to the budget of 2015.

e/ **The Government has approved a higher proportion of the Slovak music in the media**

f/ **Assigination of 2% for individuals and legal subjects – support of memorandum**: 2% from the taxes of individuals and legal subjects for NGOs we supposed to be decreased to 0.5%. Thanks to long time effort we managed to prepare the memorandum in which the Ministry of Finance committed to preserve the present mechanism.

2/World Art Day – 4th year, April 11, whole day event at gallery, artists entering the public space (construction on the square in front of gallery), photo report here:
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.969828113050536.1073741870.20074586625435&typ e=3>

3/ Cooperation with Slovak Commission of UNESCO

General Assembly of SK UNESCO: P. Král presented the SCCD activities and after his critical remarks about the lack of support from the part of the UNESCO Slovak Commission he was promised more cooperation. Actual information:

- there was a discussion about the possibility of candidacy to the Intergovernmental Committee of the Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions where Slovakia was never represented

- Paris, 9 -13 June 2015: at the session of Conference of Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions President SUVA and SCCD P. Kral was elected for a member of Intergovernmental Committee on behalf of Slovakia for period 2015 -2019

4/ Planned activities in future:

Our actual and priority topics for 2015:

a/ Amendment of the Authors Act: to conclude the negotiations actively follow the process of approval in the Parliament

b/ Artist Status:

- to continue in the negotiations with the Ministry of Culture with the goal to finish the first part and open the way to the solutions of improvement of the present situation of artists.

- 15 October 2015: **The International Conference about the Artist Status**, Pilsen European Capital of Culture 2015

- Meeting of Intergovernmental committee of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, Paris, December 2015: member of Committee Pavol Kral, delegate of Slovakia, would like to open debate about his proposal to approve a new recommendation of UNESCO about Status of the Artist

c/ Fund for support of art: To follow actively the formation of the Fund for Support of Art and its structures, to react and if possible to delegate our representatives

d/ The Sector Council for Culture and Publishers: to complete the sector expert group for the sector of freelance artists

e/ Strategy of the development of culture until 2020: active co-operation when amending the Action Plan of the Strategy

f/ 10th Anniversary of the Convention and UNESCO: to consider possibilities for including SCCD into activities in the connection with this event with the goal to make actual topics of the culture policy and SCCD priorities more visible:

- October 23 -25, 2015, Pavol Kral and Mirka Brezovska on behalf of Slovakia are taking part at The congress of the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity in Mons, Belgium, and at International forum on the 10th anniversary of the 2005 UNESCO Convention, October 25. The UNESCO Director General, Mrs. Irina Bokova,

and the Secretary General of the International Organization of La Francophonie, Mrs. Michaëlle Jean, have confirmed their presence at the international forum to which ministers of Culture and renowned artists have been invited.

g/ November 5 – 8, 2015, Mr. Pavol Kral, President of Slovak Union of Visual Arts is going to participate as a one of the speakers at the Conference "**The significance of institutions in the processes of culture**", organized by Lithuania's Artist Association, September 2015, on topic Social and legal right of Visual artists:

- Situation of Artist in Slovakia
- Situation of Artist in the Contemporary World
- Status of the Artist – working document for a general international debate

h/ We continue on organizing the exhibitions of visual art at national (about 25-30 / year) and also international level (exchange of exhibitions – common project with Croatia and Czech Republic actually).

i/ We continue the co-operation with the IAA / IAA Europe / ECCD / IFCCD / ECA.

Bratislava, September 4, 2015

Pavol Kral
President of Slovak NC