



France-Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia Business Council of MEDEF International presentation



■ COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Stephane ESPINASSE

Head of IVECO BUS Brand for the World & President of IVECO France

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■ PARTNERS

MGYOSZ - HUNGARY

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SPCR - CZECH REPUBLIC

Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic

Website

www.spcr.cz

■ COUNCIL ACTIONS FOR COMPANIES

The France-Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia Council of MEDEF International has been active since 1989, while these three countries were beginning their political and economic transition. It is currently chaired by Mr. Stéphane ESPINASSE, President of Iveco France.

In addition to its size (25 million inhabitants) and its successful integration into the European Union (2003), Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia have many advantages that made them a land of investment for French companies over the last two decades: qualified workforce and well-trained economic stakeholders, great industrial tradition, geographical proximity to the major consumer markets of Europe...

In addition, the influx of European funds, the support of international financial institutions and the convergence towards European norms and standards of governance have further enhanced the attractiveness of these three markets.

Over the last five years, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia have benefited from a solid growth of around 4%, but they also face the challenges of economic diversification and future shortages of labor (ageing population and low birth rate).

The regular meetings in Paris and business delegations of the Council to Budapest, Prague and Bratislava aim at:

1. allowing French companies to liaise directly and regularly with:

- Head of States and Governments, ministers, administrative officials and public economic stakeholders with cross-cutting and sectoral competences of the three countries,
- local public authorities,
- local business communities.

2. providing companies with keys to understanding and decision-making for their activities and strategy, mainly related to:

- business opportunities in each sector of the economy,
- business environment, the operating and investment conditions in the country, the access to public procurement,
- available sources of funding, whether domestic, multilateral or European (structural funds),
- local partnerships and location of production,
- the structuring of industries and business sectors,
- and more broadly keys to understanding the risks and opportunities related to internal and regional evolutions.

3. increasing experience sharing between French companies of all sizes, operating in the region, and promoting interactions with new potential partners in these markets.

→ Reports of business meetings and delegations are available to MEDEF International's members on request.



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