

# **A c t**

## **of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No 39/1993 Coll. of Laws on the Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic as amended by Act No 458/2000 Coll. of Laws, Act No 559/2001 Coll. of Laws, Act No 385/2004 Coll. of Laws, Act No 261/2006 Coll. of Laws, Act No 199/2007 Coll. of Laws, Act No 659/2007 Coll. of Laws and Act No 400/2009 Coll. of Laws**

**The National Council of the Slovak Republic has adopted the following Act:**

### **Article 1**

#### **Status of the Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic**

- (1) The Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Office") is a state authority which is independent while carrying out its audit activities and is bound only by the law.
- (2) The seat of the Office is Bratislava.

#### **Scope of competence of the Office**

### **Article 2**

- (1) The Office shall audit the management of:
  - a) budgetary funds approved under the law by the National Council of the Slovak Republic or by the Government of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Government")<sup>1)</sup>,
  - b) property, property rights, funds, obligations and claims of state, public law institutions, the National Property Fund of the Slovak Republic, municipalities, upper-tier territorial units, legal entities with capital participation of the State, legal entities with capital participation of public law institutions, legal entities with capital participation of the National Property Fund of the Slovak Republic, legal entities with capital participation of municipalities, legal entities with capital participation of upper-tier territorial units, legal entities established by municipalities or legal entities established by upper-tier territorial units<sup>1b)</sup>,
  - c) property, property rights, funds and claims provided to the Slovak Republic, legal entities or natural persons under development programmes or for other similar reasons from abroad,
  - d) property, property rights, funds, claims and obligations, for which the Slovak Republic has assumed guarantee,
  - e) property, property rights, funds, claims and obligations of legal entities carrying out activities in the public interest.

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<sup>1)</sup> For example Act No 92/1991 Coll., on conditions of the transfer of state property to other entities, as amended by subsequent regulations, Act No 80/1997 Coll. of Laws, on the Export-Import Bank of the Slovak Republic, as amended by subsequent regulations, Act No 461/2003 Coll., of Laws on social insurance, Act No 523/2004 Coll. of Laws, on budgetary rules of public administration and on amendments to certain other acts, as amended by subsequent regulations, Article 28 paragraph 4 of Act No 581/2004

Coll. of Laws, on health insurance companies, healthcare supervision and on amendments to certain other acts.

<sup>1a)</sup> Act No 92/1991 Coll., as amended by subsequent regulations.

<sup>1b)</sup> Article 21 of Act No 523/2004 Coll. of Laws.

(2) The Office shall also audit within the scope of its competence:

- a) the methods of levying and recovering taxes, custom duties, payments of contributions, charges and fines forming revenues of the state budget, budgets of municipalities and upper-tier territorial units,
  - b) the enforcement and exercise of rights and adherence to obligations arising from financial and economic relationships, resulting from the management referred to in the paragraph 1, the party to which is the entity specified in the Article 4.
- (3) For the purposes of this Act, the funds of the European Communities and any other foreign funds provided for financing projects on the basis of international treaties shall also be regarded as state budgetary funds.

## **Article 2a**

### **International cooperation**

(1) The Office shall represent the Slovak Republic in international organisations associating the supreme audit institutions of their member states.

(2) The Office shall cooperate with supreme audit institutions abroad in compliance with applicable international treaties binding on the Slovak Republic. For this purpose, the Office may delegate its auditors to international audit institutions.

(3) The Office shall adhere to the international auditing standards used in the European Union and adapt them to the conditions in the Slovak Republic for the purposes of the required quality of audit activities and professional competence.

## **Article 3**

The Office shall carry out audits with regard to compliance with generally binding legal regulations, the economy, effectiveness and efficiency.<sup>1c)</sup>

## **Article 4**

Within the extent specified in the Article 2, the auditing competence of the Supreme Audit Office shall apply to:

- a) the Government, ministries and other central bodies of the state administration of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the “central bodies of the state administration”) and their subordinated bodies,
- b) state bodies, as well as legal entities, if the function of their founder or institutor is pursued by central body of the state administration or other state body,
- c) municipalities and upper-tier territorial units, legal entities established by municipalities, legal entities established by upper-tier territorial units, legal entities with capital participation of municipalities and legal entities with capital participation of upper-tier territorial units,
- d) special-purpose state funds, public law institutions established by law, legal entities with capital participation of public law institutions, legal entities with the capital participation of the State,

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1c) Article 19 of Act No 523/2004 Coll. of Laws, as amended by subsequent regulations.

- e) the National Property Fund of the Slovak Republic, legal entities holding the status of a natural monopoly <sup>1d)</sup> with capital participation of the National Property Fund of the Slovak Republic exceeding 34%, or other legal entities with capital participation of the National Property Fund of the Slovak Republic of at least 50%,
- f) natural persons and legal entities.

