

To EGP Committee  
From Reinhard Bütikofer, Péter Ungár, Mar Garcia  
Date 7 March 2016  
Subject **REPORT VISIT TO SLOVAKIA, Bratislava, 9-10 February 2016**

EGP Committee Members:

Reinhard Bütikofer, Co-Chair and Péter Ungár, responsible for the Visegrad region, and Mar Garcia, Secretary General

The aim of the visit to Slovakia was to learn more about our member party Strana Zelenych, given the Parliamentary Elections of 5 March 2016.

Strana Zelenych na Slovensku has been EGP member since 1995 (joining the EFGP – European Federation of Green Parties). In November 2006 we received a mail notification that the party logo and named was changed, now being called Strana Zelenych, using also the acronym SZ and changing the logo from pine tree to green heart.

<b>EGP Fact Finding Mission - AGENDA</b>		
<b>Bratislava, Slovakia</b>		
Participants: Reinhard Bütikofer, Péter Ungár and Mar Garcia		
9 <sup>th</sup> February 2016 – Tuesday		
11:00 – 12:30	EU Commission representation Head of the department <b>Dushan Chrenek</b>	Palisády 29 811 06 Bratislava Tel.: +421 2 5920 32 33 Contact person: Eunika Jurcikova
13:00 – 14:30	<b>Juraj Mesik</b>	Hotel lobby Skaritz residency Michalská 4, Stare Mesto +421 918 958 950
15:00 – 16:30	<b>Grigorij Meseznikov</b>	Hotel lobby Skaritz residency Michalská 4, Stare Mesto
17:00 – 18:30	<b>Juraj Rizman</b>	Hotel lobby Skaritz residency Michalská 4, Stare Mesto Mobil: +421 908 729 997
19:00 – 21:00	Dinner with Greens <b>Martin Jona and Zuzana Rattajova</b>	UFO restaurant (bridge SNP) - 19h 00421 2 6252 0300
10 <sup>th</sup> February 2016 – Wednesday		
09:30 – 11:00	EU Parliament representation <b>Robert Hajsel</b>	EPIO office <b>Palisady 29, 5<sup>th</sup> floor</b>  Need to call him from Security reception for the badges
11:30 – 13:00	Meeting 1: Green Party branch in Puchov (ones lobbying for family law Mama+papa)	Meeting 2: <b>Veronika Lombardini</b> <b>Slovakian EU Presidency</b>

	<p>Dipl.Ing. <b>Michal Bizon</b>, M.Sc. - responsable de la region Trencin - JUDr. <b>Jan Micic</b> - responsable de la region Puchov - <b>Lubomir Schmida</b> - responsable de la region Zilina/Ruzomberok</p> <p><b>Meeting in the hotel:</b> Skaritz residency Michalská 4, Stare Mesto</p>	<p>Director General Affairs and EU Institutions Department Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic</p> <p>Address: <b>Hlboká cesta 2</b> Tel.: +421 2 / 5978 3581</p>
13:15- 14:30	<b>Miklos Huba</b>	<p>Hotel lobby Skaritz residency Michalská 4, Stare Mesto</p> <p>Contact: secretary Lubica Trubiniova +421 905 271 888</p>
15:00 – 16:30	<b>H.E. Mr. Helfried Carl</b> Ambassador of Austria	<p>Bernadette HOHENWARTER Österreichische Botschaft Hodžovo Námestie I/A, 5. Stock 811 06 Bratislava, Tel.: +421-2-593015-00</p>

### **Juraj Mesik**

Served as MP in Czechoslovakia 1989-1990

Ex-president of the Green party 1990-1991

Since 2003 work as the World Bank's Senior Community Foundation Specialist

Full CV on English: <https://mesik.wordpress.com/english/personal-data/>

### **Grigorij Meseznikov:**

At first, he worked in the [Slovak Academy of Sciences](#) in Bratislava.

He founded the Slovakian [Institute for Public Affairs \(IVO\)](#).

He has been president of the institute since 1998

His contributions on website of HBS: <https://www.boell.de/en/person/grigorij-meseznikov>

On family referendum:

<https://eu.boell.org/en/person/grigorij-meseznikov>

### Juraj Rizman

Greenpeace Central and Eastern Europe, photo and video editor

Used to be director of Greenpeace Slovakia 2008-2013

[https://twitter.com/juraj\\_rizman](https://twitter.com/juraj_rizman)

### Miklos Huba

Ex-MP for the Greens, now independent MP of the Slovak Parliament

Also active in NGO sector <http://www.ochranari.sk>

His blog: <http://aktualne.atlas.sk/autori/mikulas-huba/>

## I. About Strana Zelenych

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### Communication held with SZ prior to the visit.

