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COVER NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Partial renewal of the European Court of Auditors (2022) - SK nomination letter

Delegations will find attached a letter dated 21 June 2023 from Ms Petra Vargová, Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the EU, addressed to Mr Didier SEEUWS, Director General for General and Institutional Policy at the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union.

Encl.: IM 7410 2023

E-MAIL

European Council, ECFIN
 Directorate-General
 Policy Coordination
 and Economic Analysis
 Unit C-1
 1049 Brussels
 Belgium

IM 007410 2023
 22-06-2023

21 June 2023
 024832/2023-ECFIN

Dear Director General,

Dear Didier,

Regarding our previous communication, I would like to inform you that the Slovak government nominates Mrs. Katarina KASZASOVA as a member of the European Court of Auditors for Slovak republic.

As requested, please find attached the candidate's curriculum vitae as Annex I and contact details as Annex II.

Yours sincerely

Peter Vanyo

Mr. Didier SEEUWS
 Director General
 General Secretariat
 Council of the European Union
 Brussels

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Katarína Kaszasová



Nationality Slovak

JOB APPLIED FOR POSITION

European Court of Auditors - member

WORK EXPERIENCE

Summary

Public and corporate finance executive offering more than 25 years of experience in implementing EU and global professional standards; auditing and advising; leading complex public finance management projects on a national level; dealing with international financial institutions and professional organisations.

Strong background in corporate governance, corporate and public finance, regulation and oversight of auditing profession, accounting and auditing.

Proven leader with track record of contribution to achieving materially improved state reporting on both a national and international level and improved governance and enhanced internal controls in international financial institutions.

Licensed statutory auditor and internal auditor, fellow member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

2020 - present

Managing Director

Auditing Oversight Authority (Úrad pre dohľad nad výkonom auditu), Slovakia

The Auditing Oversight Authority (AOA) supervises the audit profession in Slovakia, including overseeing compliance with international standards on auditing, code of ethics and with the provisions of the Act on Statutory Audit. It also oversees audit firms' quality assurance systems, continuing education and disciplinary proceedings conducted by the Slovak Chamber of Auditors. Beside other tasks and competencies, the AOA also organizes auditor exams, issues certificates and licenses and registers statutory auditors and audit firms in Slovakia (see more on: www.udva.sk).

Responsibilities and accountabilities in this role include:

- Statutory and executive body of the AOA, accountable to the Board and the Supervisory Board,
- Strategy, budget, financial results, annual report,
- Performance plans and results: audit quality inspections, audit exams,
- Representing the AOA and the Slovak republic in the International Forum of the Independent Audit Regulators (IFIAR) and the Committee of the European Audit Oversight Bodies (CEAOB) and other international bodies for a such as meetings with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB),
- Liaising with other regulators and professional bodies (Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, National Bank of Slovakia, Slovak Chamber of Auditors); member of the Committee for Governmental and Internal Audit.

Public sector/public oversight/auditing

2016 - 2019 Head of Governing Bodies Secretariat Division

European Investment Bank (EIB), Luxembourg

The EIB is the lending arm of the European Union; it is the biggest multilateral financial institution in the world and one of the largest providers of climate finance. The EIB helps the economy, create jobs, promote equality and improve lives for EU citizens and for people in developing countries (see more on: www.eib.org).

The Bank's statutory bodies (three decision-making bodies and one control body) are:

- Board of Governors (28 members, usually Finance Ministers),
- Board of Directors (29 members, 9 alternates and 6 experts),
- Management Committee (President and 8 Vice presidents), and
- Audit Committee (6 members and 3 alternates).

Responsibilities and accountabilities in this role include:

- Leading a team of 18 professionals responsible for proper organization of the Bank's statutory bodies' meetings (calendar, agenda, supporting documents, workplans, minutes and action points, administration), seamless flow of information to and from governing bodies and management of relationships with members of statutory/governing bodies;
- Advising the Audit Committee and Bank's hierarchy on specific topics linked to best banking practices, banking regulation and supervision, including external and internal audit affairs as applicable to the Bank;
- Leading projects on the continuous improvements of decision-making processes and internal control frameworks (including digitalisation/IT tools) in line with best banking practice.

International Financial Institution/EU body/banking/corporate governance

2013 – 2015 Board of Directors – member

European Investment Fund (EIF), Luxembourg

EIF is a specialised provider of risk finance to benefit small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across Europe; its shareholders are the EIB, the EU represented by the European Commission along with a wide range of public and private banks and financial institutions (see more on: www.eif.org).

Responsibilities and accountabilities in this role include:

- Representing the majority shareholder (as an EIB Board member) in the EIF's Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors (consisting of 7 members and 7 alternates are nominated by key shareholders) and is responsible, inter alia, for approving the EIF's operations, supervising the Chief Executive and ensuring the EIF is managed in accordance with the provision of the Statutes and with guidelines and directives laid down by the Board of Directors; the Board is accountable only to the General Meeting.