## Article 5

(1) The Office shall elaborate its opinion on the proposal for the state budget of the Slovak Republic, in which it also evaluates the proposal for the budget of the state administration, and its opinion on the proposal for the final state account of the Slovak Republic. The Office shall submit its opinion on the proposal for the state budget of the Slovak Republic to the National Council of the Slovak Republic within the time period given by special regulation. <sup>1e)</sup> The Office shall submit its opinion on the proposal of the final state account of the Slovak Republic to the National Council of the Slovak Republic within 30 days following the Government’s decision.

(2) The Office shall perform the tasks of a body issuing declarations on winding-up of assistance granted under Structural Funds <sup>1f)</sup> and the tasks of the body issuing declarations on the winding-up of assistance granted under the Cohesion Fund <sup>1g)</sup>; it shall be responsible for the content of such declarations and shall submit them to the competent authorities.

(3) The Office shall perform the tasks of certifying body for the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund - Guarantee Section. <sup>1h)</sup>

(4) Based on a resolution of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, the Office shall carry out an audit within the scope of its competence for the purposes of the National Council of the Slovak Republic.

(5) No later than the end of March of the following year, the Office shall submit to the National Council of the Slovak Republic a summary report on the results of audit activity for the previous calendar year. The report on the results of audit activity shall be submitted whenever requested by the National Council of the Slovak Republic. <sup>2)</sup>

(6) *cancelled from 1 January 2009*

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1d) Article 10 of Act No 92/1991 Coll.

1e) Article 87 of Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No 350/1996 Coll. of Laws, on the Rules of Procedures of the National Council of the Slovak Republic

- 1f) Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds (Official Journal of the European Communities L 161, 26. 6. 1999), as amended by subsequent regulations.  
Commission Regulation (EC) No 438/2001 of 2 March 2001 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 as regards the management and control systems for assistance granted under the Structural Funds (Official Journal of the European Communities L 63, 3. 3. 2001), as amended by subsequent regulations.
- 1g) Council Regulation (EC) No 1164/94 of 16 May 1994 establishing a Cohesion Fund (Official Journal of the European Communities L 130, 25. 5. 1994), as amended by subsequent regulations.  
Commission Regulation (EC) No 1386/2002 of 29 July 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1164/94 as regards the management and control systems for assistance granted from the Cohesion Fund and the procedure for making financial corrections (Official Journal of the European Communities L 201, 31. 7. 2002).
- 1h) Commission Regulation (EC) No 1663/95 of 7 July 1995 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 729/70 regarding the procedure for the clearance of the accounts of the EAGGF Guarantee Section (Official Journal of the European Communities L 158, 8. 7. 1995), as amended by subsequent regulations.

## **Organisational Structure of the Office**

### **Article 6**

(1) The Office shall carry out its activities through its bodies, employees performing auditing tasks (hereinafter referred to as "auditors") and its other employees.

(2) The Office may contract the auditing services of other persons who are not its employees (hereinafter referred to as "external experts").

### **Article 7**

The bodies of the Office are:

- a) the President of the Office (hereinafter referred to as the "President"),
- b) the Vice-Presidents of the Office (hereinafter referred to as the "Vice-Presidents").

### **Article 8**

(1) The Office shall be headed by the President as a statutory body. The President shall be deputised by the designated Vice-President.

(2) The President and two Vice-Presidents shall be elected and recalled by the National Council of the Slovak Republic by secret ballot.

(3) The term of office for the President and the two Vice-Presidents shall be seven years.

(4) The President and the two Vice-Presidents may be elected to their offices for no more than two consecutive terms of office.

(5) The President shall remain in his or her office after the completion of his or her term of office until a new President has been elected by the National Council of the Slovak Republic.

### **Article 9**

Any citizen eligible to be elected to the National Council of the Slovak Republic may be elected to the office of the President or Vice-President.

## **Article 10**

(1) The posts of the President and Vice-President of the Office are incompatible with the discharge of an office in another public authority body, with an employment relation or similar labour relation, with business activity, with membership in the management or supervisory body of a legal entity which performs business activity, or with other economic or gainful activity, except for management of his or her own property or scientific, pedagogical, literary or artistic activity. Moreover, the President and Vice-President of the Office shall not hold any offices and perform any activity stipulated by special regulation.<sup>4)</sup>

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2) Article 62 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

Article 114 of Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No 350/1996 Coll. of Laws, on the Rules of Procedures of the National Council of the Slovak Republic

4) Constitutional Act No 357/2004 Coll. of Laws, on the protection of public interest in the performance of functions by public officials, as amended by Constitutional Act No 545/2005 Coll. of Laws

(2) If the elected President or Vice-President of the Office is a member of any political party or political movement, he or she must resign their membership in this party or movement within 30 days of being elected.

