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ACT

OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

of 14 November 1995

on prices

The National Council of the Slovak Republic has passed the following act:

**PART ONE
BASIC PROVISIONS**

**Article 1
Subject Matter**

(1) This Act regulates the rules of negotiation, application, regulation and control of prices of products, performances, work, services, rental and immovable property (hereinafter referred to as “goods”), measures to prevent undesirable price development and the competence of central government bodies, higher territorial units and municipalities in the field of prices of goods for the market in the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the “domestic market”), including prices of imported goods and prices of goods intended for export.

(2) The Act defines the rights and obligations of legal and natural persons and central government bodies in the application of this Act.

(3) The Act does not apply to securities, gambling games, remuneration, reimbursements and payments, compensation for expropriation, compensation for damages and costs, fees, fines, penalties, interest, insurance premiums, basic fares and fares of selected groups of passengers for transport services performed on the basis of a public service contract in regular bus transport, basic fares and special fares for transport services performed on the basis of a public service contract in rail transport and urban tram and trolleybus transport, and international tariffs in transport and in the field of postal services and electronic communications services pursuant to special regulations.¹⁾

(4) The provisions of Article 3(3), Articles 5 to 12, Articles 17 to 19, Articles 21, 22 and 23e shall not apply to the prices of goods the supply or provision of which is deemed to constitute business activities in the network industries pursuant to a special regulation^{1a)} and to prices for the provision of electronic communications networks and electronic communications services.^{1b)}

(5) The provisions of Articles 4, 4a, 5 to 8 and 11 shall not apply to the regulation of rental prices of flats pursuant to a special regulation.²⁾

Article 2 Basic Terms

(1) Price shall mean the sum of money agreed upon when buying and selling the goods. A tariff shall also be considered a price under this Act.³⁾

(2) The difference between the price of purchased domestic or imported goods which are resold unchanged and the price at which they are resold shall be deemed to be the price of the commercial or intermediary performance, even if it is not expressly and separately agreed upon.

(3) For the purposes of this Act

- a) economically justified costs shall mean the actual direct costs and the actual indirect costs associated with the functions of production, administration, sales, research and development, including the associated indirect costs, which, in view of the functions performed, the risks and the market conditions, would have been applied using the transactional net margin method,^{3a)} while the functions of sales shall include, in addition to sales activities, activities related to the promotion, sales intermediation and marketing of the products sold,
- b) reasonable profit margin shall mean the margin that would have been applied to other independent persons in relation to the functions performed, the risks involved and the market conditions.

PART TWO PRICE NEGOTIATION

Article 3

(1) A price agreement is an agreement on the amount of the price or an agreement on the manner in which the price is to be formed, provided that the manner sufficiently determines the price. A price agreement is also created by the buyer paying the price of the goods in the amount demanded by the seller.

(2) In price negotiation, the definition of the goods by name and, where applicable, by customs tariff code,⁴⁾ or by code number pursuant to a special regulation,⁵⁾ unit of quantity, quality and delivery conditions or other conditions agreed by agreement of the parties (hereinafter referred to as the "agreed conditions") shall be binding.

(3) The price of the goods defined by the agreed conditions may include, in whole or in part, the costs of goods procurement, processing, circulation, and the profit. Unless otherwise agreed or provided for by a special regulation, the price shall also include value added tax, the relevant excise duty and, in the case of imported goods, customs duties and other charges levied in application of non-tariff measures provided for by special regulations.⁶⁾

(4) The price paid in cash shall be rounded to the nearest 5 euro cents; the total remainder of the unrounded price paid in cash which is less than half of 5 euro cents shall be rounded down and the total remainder of the unrounded price paid in cash which is equal to or greater than half of 5 euro cents shall be rounded up. Where the price paid in cash is the sum of the prices for several items of the same good or several items of different goods, only the resulting price paid in cash shall be rounded off in this way. A price paid in cash amounting to 1 euro cent or 2 euro cents shall be rounded to 5 euro cents. Such rounding of price shall not constitute a violation of price discipline pursuant to this Act.

PART THREE
MEASURES TO PREVENT UNDESIRABLE PRICE DEVELOPMENT

Article 4

The measures to prevent undesirable price development include:

- a) price regulation,
- b) the prohibition to agree on an unreasonable price pursuant to Article 12.

Article 4a
Price Regulation

(1) Price regulation is the determination of a price or the determination of a binding way of establishing the price of goods and the conditions for price regulation by the pricing authorities referred to in Article 20(1)(a) to (c), (e) to (g) and (j) and Article 23e(1).