Public-private partnership (shareholding structure combining public and private investors)/fund

2012 – 2015 Board of Auditors – Chair/Vice Chair

European Stability Mechanism (ESM), Luxembourg

ESM was set up in 2012 as an international financial institution by the euro area Member States to help euro area countries in severe financial distress; it is a part of the EU strategy designed to safeguard financial stability in the euro area (see more on: www.esm.europa.eu).

The ESM governing bodies are the Board of Governors and the Board of Directors; the Board of Auditors is an independent oversight body of the ESM composed of five members appointed by the Board of Governors.

Responsibilities and accountabilities of membership and chairmanship of the Board of Auditors, include:

- Preparing and delivering annual work plan,
- Carrying out independent audits,
- Inspecting the ESM's accounts,
- Auditing regularity, compliance, performance and risk management,
- Monitoring as well as reviewing the ESM's internal and external audit processes and their results, and
- Presenting results of the work to the ESM Managing Director, Board of Directors and Board of Governors (Finance Ministers).

International Financial Institution/EU body/auditing

2008 - 2015 Board - Vice Chair

Committee for audit quality inspections - Chair

Auditing Oversight Authority (Úrad pre dohľad nad výkonom auditu), Slovakia

The Auditing Oversight Authority (AOA) supervises the audit profession in Slovakia, including overseeing compliance with international standards on auditing, code of ethics and provisions of the Act on Auditors, Audit and Audit Oversight. It also oversees the audit quality assurance system, continuing education and disciplinary proceedings conducted by the Slovak Chamber of Auditors. Beside other tasks and competencies, the AOA also organizes auditor exams, issues certificates and licenses and registers statutory auditors and audit firms in Slovakia (see more on: www.udva.sk).

Responsibilities and accountabilities in this role include:

- As a Member and Vice-Chair of the Board: strategic management of the AOA, especially implementation of recent changes in EU audit legislation. The Board consists of five members.
- As a Chair of the Committee: preparing and delivering the annual inspection plan, including selection of entities to be inspected based on risk assessment, constituting the inspection teams, assessing findings and, when relevant, imposing corrective measures, including fines.
- Representing the AOA on national and international professional events and conferences.

Public sector/public oversight/auditing

2005 - 2015 Board of Directors - member

European Investment Bank (EIB), Luxembourg

EIB is the lending arm of the European Union; the biggest multilateral financial institution in the world and one of the largest providers of climate finance. The EIB helps the economy, create jobs, promote equality and improve lives for EU citizens and for people in developing countries (see more on: www.eib.org).

Responsibilities and accountabilities in this role include:

- Representing the Slovak Republic in the Board of Directors. Members of the Board of Directors are responsible in their own right solely to the Bank. I was the second longest serving member of the Board. The Board of Directors:
 - has the sole power to take decisions in respect of all loans, guarantees and borrowings,
 - is responsible for ensuring that the Bank is properly run,
 - ensures that the Bank is managed in-keeping with the provisions of the Treaty and the Statute and with the general directives laid down by the Governors.
- Representing the EIB Board on the Ethics and Compliance Committee, the Risk Policy Committee and the Working group on Governance.

International Financial Institution/EU body/banking/corporate governance

2004 – 2015 Director General of the State Reporting Section

Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, Slovakia

Ministry of Finance is the central body of state administration responsible for the areas of finance, taxes and fees, customs, financial control, internal audit and government audit. The Ministry is also the central body of state administration responsible for the informatization of society, coordination of state aid in the area of pricing and price control (see more on: www.finance.gov.sk).

Reporting directly to a Minister of Finance and/or State Secretary in leading the section responsible for:

- Public sector accounting and reporting standards, consolidation of financial statements of the Slovak public sector in accordance with national standards, Eurostat (ESA 95/ESA 2010 standards) and IMF standards. Leading the reform of public sector accounting in Slovakia (migration from cash based to accrual accounting), affecting thousands of central and local government entities.
- State debt and state treasury strategic management, including strategic information systems for public finance management.
- Negotiations and administration of loans from international financial institutions, administration of state guarantees, and other state specific operations (e.g. PPP projects), and for international investment treaty negotiations and disputes.

Member of several inter-ministerial working groups responsible for specific state transactions.

Member of the Slovak Resolution Council of the Single Resolution Mechanism (2015). Member of the Supervisory Board of Export-Import Bank of the Slovak Republic (2005 - 2010). Member and Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Central Securities Depository of the Slovak Republic (2004 – 2006) and member of the Board in several financial institutions (European Investment Bank, European Investment Fund, International Investment Bank and International Bank for Economic Cooperation).

Public sector/state administration/public finance management

2003 - 2004 Sole practitioner - advisor

Administration and coordination of the World Bank grant for Accounting and Auditing Reform in Slovakia, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Finance.