The party has shown very little activity since 2011. After a delegate attended the EGP Council in 2011, even the contact with the Slovak Greens was at a low level since 2012 until autumn 2014. In autumn 2014, they nominated Maggie Dokupilova as candidate for EGP Secretary General, and Daniel Jona attended the Istanbul Council where he paid in cash the membership fees for 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Since the Copenhagen Council in May 2012, the party has been entitled to participate at the EGP Councils with two delegates (gender balanced) and is entitled to full reimbursement of travel costs and accommodation on the condition that the gender balance is respected. Nevertheless, the Slovak Greens did not participate in any of the council meetings for nearly three years.

They finally attended the Zagreb Council (May 2015) after several communications from EGP with Martin Jona, current Party manager/Secretary General, as we learn from the web page of Strana Zelenych. He was accompanied by Zuzanna Rattajova and a short meeting was held with EGP Co-Chair Reinhard Bütikofer and Secretary General Mar Garcia, but no update was given on what was the situation of Strana Zelenych in the current political life in Slovakia.

Martin Jona participated in the PLM held on 9 October 2015 where he made no contribution whatsoever.

For the Lyon Council, Martin Jona was reimbursed travel costs and his attendance was limited to the voting session held on Sunday morning.

### Current situation - Party board and contact in general

No update has been given on what is the situation of Strana Zelenych in the current political life in Slovakia.

We still do not know who is in the party board at present, or who should be contacted best as international spokesperson, beyond the current Party Manager/Secretary General Martin Jona or Zuzana Rattajova whose status in the party is unknown.

The email contacts the EGP office has been using in the past years clearly do not work ([sekretariat@strnazelenych.sk](mailto:sekretariat@strnazelenych.sk), [strnazelenychzv@gmail.com](mailto:strnazelenychzv@gmail.com), [peter.pilinsky@raca.sk](mailto:peter.pilinsky@raca.sk)).

Numerous phone calls and text messages to the mobile phone number of the last known party leader Peter Pilinsky were not answered. The websites we found was either from the branch in Puchov or, quite recently, the website related to the local elections of November 2015.

### Meeting with Strana Zelenych

We met with Martin Jona and Zuzanna Rattajova.

We asked why we could not find any hint of an SZ activity on their website. Their answer was, they did not have the time, because they were preparing an election campaign.

We were told SZ has decided to make an alliance with MOST/HID, Most/Hid is an inter-ethnic party, promoting cooperation of Hungarian minority and Slovak people, being on center-right scope of political spectrum. Currently it has 13 members in National Council. They have one MEP, elected on European Elections 2014, who is at the moment part of the EPP (Jozef Nagy).

The electoral system in Slovakia changed and the threshold was raised as the amount of parties rises in the coalition; being 5% for one party, 7% for two parties, 9% for three parties, etc... This is the basic reason, we were told, why SZ had decided not to run either alone or in a formal coalition, but under the list of Most/Hid. The current system of the Slovakian elections is one with an open list, meaning that every citizen has four votes it can allocate on one party's list. Thus they claim to campaign for the four representatives they have on MOST/HID's list.

We are told there are 4 green names in the list of MOST/HID placed in numbers 44, 69, 79 and 115. Names were not provided apart from Martin Jona, Party manager/Secretary General, who is currently occupying number 115. (We did find the info on their very basic election website: <http://www.zelenivmoste.sk> under "Kandidati": 44= Jakob Kuruc, 69=Rastislav Žitný, 79 = Jan Buocik and 115 is Martin Jóna). We were told that of those four people, two are SZ members, and they were selected by Martin Jona directly.

No written information was provided about any agreement negotiated with MOST/HID. We were told there was no formal agreement, just a gentlemen's' agreement between Martin Jona and MOST/HID leadership. We were told the strategic decision to run under their list was decided in a board meeting of SZ held in October 2015 where the party agreed to give Martin Jona full mandate to both, decide the agreement with MOST/HID and the green political priorities that should be included in the MOST/HID platform. We were told a renewables policy could not be included, because MOST/HID objected.