(2) Pricing authorities may regulate the prices of goods if

- a) an extraordinary market situation arises with a direct impact on the prices of goods on the domestic market threatening the price stability or availability of goods,
- b) there is a threat to the market due to an insufficiently developed competitive environment; when assessing the state of the competitive environment, the opinion of the Antimonopoly Office of the Slovak Republic shall be required,⁷⁾
- c) consumer protection or other public interest so requires
 - 1. when balancing the position of the buyer or seller in the case of goods wholly or partly subsidised by the State budget, State funds, international sources, higher territorial units, municipalities, health insurance companies or the Social Insurance Agency or for which financial assistance is provided from abroad or from the European Union,
 - 2. when there are changes in the exchange rate of the Slovak currency, tax regulations, customs regulations or subsidy regulations,
- d) these are goods the supply or provision of which is deemed to constitute business activities in the network industries pursuant to a special regulation,^{1a)}
- e) these are goods the supply or provision of which is considered to be a universal postal service or a postal payment service,^{7b)}
- f) the determination of the maximum price for the rental of flats pursuant to a special regulation is concerned.^{7c)}

Article 5
Methods of Price Regulation

Price regulation shall be carried out

- a) by official price determination,
- b) by material price guidance; or
- c) by a combination of the methods referred to in subparagraphs (a) and (b).

Article 6
Official Price Determination

(1) Official price determination is the determination by the pricing authorities of the price of a specified type of goods as a maximum or fixed price.

(2) A maximum price is a price which may not be exceeded.

(3) A fixed price is a price which may not be changed.

Material Price Guidance

Article 7

Material Price Guidance

Material price guidance means the determination of the conditions for price negotiations by the pricing authority referred to in Article 20(1)(a) to (c), (e) and (j) and Article 23e(1). Those conditions are:

- a) the maximum range of permissible price increases within a specified period; or
- b) a binding pricing procedure.

Article 8

Basic Rules for the Application of Price Regulation

Price regulation pursuant to Article 5 shall be based on economically justified costs and a reasonable profit margin (Article 2(3)); economically justified costs and a reasonable profit margin shall be evidenced by accounting documents, cost and profit calculations, other documents justifying the amount of the price and documents requested by the pricing authority.

Article 11

(1) The scope of price regulation pursuant to Articles 5 to 7 shall be established by the pricing authority referred to in Article 20(1)(a) to (c), (e) and (j) and Article 23e(1) by means of a general binding legal regulation, which may, in the case of price regulation pursuant to Article 5(b) and (c), also establish the scope of economically justified costs and a reasonable profit margin, with the exception of price regulation pursuant to Article 7(a).

(2) The scope of goods of local importance, the prices of which may be regulated by higher territorial units, shall be established by the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Ministry") by a generally binding legal regulation.

(3) Higher territorial units, to the extent provided for under paragraph 2, and municipalities, to the extent provided for in Article 20(7), shall regulate prices pursuant to Article 6 by a decision on price regulation. Decisions of higher territorial units shall be published on their websites.

Article 12

Special Provisions for Price Negotiation

(1) Unreasonable price must not be agreed upon by

- a) the seller and the buyer in the sale or purchase of goods in the export and re-import of the same goods for which subsidies are provided from the State budget or State funds or for which financial assistance is provided from abroad or from the European Union,
- b) the seller in a dominant position as an entrepreneur¹⁰⁾ in the sale of goods,
- c) the seller or the buyer if they are in a more advantageous economic position in the sale or purchase of foodstuffs; a more advantageous economic position for the purposes of this Act shall be held by the seller or the buyer who negotiates a price on the market without being exposed to substantial price competition in the relationship between the seller and the buyer, whereby the more advantageous economic position of the seller or the buyer shall be assessed by the competent pricing authority according to the volume of the goods sold or purchased, the market share, the economic power and financial strength, the legal or other barriers to market entry, the degree of personal ties or property ties

to other persons on the market in question, and according to other facts relevant to the assessment of the economic position of the entity on the market.

(2) An unreasonable price for the seller under paragraph 1 shall mean an agreed price which significantly exceeds economically justified costs or a reasonable profit margin.

(3) An unreasonable price for the buyer under paragraph 1(a) shall mean an agreed price which falls significantly short of economically justified costs. An unreasonable price for the buyer under paragraph 1(c) shall mean an agreed price which falls short of economically justified costs, except for the purchase of foodstuffs when stocks are sold out, due to an approaching use-by date or an approaching minimum durability date, or in the event of closure of an establishment.

(4) The provisions of paragraphs 1 to 3 shall also apply to the price of commercial or intermediary performance.

(5) Where the seller, which is a State-budget funded organisation or a contributory organisation, provides goods for consideration,^{10a)} it may not agree on a price which is below the cost to the State-budget funded organisation or contributory organisation of producing those goods, unless a special regulation provides otherwise.