## **Article 11**

The auditors shall be irreproachable, shall have the relevant qualifications and experience in areas belonging to the scope of auditing competence of the Office.

## **Article 12**

(1) The office of the President and the Vice-Presidents shall be terminated by

- a) expiration of the official term, unless otherwise provided by this Act,
- b) resignation,
- c) recall from the office.

(2) The President or Vice-President shall be recalled from the office by the National Council of the Slovak Republic when

- a) he or she has been lawfully convicted of an intentional crime,
- b) he or she has held an office or performed activity incompatible with the office of the President or Vice-President under the Article 10,
- c) he or she does not performed duties laid down by this Act.

(3) The National Council of the Slovak Republic can recall the President or Vice-President if he or she has not performed the duties of their office for a period exceeding six consecutive calendar months.

## **Article 12a**

(1) Unless otherwise provided by this Act, the civil servants of the Office are subject to special regulation.<sup>4a)</sup>

(2) The civil servants working at the Office are remunerated pursuant to special regulation,<sup>4b)</sup> characteristics of tariff classes (categories) of civil servants working at the Office and salary of civil servants working at the Office. The characteristics of tariff classes of civil servants working at the Office are specified in Annex No. 1 and salary tariffs of civil servants working at the Office are specified in Annex No. 2.

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4a) Act No 400/2009 Coll. of Laws, on civil service and on amendments to certain laws.

4b) Articles 81 to 114, Article 132 to 134 of Act No 400/2009 Coll. of Laws.

## **Article 12b**

The salary tariffs of civil servants working at the Office shall be increased by an amount pursuant to special regulation.<sup>4c)</sup> The increased salary tariffs of civil servants at the Office and the dates from which such increased salary tariffs are applicable shall be specified in an internal regulation.

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4c) Article 113 of Act No 400/2009 Coll. of Laws.

## **Rights and duties of the Office and audited entities**

### **Article 13**

(1) The President shall inform the National Council of the Slovak Republic and other respective bodies on important findings and information resulting from the scope of competence of the Office.

(2) The Office may make recommendations to audited entities and to relevant bodies on how to deal with weaknesses and shortcomings identified during the exercise of its competence.

### **Article 14**

The President holds the right to be present at sessions of the National Council of the Slovak Republic and its bodies and also at sessions of the Government.

### **Article 15**

(1) In carrying out audits, the auditors must:

- a) inform the statutory body of the audited entity on subject-matter and purpose of the audit and present written authorisation to carry out the audit,
- b) report audit findings in a true, complete and justifiable manner,
- c) draw up an audit report, and also an interim report if necessary, as well as their eventual amendments. These documents must contain, in particular, a description of the audit findings and where an infringement of legal regulations has been identified, they must also include a reference to respective provisions that were infringed. Any identified weaknesses and shortcomings specified in the interim report must also be documented in the audit report with reference to the interim report,

- d) submit the audit report (interim report) and amendment thereto, if any, to the statutory body of the audited entity to get acquainted with its content,
- e) enable the statutory body of the audited entity after becoming familiar with the audit report (interim report), to present, within a specified time period, written objections against the truthfulness, completeness and provability of the audit findings,
- f) verify the justification of the objections and inform the statutory body of the audited entity of the result in writing; such notification shall form an integral part of the audit report (interim report). If verification of the objections reveals that they are completely or partially justified, or if additional facts having a significant impact on the contents of the audit report (interim report) are identified, an amendment to the audit report (amendment to interim report) shall be drawn up;
- g) discuss the content of the report and its amendment, if any, with the statutory body of the audited entity and draw up minutes of their discussion in which the Office shall impose the statutory body of the audited entity an obligation to submit, within a specified time period, a written statement of measures taken to remedy weaknesses and shortcomings identified by the audit and a written follow-up report,
- h) draw up a record of audit results and communicate its content to the statutory body of the audited entity in cases where no weaknesses or shortcomings have been detected,
- i) draw up an on-the-spot audit report on the examination of the situation directly on the spot in cases where the audit findings cannot be supported by written documents; such report must be signed by all persons directly participating in the examination of the situation,
- j) submit to the statutory body of the audited entity one copy of the audit report (interim report, on-the-spot audit report, a record of audit results) and amendment thereto, if any, and the minutes on audit closure meeting,
- k) respect the rights of the audited entities, their employees and third parties concerned.

(2) The duties of the auditors of the Office laid down in the paragraph 1 shall also apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to external experts.