When asked about what were the issues MOST/HID and SZ disagreed on they answered that MOST/HID was pro-nuclear, which to them was unacceptable. However, they gave no response to how this figured into their gentleman's agreement.

We were told no financial agreement was made with MOST/HID, apart from the campaign (where the green names will be promoted), which would be run exclusively by MOST/HID. Nothing is foreseen after that.

The gentleman agreement (nothing in writing), says that SZ, foresees that if MOST/HID gets in government, SZ will hold some executives in the Ministry. No more information was shared.

It was mentioned that the "green" contribution to the MOST/HID campaign would be "The Green Minimum", and that would include topics such as transport, illegal constructions, environmental dump, waste and refugees. No further explanation about what messages or which prisma of these topics would be communicated or wanted to be promoted. Neither how. We were told *The Green Minimum* is part of the program of MOST and that the program would be announced together in a press conference at the beginning of the week of the 1st of March. Information has been asked about it. This Green Minimum cannot be seen in any major Slovakian media.

We are told there are also other parties who have contributed with names to the current list of MOST/HID but we were not deeper informed.

Polls gives MOST/HID currently 8-9%

The agreement on the cooperation was based on the positive experience at the municipal level, where 1,5 years ago (municipal elections held in November 2014) MOST/HID won 4 out

of the 17 districts of Bratislava and shared one with the greens. The person who holds this position is Peter Pilinski. No information is found about him on the web site of SZ. (Peter Pilinsky was party leader from 2008 to 2014 of Strana Zelenych. Since 2010 he has been the Mayor of Bratislava-Raca).

(No further explanation or previous one has been given about when and how this agreement was made despite several requests by the EGP)

During the meeting Martin Jona also mentioned that, as businessman, he makes his living out of distributing and printing a free Bratislava newspaper involved with local politics.

## 2. The other Greens

website: <http://www.strnazelenychpuchov.sk/sk/>

In 2015 we were alerted on Facebook about the homophobic statements on the Facebook page of our so called EGP member party, Strana Zelenych in the context of the Family Referendum that was to be held in Slovakia on February same year.

After much research and consultation with HBS office in Prague, and the meeting at the Zagreb Council with the current Party Manager/Secretary General, Martin Jóna, we concluded that the political activity held in Puchov, despite being done from a Facebook Page that holds the name of our member party, was not done by them. And they did not feel responsible for that.

Screenshots of some of the homophobic posts done under the name of Strana Zelenych (with heart logo) are attached at the end in annex I. Translation is provided from Slovak.

Michal Bizon is president of the local board of the Green party for the Trencianskeho region, main city Puchov.

On their website posts are from 2012, most of the sections are empty but the webpage is regularly maintained for 2016 (meaning that the domain name is paid for this year).

Jan Micic is mayor of the village Lazy, which is in the same region, but not at a stage that we could be able to claim that he is member of this Puchov Greens. In 2010 he ran as independent candidate but no more news on him after that.

Lubomir Schmida is from Nitra, region of Zilina, and he is listed as member of the Green party on their website, as candidate for EU elections 2014. Picture attached.

In Puchov there is no elected posts of Green party in local authorities. At least not the one on the website.

We contacted Michal Bizon when preparing the mission since his phone number is in EGP system connected with the Green party page. Then he called EGP back and demanded to meet to tell us about Green parties and Martin Jona. EGP staff googled him and figured out that it's his local branch of the green party that was actively campaigning for family law and being openly homophobic.

Still they are officially the local branch of the party that is our full member.

The outcome of that meeting is that they accuse Martin Jona of stealing the Green Party and using it for his own purpose, which they did not clarify.

They are of the opinion that Strana Zelenych is not at all doing green politics and has not been active at all in any of the green conflicts that were lately hot in Slovakia: EX: Yetba, extraction

of gold; Koshitsí, extraction of Uranium; Ruyonberog, false measures of air pollution.

Also, doubts were raised on the circumstances they mentioned, that Peter Pilinsky, current executive in Bratislava-Raca has Martin Jona employed as responsible for IT, and that unclear relations with real estate companies are being held in this area. No explanation or facts were delivered about that.

There was also a criticism on the current Secretary General not being democratic. When the Congress was held 3 years ago, they lost the majority vote on their strategy and Jona took control of the party. After that, they assure the party has not been politically active and has not been involved at all in any of the environmental conflicts that have been going on in Slovakia.

Since they are all located nearby, geographically speaking, they unilaterally decided to keep their political activity under the same name of the EGP member party, and the same logo (heart) after being changed in 2006.