PART FOUR PRICE RECORDS AND PRICE INFORMATION

Article 13 Price Records

(1) The seller is obliged to keep and maintain records of the prices of goods (hereinafter referred to as "price records"), including cost and profit calculations, for three years after the sale of the goods. An entrepreneur who sells goods which are not subject to price regulation shall not be obliged to comply with the first sentence if they are

a) a micro-entity pursuant to a special regulation^{10b)} or

b) a natural person accounting in the system of single-entry bookkeeping,^{10c)} who

1. has not exceeded two of the following conditions as at the date on which the financial statements are drawn up and for the immediately preceding accounting period:

1a. the total amount of assets has not exceeded EUR 350,000, where the total amount of assets means the amount determined from the statement of assets and liabilities,^{10d)}

1b. the turnover has not exceeded EUR 700,000, where the turnover means the revenue from the sale of goods and services,

1c. the average number of employees in full-time equivalents during the accounting period did not exceed ten, or

2. they exceeded two of the conditions referred to in the first subparagraph in only one of the two consecutive accounting periods, and in the first of those two accounting periods they fulfilled at least two of the conditions referred to in the first subparagraph.

(2) Documents containing a definition of the goods sold, the method of establishing the price and the amount of the price of those goods shall be considered price records.

(3) Cost and profit calculation shall mean

a) the calculation of economically justified costs and a reasonable profit margin pursuant to Article 2(3) or to the extent established by the pricing authority pursuant to Article 11(1), in the case of goods subject to price regulation and in the case of goods of the seller pursuant to Article 12(1),

b) such a conversion of the price, or a procedure for its formation, as enables a comparison to be made with the price at which the seller's goods were offered or sold, in the case of goods which are not subject to price regulation.

Article 14

Price Information

(1) Natural persons and legal persons shall be obliged to provide free of charge information and data requested by the pricing authorities for the purposes of the evaluation of price development, price regulation, price control and for the proceedings for violation of this Act and generally binding legal regulations and decisions in the field of prices (hereinafter referred to as “proceedings for violation of price discipline”). This shall be without prejudice to the provisions of a special regulation on the protection of confidential statistical data.⁵⁾

(2) Employees who ascertain and use the information and data referred to in paragraph 1 shall be obliged to maintain confidentiality vis-à-vis third parties of all facts ascertained which could lead to a threat to the legitimate interests of the persons involved. This obligation shall continue for three years, even after the termination of their employment. The obligation of confidentiality shall not apply to the obligation imposed by law to prevent or report the commission of a criminal offence to the law enforcement authorities.

Article 14a

Publication of Price Information on Selected Goods

(1) The Ministry is authorised to publish price information on selected goods on the website pursuant to Article 20(2)(p). Price information on selected goods obtained for this purpose may also be used by the Ministry for the performance of other tasks under this Act. The obligation of confidentiality pursuant to Article 14(2) shall not apply to the publication of price information on selected goods.

(2) The obligation to notify the Ministry of price information on selected goods for the purposes under paragraph 1 shall be imposed on a seller who generates a proportionate part of their economic activity revenue from an activity classified in the NACE nomenclature pursuant to special regulations,¹¹⁾ in the code laid down by a generally binding legal regulation issued pursuant to paragraph 5, and has achieved the amount of economic activity revenue laid down by a generally binding legal regulation issued pursuant to paragraph 5 for the most recent accounting period. The accounting period referred to in the first sentence shall be considered the last accounting period for which the seller has deposited the general-purpose financial statements in the Register of Financial Statements. The obligation to make the first notification of price information on selected goods shall be imposed on the seller within 30 days of the date on which they began to comply with the conditions according to the first sentence; this period may be extended by the Ministry on the basis of a reasoned request as appropriate. Price information on selected goods shall be notified in the data structure, frequency and within the time limit laid down in the generally binding legal regulation issued pursuant to paragraph 5 through the application programming interface, whereby the description of the application programming interface and the method of transmitting price information on selected goods through it shall be determined by an integration manual made available to the seller by the Ministry at the time of the conclusion of the integration intent agreement between the Ministry and the seller, which shall include the process of integration of the seller to the information system of the Ministry and which shall be concluded at the latest on the day before the expiry of the deadline for the fulfilment of the obligation to carry out the first notification pursuant to the third sentence.

(3) A seller who does not become obliged to notify price information on selected goods under paragraph 2 may choose to notify price information on selected goods to the Ministry in accordance with paragraph 2; if the seller chooses to notify price information on selected goods, the seller shall become obliged to notify that price information for at least half a year from the first notification.

(4) If the seller is unable to notify price information on selected goods pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 because of impediments on the part of the Ministry, after such impediments have been removed, the seller shall notify the information on the next succeeding calendar day on which the seller makes a sale within

the performance of an activity classified in the NACE nomenclature pursuant to special regulations¹¹⁾ in the code laid down by a generally binding legal regulation issued pursuant to paragraph 5.