Private sector/advisory services

1995 - 2003 up to Audit Manager
KPMG Slovakia, Slovakia

During my career progressing to Audit Manager, I was responsible for planning and leading of external audits of various trade and production companies. Preparation of reports for clients. Financial audits of financial statements prepared in accordance with Slovak GAAP, IAS (IFRS) and other national standards (US GAAP). Participating on Due Diligence engagements.

Managing of relationships with small to large-sized companies including day to day communication, contract negotiations and presentation of results (client liaison). Coaching junior members of audit department.

Two months secondment to KPMG in Brussels in the audit department.

Private sector/audit and advisory services

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2019 Strategic Finance
International Institute for Management Development (IMD), Lausanne, Switzerland

2018 Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) – member (CIA)
Certified internal auditor

2005 Slovak Chamber of Auditors – member (CA)
Licensed Slovak statutory auditor

2003 Association of Chartered Certified Accountants – fellow (FCCA)
Internationally recognised accounting qualification

1993 - 1995 Master degree (Ing.)
University of Economics, Faculty of Economic Informatics, Bratislava, Slovakia
Accounting and auditing

1988 - 1993 Master degree (Ing.)
Slovak University of Technology, Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology, Bratislava, Slovakia
Automation and control systems in chemical production processes

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) Slovak

Other language(s)

UNDERSTANDING	SPEAKING	WRITING
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	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
French	B2	C1	C1	C1	B2
Digital competence					
SELF-ASSESSMENT					
	Information processing	Communication	Content creation	Safety	Problem solving
	Independent user	Independent user	Independent user	Independent user	Independent user

Driving licence Driving licence category B

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Publications

Co-author of the textbook for universities and professionals “Basics of Auditing” (to be published by the University of Comenius in Bratislava in July 2023).

Member of the Wise Persons Group on Challenges Facing the Customs Union established in 2021 by the European Commission in order to stimulate “thinking outside the box” in the EU debate on the future of the Customs Union; the final report is available at https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-03/TAX-20-002-Future%20customs-REPORT_BIS_v5%20%28WEB%29.pdf

Author and co-author of several professional articles dedicated to public sector accounting reform in Slovakia. Co-author of the text book for accountants and auditors “Accounting, Reporting and Auditing in Central and Local Government” (published by Andra, 2011).

Co-author of the textbook for universities and professionals “Auditing” (published by Súvaha, 2009).

Co-author of the translation of IFAC 2003 Handbook of International Auditing, Assurance and Ethics Pronouncements for the Slovak Chamber of Auditors (under IFAC permission) from English to the Slovak language.

Member of master trainers’ group responsible for designing the new accounting and auditing curriculum at Slovak universities (application of International Accounting Standards/International Financial Reporting Standards and International Standards on Auditing). Preparation of textbooks and case studies of auditing for Slovak universities and provision of training to universities teachers (in a project financed by World Bank and Canadian International Development Agency).

Lecturing
Conferences
Seminars

Teacher of the “Finance and Accounting” Master of Science in Healthcare Management programme; Health Management Academy in cooperation with the Semmelweis University; school years 2020/2021 and 2022/2023 (see more on: <https://www.hma.sk/master-of-science-in-healthcare-man>).

Mentor of the Public Leadership Academy participants – young talents from the public sector (see more on: <https://www.publicacademy.sk/o-programe/>); 2023

Lecturing on several conferences and courses for the Slovak Chamber of Auditors (accounting and auditing in the public sector, public oversight of the audit profession).

Speaker at several local and international conferences (e. g. Centre for Financial Reporting Reform/World Bank Group: Improving Audit Quality in Western Balkans Countries/Inaugural meeting of the Regional Audit Quality Assurance Forum, Vienna, May 2023; 19th European Corporate Governance Conference, Bratislava, October 2016; IFAC General Council Workshop: Hot topics in public sector financial management and governance, Cape Town, November 2012; Seminar: The IPSASB in dialogue with users, Zurich, October 2008; International accounting and auditing conference organized by World Bank in Almaty, Kazakhstan, October 2007; World Congress of Accountants organized by IFAC in Istanbul in November 2006; REPARIS Workshops on Accounting and Audit Regulation, Vienna, March 2006; etc.).

Honours and awards

Profile interview published in the international edition of Accounting and Business magazine in January 2023

(<https://abmagazine.accaglobal.com/global/articles/2023/jan/interviews/a-very-velvet-revolution.html>)

Top Trend Manager of the year 2021

(<https://www.trend.sk/trend-archiv/nominacia-trend-manazer-roka-2021-verejneho-uradu-priniesla-medzinarodne-skusenosti>)

Profile interview in the Slovak Radio/Pod pyramídou

(<https://www.rtvs.sk/radio/archiv/11436/1699564>)

Profile interview published in the international edition of Accounting and Business magazine in May 2015

(<https://careers.accaglobal.com/careers-advice/sectors-and-specialisms/accounting-and-public-practice/children-of-the-revolution.html>)

ACCA Achievement Award – 2014

Memberships

Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA)

Slovak Chamber of Auditors (SKAU)

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)

Professional references

Available upon request