# RUDOLF KUCHARČÍK

Alexander Dubcek University in Trencin, Slovak Republic

## KAROL JANAS

Alexander Dubcek University in Trencin, Slovak Republic

# CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

#### Abstract:

Crisis management in the Slovak Republic works on a hierarchical basis. It consists of a very well designed system of functioning of state bodies that provide crisis management of the country in times of war and peace . The supreme body of crisis management is the Security Council of the Slovak Republic - consultative body of the Government of the Slovak Republic. The Security Council of the Slovak Republic is involved in the development and implementation of the security system of the Slovak Republic. The Security Council ensures compliance of international obligations in the field of security, evaluate the security situation of the Slovak Republic and the world. Central Crisis Staff also plays pivotal role in crisis management procedures in the Slovak Republic.

#### **Keywords:**

Crisis Management, Security Council, Slovak Republic

JEL Classification: H12, H56, H79

## Security Council

Crisis management in the Slovak Republic works on a hierarchical basis. It consists of a very well designed system of functioning of state bodies that provide crisis management of the country in times of war and peace (Kutik, Hrtanek, 2006 and Janas, Bussa, 2012). The supreme body of crisis management is the Security Council of the Slovak Republic. It is a consultative body of the Government of the Slovak Republic (Security Strategy, 2005). The Security Council of the Slovak Republic is involved in the development and implementation of the security system of the Slovak Republic. The Security Council ensures compliance of international obligations in the field of security, evaluate the security situation of Slovak Republic and the world. The Security Council also prepares proposals of activities for government in the field of the security of the Slovak Republic, crisis prevention, as well as proposals to solve the present crisis. In the case of jeopardizing the activities of the Government during emergency conditions, the Security Council of the Slovak Republic can assume temporarily the constitutional powers within the limits specified by law (Kutik, 2006).

According to its Statute, the Security Council of the Slovak Republic became advisory, initiative and coordination body of the Government of the Slovak Republic in the area of national security (Resolution, 2004). The basic task of the Security Council is to participate in the creation and implementation of a reliable security system of the Slovak Republic, to ensure the coordination of arrangements of the practical implementation of security tasks of the Slovak Republic and its international obligations, to prepare proposals for government arrangements to preserve national security, crisis prevention, as well as proposals to solve the present crisis. National Security Council performs the tasks in the peacetime (National Council, 2004a) and in the time of war, the state of war or in the state of emergency (Constitutional Act, 2002). The Security Council performs its tasks as at the principal place of management of state defense in the time of war and the state of war (National Council, 2002a). The Security Council has nine members, whose term is consistent with the term of members of the Government. The members of the Security Council are irreplaceable in the performance of their functions. The National Security Council is the highest executive body of the Crisis Management of the Slovak Republic. The Security Council's head is the Prime Minister. Vice-President of the Security Council is Deputy Prime Minister and also Minister of Interior. Members of the Security Council are the Defense Minister, Finance Minister, and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister of Transport, Construction and Regional Development, Minister for Justice and Minister of Health (Constitutional Act, 2002). The Security Council is convened by its chairman. At the time of absence of the chairman, the Deputy Chairman shall convene the Security Council with the prior approval of the chairman of the Security Council.

Security Council's meeting are convened and chaired under the approved plan of the Security Council the Chairman and in his absence the Vice-Chairman. The President may convene an extraordinary meeting in case of urgency of addressing issues pertaining to the competence of the Security Council and the reasons for proposing its members. The President of the Slovak Republic has also the right to propose the meeting of the Security Council of the Slovak Republic and to participate in its meetings. The individual points of the agenda of the Security Council to rule on a proposal from the submitter and with the consent of the presiding participate in discussing the particular person who has prepared the material, or a contribution, or persons and other persons who may contribute to the proper assessment of the issue under discussion (Rules of Procedure, 2004a). Materials shall be submitted in the specified format (Guidelines, 2004). Secretary of the Security Council office staff who process the sound and then a written record of the meeting of the Security Council also participate at the meeting (National Council, 2004b).

Security Council decides about the discussed matters typically in resolution, the final decision formulates the Chairman. The adoption of a resolution or other decision of the Security Council requires the consent of an absolute majority of its members. The resolution of the Security Council shall be made in written and electronic form. If it is not a particularly serious or complex matter, the Chairman can ask the members of the Security Council to decide about the proposal even outside the meeting (by the form per rollam) (Rules of Procedure, 2004a). Decision of per rollam is not allowed if the Security Council implements constitutional activities of the Government of the Slovak Republic in the time of war, the state of war or the state of emergency (Constitutional Act, 2002). The Security Council establishes committees for their needs and to fulfill its responsibilities. The committees are proposed by the Vice-President of the Security Council and after the consideration of the Security Council the Government of Slovak

Republic can approve the committees (National Council, 2004a). Currently the permanent working bodies are the Foreign Policy Committee, the Defense Planning Committee for Civil Emergency Planning and Intelligence Coordinating Committee (Constitutional Act, 2002). The Committees decide according to the Committee's rules.