(5) The list of codes of activities classified in the NACE nomenclature pursuant to special regulations,¹¹⁾ for which the notification obligation under paragraph 2 arises, the amount of the proportional part of the economic activity revenues from these activities, the amount of the economic activity revenues for the last accounting period, the selected goods, the data structure of the notified price information on selected goods, the frequency of notifying price information on selected goods and the time limit for notifying this information shall be established by the Ministry by means of a generally binding legal regulation.

Article 15 **Indication of Prices of Goods**

(1) All goods must be marked at the time of sale with the price in force at the time of the offer, by means of a price tag, price information in the form of a price list, notice board or in another appropriate manner.

(2) Where the sale of goods is on a larger scale for business purposes, the seller must provide the buyer with an offer price list which, in addition to the price of the goods, contains the agreed conditions (Article 3(2)).

(3) If the goods are intended for final consumption, the manufacturer may indicate the price in the offer price list, catalogue, promotional material or on the packaging of the goods with the indication "recommended consumer price".

PART FIVE **PRICE CONTROL**

Article 16

(1) The subject of price control at the seller and the buyer (hereinafter referred to as the "controlled entity") is

- a) to determine whether the controlled entity complies with this Act and generally binding legal regulations and decisions in the field of prices (hereinafter referred to as the "pricing regulations"),
- b) to verify the correctness of the documents submitted for the purposes of evaluating price development, price regulation and for proceedings for violation of price discipline,
- c) to impose measures to remedy the identified deficiencies.

(2) Price control authorities are authorised to carry out price control under this Act, which are the pricing authorities referred to in Article 20(1).

(3) A special regulation shall be applied to the performance of price control, as appropriate.¹³⁾

(4) Paragraph 3 shall not apply to the Slovak Trade Inspection, which shall apply a special regulation to the performance of price control, as appropriate.¹⁹⁾

Article 17 **Violation of Price Discipline**

(1) The seller violates the price discipline if

- a) they sell goods at a price higher than the maximum price or other than the fixed price pursuant to Article 6,
- b) in selling goods at an officially determined price pursuant to Article 6, they fail to comply with a condition set by the pricing authority for the application of that price,
- c) they fail to comply with the conditions for price regulation laid down by the pricing authority pursuant to Article 7 or by a special

regulation,²⁾

d) they fail to comply with the obligations pursuant to Articles 13 to 15 or submit false data to the price control authority.

(2) The buyer violates the price discipline if they buy goods at a price other than the fixed price pursuant to Article 6.

(3) Violation of price discipline pursuant to paragraph 2 also includes the purchase of goods at a price which does not correspond to the price regulation pursuant to Articles 6 and 7, if the State budget or State funds are used for the purchase of the goods.¹⁴⁾

(4) Violation of price discipline also includes

a) a failure to comply with the provisions of Article 3(2) and (3),

b) agreeing upon an unreasonable price pursuant to Article 12,

c) a failure to take measures to remedy deficiencies identified by the price control authority within a specified time limit.

Proceedings for Violation of Price Discipline

Article 18

(1) If the price control authorities find the controlled entity in violation of price discipline pursuant to Article 17, they shall impose a fine on the controlled entity in the currency unit in force

a) in an amount of between EUR 30,000 and up to five times the difference between the agreed price and the price which should have been agreed in accordance with the pricing regulations, the amount of the difference being assessed, for the purposes of quantification, according to the payments actually made, or

b) from EUR 30,000 to EUR 75,000, if the difference according to subparagraph (a) cannot be quantified or if the violation of price discipline is other than that referred to in subparagraph (a); in the case of an infringement of the obligation to notify price information on selected goods pursuant to Article 14a, from EUR 100 to EUR 10,000.

(2) If the price control authority repeatedly finds a violation of price discipline within 12 months, it may impose a fine in the currency unit in force of up to EUR 150,000 on the controlled entity and initiate the revocation of the trade licence pursuant to a special regulation.¹⁵⁾

(3) The fine may be imposed within one year from the date of detection of the violation of price discipline by the price control authorities, but at the latest within three years from the date on which the violation of price discipline occurred. In the event of non-payment of the fine within one year, the price control authority may initiate the revocation of the trade licence. When imposing fines for violations of price discipline related to the preparation for or the changeover from the Slovak currency to the euro,^{15a)} instead of the rates of fine pursuant to paragraph 1(b) and paragraph 2, the rates pursuant to a special regulation shall be used.^{15b)}

(4) When imposing fines pursuant to paragraph 1(b) and paragraph 2, the price control authorities shall take into account, in particular, the duration, extent and seriousness of the violation of price discipline.