Their Facebook page has been active on environmental statements, but they were also very active campaigning when the referendum on family law, as reported, through homophobic statement.

## Annex I

The screenshot shows the Facebook page for 'Strana zelených' (Green Party). The page is set to 'Public' and has 1,863 likes. The main content is a referendum campaign with three 'ANO' (Yes) questions and 'LEBO:' (Or) options. The questions are:

- OTÁZKA Č. 1 LEBO:** manželstvo bolo vždy medzi mužom a ženou a nikto to nikdy nerespektoval / muž a žena sa biologicky a psychologicky dopĺňajú
- OTÁZKA Č. 2 LEBO:** na deťoch sa pokúša nerobiť, ani krátkodobé, niečo celoživotné / dajta musí nahradia mamu, ani 2 či 3 ženy nahradia otca, v deťoch to vyvolá zmätok
- OTÁZKA Č. 3 LEBO:** ak si rodičia neprajú, aby sa napr. ich dcéra učila navštívať tréning na umelohmotný pevný či sexuálny tréning pre svoje deti, nemá byť sa to potrestani / referendum nezakazuje sexuálnu výchovu, ak ju rodičia chcu od štátu a nie je proti vyzovomú biológii

The page also features a post from 4 hours ago with the text: 'La Manif Pour Tous chce upozorniť medzinárodnú verejnosť a požiadať Harim Desira (štátneho sekretára pre európske záležitosti), aby konal v záujme demokracie na Slovensku.'





Strana zelených

Vladimír Škokna  
Včera o 11:59

Hnus, toto je čo za strana zelených? odchádzam od Vás a nepočítajte s mojou podporou

PAČI SA TEJTO STRÁNKKE

Gorali

Aliancia za rodinu

Zelená pro Moravsko...

Strana zelených  
20 januára o 10:04

"Predpokladám však, že môj názor sa vlastne ani neráta – nie som doktor, sudca a ani komentátor v televízii. Som len dieťa, ktoré muselo upratať neporiadok, čo ostal po sexuálnej revolúci". Robert Oscar Lopez.

Robert Oscar Lopez a jeho názor na výchovu detí homosexuálnymi rodičmi a na zrovnoprávnenie homosexuálnych párov a manželstva. Treba si tiež všimnúť, že mu nie je v detstve v jeho...  
Čítať ďalej

**Not all children raised by gay parents support gay marriage: I should know, I'm one of them**  
I cannot speak for all children of same-sex couples, but I speak for quite a few of them.  
LIFESITENEWS.COM

Zdieľať 2 3 2

2 ľuďom sa to páči.

2 zdieľani

Richard Nerodolák znamená to, že ste za alebo proti adopcii deť homosexuálnymi rodičmi?  
20 januára o 20:00 · Upravené

Strana zelených Nie sme Charlie a myslíme si, že deti potrebujú tradičnú rodinu. Stačí vytvoriť podmienky náhradným rodinám a problém bude vyriešený.  
21. januára o 23:33

Vytvorí stránku

Najnovšie

2014

2013

2012

2011

2010

Reklama

Alb €48,00 bei Amazon  
Technica MOON BOOT  
NYLON black - €48,00-€84,95

Yaro Pozsonyi Gyerek komentovala pri ispevok používateľa Hana Fabry.

Používateľovi Derek Rebro sa páči fotka používateľa Boris Čolakov

Adriana Kovačová komentovala svoju vlastnú fotku.

Používateľovi Miriam Zsíleova sa páči fotka používateľa LU Pastorova

Mirovi Tížkovi sa páči príspevok Havrana Michala

Používateľovi Ivan Mirga sa páči fotka používateľa Jarmila Simova.

Marta Šimeckovej sa páči

Mikuláš Šlacký

Romana Schlesi...

Marian Jaslovský

SKUPINOVÉ KONVERZÁCIE

Andrej, Romana, To...

Hľadaj

Pracovná plocha 22:48 1.2.2015





The screenshot shows the Facebook page for 'Strana zelených' (Green Party) in Slovakia. The page is in the Slovak language. The main post is a text-based announcement from the party, discussing their stance on GMOs and environmental protection. A comment by Daniel Vadovič is visible, expressing skepticism about the party's position. The page layout includes a navigation bar at the top, a search bar, and a list of posts on the left side. The bottom of the page shows the Windows taskbar with various application icons.