The Committee for Civil Emergency Planning performs tasks in the preparation and coordination of actions in the field of civil emergency planning. The Committee consists of the Chairman and members of the Committee. The appointment of the Chairman and his appeal approves the Security Council after the proposal of the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic. The Chairman of the Committee shall be appointed and dismissed by the Chairman of the Security Council. Vice-Chairman of the Committee is a member of the committee appointed by the Chairman; mandate shall expire if the Chairman appoints the Vice- Chairman of the duties of another committee. Committee members are approved by the Security Council and appointed by the Chairman of the Security

Council. They consist of representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Defense of Slovak Republic, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Finance of Slovak Republic, Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, Government Office of the Slovak Republic, Office for Nuclear Regulatory Authority of Slovak Republic, Administration of State Material Reserves of the Slovak Republic, the National Bank of Slovakia, the Association of Municipalities of Slovakia (Rules of Procedure, 2005a). In the framework of activities and duties of the Committee, members of the Committee, secretarial staff, members of the working groups and invited persons have to obey the provisions of a special regulation (National Council, 2004b). Security Clearance of members of the Committee is required in the range of fulfilling tasks resulting from the Law 110/2004 on the Security Council of the Slovak Republic functioning in the peacetime at least at the level of privacy as "Secret". The disposition of the paragraph 2 shall not apply at a member of the Committee representing the Association of Municipalities of Slovakia. This member is aware of the classified information that are required to his Security Clearance (Rules of Procedure, 2005a).

The Committee of the Security Council of the Slovak Republic for the Intelligence Coordinating Committee (the "Committee") is a permanent working body of the Security Council to coordinate the planning measures forced at ensuring the activities of state bodies and special services (the intelligence), carrying out tasks under special regulations (National Council, 1993, 1994). The Committee within its duties is mainly involved in the coordination of Intelligence. The Committee discusses proposals submitted to the Security Council in connection with the fulfilling tasks in the area of coordination of Intelligence. The Committee draws up expert opinions relating to the coordination of intelligence. The Committee considers proposals of general application relating to the coordination of intelligence, which are tabled to Security Council. The Committee does not independently develop Intelligence and does not replace bodies which are set up to control the activities of the intelligence services of the Slovak Republic (Rules of Procedure, 2004b). The Committee is composed of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and eight members. The Chairman of the Committee is the President of Security Control. Vice-Chairman of the Committee is the Vice- Chairman of the Security Council. The Committee members are the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, the Minister of Defense of the Slovak Republic, the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic, the Director of Slovak Intelligence Service, the Director of Military Defense Intelligence, the Director of Military Intelligence, the President of the Police Force, the Director of the National Security Office (Rules of Procedure, 2004b).

The Committee of the Security Council for Defense Planning discusses the result of the initiative of the Security Council and prepares recommendations, mostly including the politico-military, strategic, and evaluation materials in the field of Defense Planning at national and international level (Constitutional Act, 2002). The Committee discusses the coordination of planning focused on safeguard of the security and defense of the Slovak Republic and its allies and mostly it discusses the proposals submitted to the Security Council relating to its functions in defense planning (Defense Strategy, 2005). The Committee participates in the coordination of the defense planning conducted by ministries and other central state administration bodies, it participates on the coordination of international cooperation in the field of defense planning mostly with the member countries of NATO, considers proposals of laws and other generally binding regulations relating to the defense planning which are submitted to the Security Council to discuss, then brings up expert opinions on materials relating to the defense planning and submit them to the Security Council. The Committee takes into account the recommendations of central bodies and institutions NATO, other international organizations and uses foreign experience and opportunities for international cooperation (Rules of Procedure, 2004c). The Committee shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and other members. The appointment of Chairman of the Committee and its appeal on the suggestion of the Minister of Defense of the Slovak Republic is approved by the Security Council. The Chairman of the Committee shall be appointed and dismissed by the Chairman of the Security Council. The Vice-Chairman of the Committee is a member of the Committee suggested by the Chairman; the commission shall extinct if the Chairman of the Committee designates another member of the Committee by duties of the Vice-Chairman. The Committee members are approved by the Security Council and its Chairman is appointed representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, the Slovak Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Health of Slovak Republic, the National Security Office, the State Material Reserves of the Slovak Republic, the National Bank of the Slovak Republic at the request of a competent minister, the head of a government agency or central bank governors (Rules of Procedure, 2004c).