(5) Fines imposed by the price control authorities referred to in Article 20(1)(a) to (e), (h) and (i) shall be the revenue of the State budget.¹⁴⁾ Fines imposed by the price control authorities referred to in Article 20(1)(f) and (g) shall be the revenue of their budgets.

(6) The imposition of a fine shall be without prejudice to the right to the surrender of unjustified enrichment¹⁶⁾ to the person at whose expense it has been obtained. If the unjustified enrichment cannot be surrendered to the person at whose expense it has been obtained, it shall become revenue of the State budget.¹⁴⁾

(7) Fines imposed for violations of price discipline shall be payable within 15 calendar days from the date of

the entry into force of the decision.

- (8) The proceedings for violation of price discipline shall be conducted in accordance with a special regulation.¹⁷⁾

Article 19

(1) In the proceedings for violation of price discipline, the first instance shall be decided by the Ministry, the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Transport of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic, higher territorial units, municipalities, another central government body, the Government Audit Office and the Slovak Trade Inspection.

(2) If in the proceedings for violation of price discipline the first instance is decided by higher territorial units or municipalities, or the Government Audit Office, or the Slovak Trade Inspection, the second instance appeal body shall be the Ministry.

PART SIX POWERS OF AUTHORITIES IN THE FIELD OF PRICES

Article 20

(1) The following pricing authorities exercise their powers in the field of prices:

- a) the Ministry,
- b) Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic,
- c) Ministry of Transport of the Slovak Republic,
- d) Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic,
- e) another central government body, if so provided by a special regulation,^{18a)}
- f) higher territorial unit,
- g) municipality,
- h) Government Audit Office,¹²⁾
- i) Slovak Trade Inspection,¹⁹⁾
- j) Government of the Slovak Republic

(2) The Ministry

- a) develops a pricing policy concept, submits it to the Government of the Slovak Republic within ten months of its appointment and ensures its implementation; if an extraordinary market situation with a direct impact on the prices of goods arises, it develops a pricing policy concept, submits it to the Government of the Slovak Republic and ensures its implementation,
- b) establishes the conditions for negotiating and regulating prices pursuant to this Act,
- c) decides on matters of price regulation,
- d) determines the scope of price records,
- e) determines the principles of price control,
- f) performs price control and conducts proceedings in matters of violation of price discipline,
- g) establishes, maintains and develops an information system for the purposes of the performance of tasks under this Act and informs the Government of the Slovak Republic, as appropriate, of the outputs of this information system,
- h) informs the public about the results of proceedings in matters of violation of price discipline,
- i) entrusts higher territorial units with decision-making in matters of price regulation and the performance of price

control,

- j) entrusts the Government Audit Office with the performance of price control,
- k) guides the activities of higher territorial units in the field of prices,
- l) professionally manages, methodologically guides and coordinates price control carried out by the Government Audit Office, the Slovak Trade Inspection and higher territorial units,
- m) ensures cooperation with the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic^{19aa)} for the purpose of obtaining statistical data on price development,
- n) submits a report with a proposal for solutions to the meeting of the Government of the Slovak Republic if there is an undesirable price development of products covered by the competence of the Ministry under subparagraphs (c) to (f),
- o) supports the cooperation of pricing authorities with general government bodies in the field of consumer protection,^{19aaa)}
- p) ensures the establishment of a website for the purpose of providing information on the performance of tasks under this Act,
- q) obtains information, including personal data, from the information systems of the Financial Administration for the performance of tasks under this Act.

(3) The Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic exercises competence pursuant to paragraph 2(b) to (h) in the area of prices of products, services and performances in the healthcare sector and in the area of prices of lease of non-residential premises in healthcare facilities^{19a)} in cases pursuant to Article 4a(2)(a) to (c).

(4) The Ministry of Transport of the Slovak Republic exercises competence pursuant to paragraph 2(b) to (h) in the area of rental prices of flats procured from the State budget, State funds, budgets of higher territorial units and budgets of municipalities, except for the rental of flats pursuant to paragraph 8.

(5) The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic exercises competence

- a) pursuant to paragraph 2(d) to (f) in the area of food prices, and for the purposes of the second sentence of Article 12(3), it may establish by a generally binding legal regulation in the area of prices of selected foodstuffs the extent, manner of determination and other details necessary for the determination of economically justified costs for a seller who sells to a buyer in a more advantageous economic position,
- b) submits a report with a proposal for solutions to the meeting of the Government of the Slovak Republic if there is an undesirable price development in the sale of selected foodstuffs to the final consumer.

(6) Higher territorial units

- a) determine, after consultation with the municipality, the maximum prices of goods of local importance to the extent laid down by the Ministry,
- b) reduce, after consultation with the municipality, the officially determined maximum prices of local importance to the extent laid down by the Ministry,
- c) perform price control and conduct proceedings in matters of violation of price discipline, if the violation of price discipline has been committed within their territory by natural persons and legal persons operating exclusively within their territorial jurisdiction or in the case of their decisions on price regulation.

