



Deutsch-Slowakische
Industrie- und Handelskammer
Slovensko-nemecká
obchodná a priemyselná komora



Fond pre
transparentné
Slovensko



SLOVENSKO - RAKÚSKA
OBCHODNÁ KOMORA
SLOWAKISCH - ÖSTERREICHISCHE
HANDELSKAMMER



Joint statement of chambers of commerce and business associations to the current situation

As representatives of more than a thousand companies from Slovakia and 30 other countries around the world, employing more than 270,000 employees and contributing to the state budget in billions of euros in taxes and social contributions, we are deeply concerned about the current situation which is something Slovakia has never experienced before.

Murder of an investigative journalist, which, according to many public officials is most likely connected with his professional activities, is a direct attack on the freedom of press. The role of journalists, including their role in unveiling cases of fraud and corruption, has an irreplaceable role in the society.

Growing lack of citizen's trust in the state and its institutions has a significant effect on the business environment. We want to do business in Slovakia in an environment that respects the principles of rule of law and is governed by clear and fair rules. **In order to maintain the trust of the public as well as the business community, Slovakia needs political leaders that not only acknowledge the principles of rule of law but also serve as role models in implementing it on a daily basis.**

Through the joint **Rule of Law Initiative**, we have been together for long pointing to the need of law enforceability and fight against corruption. After more than three years since we presented our concerns to the Slovak government we need to emphasize again that:

- Slovakia needs a predictable business environment and legislation that protects public interest, supports ethical and transparent entrepreneurship and is adhered to.
- Slovakia needs to adopt significant measures to decrease the levels of corruption. Today, it ranks as a country with high perception of corruption, which has significant negative influence on the business environment as well as the country image and deters many potential investors.
- Slovakia needs an effective, transparent and trustworthy judiciary. Long duration of cases and often reasonable doubts about the independence of courts, prosecutors or police have negative influence on the trust of the business community in the rule of law.