The fourth permanent working body of the Security Council of the Slovak Republic for the national coordination of planning of measures is the Committee for Foreign Policy which is forced at foreign security policy (Rules of Procedure, 2005b). The Committee for Foreign Policy is involved in the coordination of foreign security policy of the state which is exercised by ministries and other central state administration bodies. In the Committee

are discussed the proposals of materials submitted to the Security Council that relate to fulfilling its functions in the field of Foreign and Security Policy of the state. The Committee for Foreign Policy produces expert opinions related to Foreign and Security Policy of the state and introduces it to the Security Council. It also discusses the proposals generally binding legal regulations and international agreements relating to the Foreign and Security Policy of the state. By fulfilling its function, the Committee takes into account the opinions of international organizations and institutions and use foreign experience and opportunities for international cooperation (Rules of Procedure, 2005b). The Foreign Policy Committee consists of a Chairman and 12 members. The Chairman of the Committee shall be appointed and dismissed by the Chairman of the Security Council after the proposal of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, after the approval of the Security Council. Members of the Committee are, after approval of the Security Council and by the President of the Security Council appointed, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, the Slovak Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Finance of Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications of the Slovak Republic, the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, the State Material Reserves of the Slovak Republic, the National Security Office, Offices of the President of the Slovak Republic, the Slovak Intelligence Service and the National Bank of Slovakia (Rules of Procedure, 2005b).

If necessary, the Security Council can establish and rescind expert working groups. This happens at the initiative of a member of the Security Council and the rule is also to stand on its forehead. The member is appointed as the head of the working group by the President of the Security Council. The ministers and heads of other central state administration bodies and other state bodies earmark their employees to their expert working groups. Expert working groups discuss professional matters related to the Security Council and prepare documents for the meeting. They do not own statute or rules of procedure (Status, 2004).

The Security Council worked closely with the National Council of the Slovak Republic for the Defense and Security, with Ministries, other central state administration bodies and other state bodies during the designing and implementing the Security System of the Slovak Republic. The Security Council uses knowledge for its activity, analysis and information obtained from ministries, other central bodies of state administration, other state administration bodies, local government and higher territorial units. The Security Council may invite other experts on its meetings if they are needed (Status, 2004).

A Special role in ensuring the activities of the Security Council has the Office of the Security Council of the Slovak Republic. It is headed by a Director who is also the secretary of the Security Council. The Director's tasks are determined by the rules of

procedure of the Security Council. The Director is responsible for the performance of his duties to the Chairman of the Security Council and in the matters of the civil service of the Director he decides under special regulation the Chief of Staff Office of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic (National Council, 2001). Number of employees of the Office of the Security Council is determined by Government on the proposal of the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic (Status, 2004). The Office of the Security Council of the Slovak Republic (Status, 2004). The Office of the Slovak Republic (Status, 2004). The Office ensures the fulfillment of coordination, professional and consultative role in the security of the Slovak Republic. The Office relies on expertise and experience of ministries and other state administration bodies as well as expert opinions universities and research institutes and other institutions in the preparation of opinions and proposals of measures for the Chairman and Vice- Chairman of the Security Council in the field of security (Status, 2004).

Its main tasks include co-ordination of planning, preparation and implementation of regulations in the area of the security of the Slovak Republic in addition to the creation and implementation of the security system of the Slovak Republic. It considers proposals for planning, preparatory and implementation of the security of the Slovak Republic and its opinion on them submits to the Chairman and Vice- Chairman of Security Council. In cooperation with ministries and other state administration bodies it is involved in preparing the report on the safety of the Slovak Republic if the Security Council decided about the presentation (Status, 2004). It also participates in the presentation of policy documents of interdepartmental character, aimed at preserving the security of the Slovak Republic which are submitted for consideration to the Government of the Slovak Republic (Constitutional Act, 2002).

The Office of Security Council is also involved in the assessment of proposals of generally legal regulations and draft international treaties relating to the security and national defense. The Office of Security Council presents its opinions and views to them to the Chairman and Vice- Chairman of the Security Council (Status, 2004). The Office of Security Council holds an important role in fulfilling international obligations in the field of security. In this area, The Office of Security Council assesses the proposals related to the fulfillment of international commitments of the Slovak Republic. It considers proposals related to the participation of the Slovak Republic on actions to save lives and protect the health of persons and the property outside the territory of the Slovak Republic. In cooperation with ministries and other government bodies it evaluates the security situation of the Slovak Republic and the world, particularly the risk of treatment to national security which may lead to a crisis situation. Views and proposals of measures of The Office of Security Council to reduce or eliminate these risks submit to the Chairman and Vice- Chairman of the Security Council. The tasks associated with this activity provides the still – working Situation Centre for Monitoring the security environment in the Slovak Republic and the world what is a part of the organizational structure of the office (Status, 2004). The Office of Security Council shall work in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Central Crisis Staff (National Council, 2002b) and the National Security Council region during fulfilling its duties. It considers proposals for measures to save the security of the region and measures to prevent crisis situations which are presented to the Security Council by the Security Council region (Constitutional Act, 2002). The Office of Security Council provides notification of members of the Security Council, members of the Committee of the Security Council for the Coordination of Intelligence and staff offices in the need of meeting of the Security Council. It also ensures the protection of classified information in the work of the Security Council according to the provisions of a special regulation (National Council, 2004b).