(7) Municipalities perform price control and conduct proceedings in matters of violation of price discipline in the case of their decisions on price regulation.

(8) The Government of the Slovak Republic exercises competence pursuant to paragraph 2(b) to (d) in the field of maximum prices for the rental of flats pursuant to a special law.^{7c)}

(9) The Government of the Slovak Republic submits to the National Council of the Slovak Republic annually

in the second quarter of the year, a report for the previous calendar year on price development, measures to prevent undesirable price development, the implementation of the pricing policy concept, the application of this Act and on proposals for public policy measures in the area of prices.

(10) Another central government body exercises competence in the field of prices pursuant to paragraph 2(b) to (h) in cases pursuant to Article 4a(2)(d) and (e), unless a special regulation provides otherwise.^{18a)}

(11) In addition to the authorities referred to in paragraphs 2 to 8, the competence in the field of price control is also exercised by the Government Audit Office to the extent established by the Ministry. The Slovak Trade Inspection is authorised to carry out price control in the field of retail sale of goods to the buyer.

(12) The Slovak Trade Inspection cooperates with pricing authorities in connection with the performance of price control pursuant to Article 16, in particular

- a) it participates in the development and implementation of the pricing policy concept,
- b) it submits suggestions for the improvement of legislation in the field of measures to prevent undesirable price development and price control,
- c) it makes proposals for the improvement of the information system pursuant to paragraph 2(g).

PART SEVEN GENERAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 21

Decisions under this Act are subject to the general regulations on administrative proceedings¹⁷⁾ with the exception of decisions under Part Three or unless otherwise provided for in this Act (Article 19(2)). Decisions under Part Three are not subject to review by administrative courts.²⁰⁾

Article 22

To implement this Act, the Ministry may issue generally binding legal regulations on the details of price negotiation, proceedings for violation of price discipline, procedures for price regulation, price records and calculations, and on the details of price control.

Article 23

(1) In the event of a violation of pricing regulations that occurred before the effective date of this Act, the current pricing regulations shall apply to proceedings for violation of pricing regulations, including the imposition of fines.

(2) From the effective date of this Act, it is not possible to proceed according to generally binding orders of municipalities issued pursuant to a special regulation.²¹⁾

Article 23a

(1) Proceedings for violation of price discipline initiated before 1 January 2004 shall be completed by the price control authorities within the scope of their competence under this Act in accordance with the current regulations.

(2) From 1 January 2004, the price control authorities shall carry out control within the scope of the competences laid down in Article 20(3) to (6) and pursuant to Article 11(2) also for the period before 1 January 2004.

Article 23b

(1) Proceedings for violation of price discipline initiated before 1 March 2005 shall be completed by the price control authorities within the scope of their competence according to the rules valid until 28 February 2005.

(2) From 1 March 2005, the price control authorities shall carry out control within the scope of the competences laid down in Article 20(2) to (5) and pursuant to Article 11(2) also for the period before 1 March 2005.

Article 23c

Transitional Provision Effective from 01 January 2008

For the conversion of the rates set out in Article 18(1)(b) and Article 18(2) into Slovak Korunas, the reference exchange rate determined and announced by the National Bank of Slovakia shall be used in the period from 1 January 2008 to the day immediately preceding the day of the introduction of the euro in the Slovak Republic.

Article 23d

(1) The price agreed upon before the effective date of the generally binding legal regulation on material price guidance pursuant to Article 7(a) as amended from 1 November 2008, which is in conflict with the generally binding legal regulation on material price guidance pursuant to Article 7

(a) as amended from 1 November 2008, shall be agreed upon by the sellers and buyers in accordance with the generally binding legal regulation on material price guidance pursuant to Article 7(a) as amended from 1 November 2008 no later than three months after its effective date.

(2) Price regulation that was established before 1 November 2008 and which is not established by the method of price regulation pursuant to Article 11(1) as amended from 1 November 2008 shall expire no later than on 31 December 2009.

Article 23e

(1) Until 31 December 2010, the competence in the price area to the extent pursuant to Article 20(2)(b), (c) and (f) in cases pursuant to Article 4a(2)(a) to (c) shall also be carried out by the following pricing authorities:

- a) The Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications of the Slovak Republic in areas falling within its competence pursuant to a special regulation,²³⁾ for which the competence of another pricing authority is not established,
- b) The Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic in the area of retail sale of goods and provision of services to the final consumer and in other areas falling within its competence pursuant to a special regulation,²³⁾ for which the competence of another pricing authority is not established,
- c) The Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic in the area of agriculture and food industry and in other areas falling within its competence pursuant to a special regulation,²³⁾
- d) The Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic in the area of school catering²⁴⁾ and in other areas falling within its competence pursuant to a special regulation.²³⁾

(2) The pricing authorities referred to in paragraph 1 shall assess the development of prices within the scope of competence pursuant to paragraph 1 until 31 December 2010.

Article 23f

Transitional Provisions to Amendments Effective from 1 January 2010

(1) Proceedings for violation of price discipline initiated before 1 January 2010 shall be completed by the price control authorities within the scope of their competence under this Act in accordance with the current regulations.

(2) From 1 January 2010, the price control authorities shall carry out control within the scope of the competences laid down in Article 20(3) to (6) and Article 23e, and pursuant to Article 11(2) also for the period before 1 January 2010.

Article 23g**Transitional Provision to Amendments Effective from 1 May 2019**

The pricing authority referred to in Article 20(1)(c) as amended from 1 May 2019 shall exercise control within its competence provided for in Article 20(4) as amended from 1 May 2019 after 30. April 2019.

Article 23h**Transitional Provision to Amendments Effective from 1 August 2023**

The Ministry is obliged to conduct an analysis of the price development of basic food types²⁵⁾ within 30 days, based on the inflation rate, economically justified costs and a reasonable profit margin, cost and profit calculations and other documents justifying the price level, which the pricing authority requests. If, on the basis of this analysis, it is proven that an extraordinary market situation persists with a direct impact on the prices of basic food products on the domestic market, threatening price stability or the availability of basic food products, the pricing authority shall propose measures for a period of six months, which it shall immediately propose to the Government of the Slovak Republic for approval.

Article 23i**Transitional Provision to Amendments Effective from 1 January 2024**

Proceedings for violation of price discipline initiated and not legally concluded by 31 December 2023 shall be completed in accordance with the legal regulations effective until 31 December 2023.

Article 23j**Transitional Provisions to Amendments Effective from 1 January 2025**

(1) The Ministry shall publish price information on selected goods pursuant to Article 14a for the first time no later than on 1 July 2025.

(2) A seller who has incurred an obligation pursuant to Article 14a(2), shall publish price information on selected goods pursuant to Article 14a for the first time no later than on 1 July 2025.

Article 24

The following is repealed:

1. Act No. 526/1990 Coll. on prices as amended by Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 58/1995 Coll.
2. Act of the Slovak National Council No. 127/1991 Coll. on the competence of the authorities of the Slovak Republic in the field of prices.
3. Article 3 of Act of the Slovak National Council No. 500/1991 Coll. on the competence of municipalities in matters of lease and sublease of non-residential premises.
4. Articles 7 to 12 of Decree of the Central Commission for People's Control and Statistics No. 9/1966 Coll. on the implementation of price control and statistics.
5. Decree of the Federal Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic and Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic No. 580/1990 Coll., implementing Act No. 526/1990 Coll. on prices.
6. Decree No. 38/1992 Coll. of the Federal Ministry of Finance on countervailing duties on import.
7. Decree of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic No. 34/1993 Coll., implementing Act No. 526/1990 Coll. on prices for prices of special equipment.

Article 24a

Decree of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic No. 465/1991 Coll. on the prices of buildings, land, permanent crops, compensation for the establishment of the right of personal use of land and compensation for the temporary use of land, as amended by Decree of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic No. 608/1992 Coll., Decree of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic No. 265/1993 Coll. and Decree of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic No. 375/1999 Coll. is repealed.

Article 25

This Act shall come into effect on 1 April 1996.

Michal Kováč m.p.

Ivan Gašparovič m.p.

Vladimír Mečiar m.p.

1) E.g. Act of the Slovak National Council No. 71/1992 Coll. on court fees and fee for an extract from the Criminal Record, as amended, Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 566/1992 Coll. on the National Bank of Slovakia, as amended, Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 145/1995 Coll. on administrative fees, as amended, Act No. 483/2001 Coll. on banks and on the amendment to certain acts, as amended, Act No. 566/2001 Coll. on securities and investment services and on the amendment to certain acts (Securities Act), as amended, Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection, as amended, Act No. 582/2004 Coll. on local taxes and local charge for municipal waste and small construction waste, as amended, Act No. 513/2009 Coll. on railways and on the amendment to certain acts, as amended, Act No. 514/2009 Coll. on transport on railways, as amended, Act No. 56/2012 Coll. on road transport, as amended, Act No. 329/2018 Coll. on waste disposal charges and on the amendment to Act No. 587/2004 Coll. on the Environmental Fund and on the amendment to certain acts, as amended, as amended, Act No. 30/2019 Coll. on gambling games and on the amendment to certain acts, as amended, Act No. 190/2023 Coll. on fees for air pollution, Government Order of the Slovak Republic No. 755/2004 Coll. laying down the amount of unregulated payments, the amount of charges and details relating to charging for the use of water, as amended, Decree of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic No. 31/1993 Coll. on the remuneration and compensation of notaries, as amended, Decree of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic No. 655/2004 Coll. on the remuneration and compensation of advocates for the provision of legal services, as amended.