## **Central Crisis Staff**

Central Crisis Staff shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and other members. The chairman of the Central Crisis Staff is the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic (National Council, 2002b). Vice- Chairmen of Central Crisis Staff are the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Minister of Defense of the Slovak Republic. Central Crisis Staff members are representatives of the Slovak Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Economy of Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunications of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, the Slovak Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Education, the Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic, the State Material Reserves of the Slovak Republic, the National Security Office, the Slovak Intelligence Service, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, the National Bank of Slovakia, Slovak Red Cross President, Chief Public Health of the Slovak Republic, the President of the Police Force, the president of the Fire and Rescue Service of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic and the General Director of Crisis Management and Civil Protection of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. Members of the Central Crisis Staff during the crisis are also members of the Central Flood Commission (Resolution, 2008).

Members of the Central Crisis Staff are appointed and dismissed by the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic. Its members are replaceable by officials whose respective leaders are delegated by central government authorities and other bodies during fulfilling the function in the Central Crisis Staff. The Central Crisis Staff is the coordinating body of the Government of the Slovak Republic in decisions required in the crisis during the time out of war and warfare (Janas, 2012). When preparing for crisis situations and their solutions the Central Crisis Staff analyses and evaluates risks of a crisis situation, drafts proposals of regulations to solve the crisis and drafts the basis for decision-making in government.

The Central Crisis Staff coordinates the activities of Crisis Staffs of state and municipal authorities. It cooperates with the Security Council of the Slovak Republic during the preparation of measures. It suggests to the Government the use of special-purpose reserve funds for Crisis Management to eliminate its consequences and it also suggests to the Government to request assistance from abroad, including humanitarian support (Resolution, 1996). In the cooperation with the Emergency Headquarters of the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic the Central Crisis Staff shall ensure the implementation of Tampere Convention on Security of Telecommunication Resources in the case of Disaster and Relief Operations (Status, 2013).

The Central Crisis Staff monitors the performances of duties and measures imposed by the Government and evaluate procedures to deal with a crisis situation, it generalises the experience gained and uses them in their activities (Resolution, 2008).

Session of the Central Crisis Staff is convened by its Chairman who also determines the time and place of the meeting. In the case of a crisis situation the Chairman manages the activities of the Central Crisis Staff. The crisis or threat which can directly cause a crisis situation is by the Chairman immediately notified to the President of the Slovak Republic and to the Prime Minister. During the absence of the Chairman of the Central Crisis Staff performs the function the Vice-Chairman of the Central Crisis Staff (Resolution, 2008).

An Important role in the activities of the Central Crisis Staff and Crisis Management meets the Central Secretariat of the Central Crisis Staff. The Secretariat consists of department of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic specifically designed for this task by the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic. The Secretariat is in conjunction with the office of the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic during fulfilling this task. Activities of the Central Secretariat of the Central Crisis Staff are managed by the Secretary of the Central Crisis Staff. The Secretary is designed by the Minister of Interior from among the department officials of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. The Central Secretariat of the Central Crisis Staff provides layout of workplaces of Central Crisis Staff in the space which includes a meeting room, a surgical centre, a room to prepare documentation by experts and the working groups, a room for contact with representatives of the mass media and the necessary facilities for the provision of meals and rest. Staff equips the workplace of Central Secretariat of the Central Crisis Staff by necessary computing, communication and office equipment and devices for maintaining documentation. They activate workspace of the Central Crisis Staff in the case of crisis or danger of its occurrence and ensure the meeting of members of the Central Crisis Staff. They also ensure the preparation and the processing of proposals of solving the crisis situation; keep track of providing a support in the removal of consequences of the crisis by ministries, other central state administration bodies, public institutions with the mission of the humanities, District Office regions in the unaffected centre by the crisis situation (Resolution, 2008). They use a communication and information system for crisis management of State and establish records of the meeting of the Central Crisis Staff (National Council, 2002b). The financial envelope for the Central Crisis Staff during managing crisis is reflected in the draft budget of the Ministry of Interior after consultation with the Government Office (Resolution, 2008).

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