1a) Act No. 250/2012 Coll. on regulation in network industries, as amended. 1b) Act No. 452/2021 Coll. on electronic communications, as amended.

2) Article 4 of Act No. 260/2011 Coll. on the termination and arrangement of certain lease relations to flats and on the amendment to Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 18/1996 Coll. on prices, as amended.

3) E.g., Act No. 513/2009 Coll. as amended.

3a) Article 18(3)(b) of Act No. 595/2003 Coll. on income tax, as amended.

4) Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2658/87 of 23 July 1987 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff (OJ Special Edition, Chapter 2/Volume 2; OJ L 256,7. 9. 1987) as amended.

5) Act No. 540/2001 Coll. on state statistics, as amended.

6) E.g. Act No. 98/2004 Coll. on excise duty on mineral oil, as amended, Act No. 106/2004 Coll. on excise duty on tobacco products, as amended, Act No. 199/2004 Coll., Customs Act and on the amendment to certain acts, as amended, Act No. 222/2004 Coll. on value added tax, as amended, Act No. 530/2011 Coll. on excise duty on alcoholic beverages, as amended.

7) Article 16(1)(h) of Act No. 187/2021 Coll. on the protection of competition and on the amendment to certain acts.

7b) Article 15(1)(e) of Act No. 324/2011 Coll. on postal services and on the amendment to certain acts.

7c) Act No. 222/2022 Coll. on State support for rental housing and on the amendment to certain acts.

9) Article 6(2)(a) of Act No. 491/2001 Coll. on the organisation of the market in selected agricultural products.

10) Article 5(2) of Act No. 187/2021 Coll.

10a) Article 26(1) of Act No. 523/2004 Coll. on budgetary rules of general government and on the amendment to certain acts.

10b) Article 2(6) of Act No. 431/2002 Coll. on accounting, as amended.

- 10c) Article 9(2)(a) of Act No. 431/2002 Coll.
- 10d) Article 17(4)(b) of Act No. 431/2002 Coll.
- 11) Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 establishing the statistical classification of economic activities NACE Revision 2 and amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3037/90 as well as certain EC Regulations on specific statistical domains (OJ L 393, 30. 12. 2006) as amended.
Article 19(2) of Act No. 540/2001 Coll.
- 12) Act No. 357/2015 Coll. on financial control and audit and on the amendment to certain acts, as amended.
- 13) Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 10/1996 Coll. on control in central government, as amended.
- 14) Act No. 523/2004 Coll. on budgetary rules of general government and on the amendment to certain acts, as amended.
- 15) Article 58(2)(a) of Act No. 455/1991 Coll. on trade licensing (Trade Licensing Act) as amended by Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 132/1994 Coll.
- 15a) E.g. Act No. 659/2007 Coll. on the introduction of the Euro in the Slovak Republic and on the amendment to certain acts.
- 15b) Article 20(2) and (3) and Article 24(7) of Act No. 659/2007 Coll.
- 16) Article 451 et seq. of the Civil Code.
- 17) Act No. 71/1967 Coll. on administrative proceedings (Administrative Procedure Code). 18a) Act No. 324/2011 Coll. as amended.
Act No. 250/2012 Coll. as amended Act No. 452/2021 Coll. as amended.
- 19) Act No. 128/2002 Coll. on State control of the internal market in matters of consumer protection and on the amendment to certain acts, as amended by Act No. 284/2002 Coll.
- 19a) Act No. 576/2004 Coll. on healthcare and healthcare-related services and on the amendment to certain acts.
- 19aa) Act No. 540/2001 Coll. on state statistics, as amended.
- 19aaa) Act No. 250/2007 Coll. on the protection of consumers and on the amendment to Act of the Slovak National Council No. 372/1990 Coll. on offences, as amended, as amended.
- 19aaaa) Annex No. 7 to Act No. 222/2004 Coll. on value added tax, as amended.
- 20) Article 7(h) of the Code of Judicial Administrative Procedure.
- 21) Article 3 of Act of the Slovak National Council No. 500/1991 Coll. on the competence of municipalities in matters of lease and sublease of non-residential premises.
- 23) Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on the organisation of Government activity and on the organisation of central government, as amended.
- 24) Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on education and training (Education Act) and on the amendment to certain acts.
- 25) Annex No. 7 to Act No. 222/2004 Coll. on value added tax, as amended.