(3) The audit shall be deemed finished on the day of discussion on the report when the minutes on audit closure meeting have been drawn up or when the record of audit results has been submitted to the statutory body of the audited entity. The report shall be deemed discussed even in case where the statutory body of the audited entity has refused to sign the minutes on audit closure meeting. This fact shall be recorded in the minutes on audit closure meeting. Such refusal by the statutory body of the audited entity to sign the audit report, interim report or amendment thereto, if any, or minutes on audit closure meeting with the statutory body of the audited entity shall have no impact on the consequences arising from the conclusions contained in these documents.

## **Article 16**

(1) The President and the Vice-Presidents shall keep confidential any information obtained in the discharge of their offices. In matters of public interest and for the purpose of providing information to the public, the President, or the Vice-President authorised by the President, shall publish the information obtained within the scope of auditing activities at least once every three months. The President, or the Vice-President authorised by the President, shall make available, upon request, the audit results of a particular audit and measures taken to remedy weaknesses and shortcomings identified by the audit, as well as the written follow-up report (the Article 18 paragraph (e)) according to a special regulation.<sup>5)</sup>

(2) Auditors and external experts shall keep confidential any facts learned while carrying out audit activities provided they are not released from this obligation, in the public

interest and for the purpose of providing information to the public, in writing by the President or the authorized Vice-President.

(3) The duty of confidentiality shall last even after termination of the office, employment relation or performance of the activity.

(4) This applies without prejudice to the obligation to keep confidential any facts declared secret<sup>6)</sup>.

## **Article 17**

(1) While carrying out audits, the auditors shall be authorised:

- a) to enter buildings, facilities and premises of the audited entities,
- b) to require from audited entities, within a reasonable time period specified by the Office, the submission of summary documents and other documents and written evidence including computer-based data, irrespective of their degree of confidentiality,
- c) to receive the original documents and other materials in cases where they are necessary for auditing purposes, and to acknowledge their receipt,
- d) to demand from audited entities or their employees, within a reasonable time period specified by the Office, complete and true oral or written information, statements and explanations concerning the audited facts and shortcomings identified by the audit.

(2) The authorisations of auditors laid down in the paragraph 1 shall also apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to external experts.

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5) Articles 14 to 22 of Act No 211/2000 Coll. of Laws on free access to information and on amendments to certain acts (the Freedom of Information Act).

6) Act No 215/2004 Coll. of Laws on the protection of confidentiality and on amendments to certain acts

## **Article 18**

The audited entities and their employees shall be obliged:

- a) to cooperate with auditors in compliance with their authorisations specified in the Article 17 of this Act,
- b) to arrange for auditors appropriate preconditions for audit execution and audit findings processing,
- c) to abstain from any activity which might interfere with the audit,
- d) to attend at the specified time and date the discussion on the audit report (interim report) or its amendments at the place designated by the Office,
- e) to take measures to remedy weaknesses and shortcomings identified by the audit and to submit them to the Office, within the time periods specified by the Office, in writing and to submit to the Office, within the time periods specified by the Office, a written follow-up report; if the measures taken to remedy weaknesses and shortcomings identified by the audit are inadequate or are insufficient to remedy all the shortcomings identified by the audit, the Office shall be entitled to return them to the statutory body of the audited entity which shall amend or supplement them within the time period specified by the Office.



## Article 19

(1) The audit may not be carried out by auditors or external experts whose impartiality with regard to their relationship to the subject-matter of the audit, the audited entities or their employees could be questioned.

(2) The auditors or external experts shall inform the President on facts causing doubts as to their impartiality as soon as they learn of such facts.

(3) The audited entity can make written objections against bias of an auditor or external expert. The raising of objections shall not have suspensive effect.

(4) Until adoption of a decision on objections against bias, the auditor or external expert may only perform those parts of the audit that cannot be suspended.

(5) The objections against bias shall be resolved by the President within three working days.

(6) The generally binding legal regulations governing administrative procedures<sup>8)</sup> shall not apply to the decision-making under the paragraph 5. <sup>8)</sup>

## Article 20

(1) The Office shall inform on any weaknesses and shortcomings identified by the audit the authority acting on behalf of the State in relation to the activities of the audited entity. Any weaknesses and shortcomings identified in the activities of state administration authorities shall be communicated to the competent authority of the state administration. Any weaknesses and shortcomings identified in the activities of central bodies of the state administration shall be communicated to the Government through the Prime Minister.

(2) The authority to which weaknesses and shortcomings identified by the audit have been communicated by the Office shall be obliged, within the scope of its competence and within the time period specified by the Office, to ensure removal of the identified weaknesses and shortcomings and to submit, without delay, to the Office a written report thereof.

(3) In the case of the Government's failure to fulfil its obligations under the paragraph 2, the President shall consult the matter with the Prime Minister. When no agreement can be reached by them, the President shall refer the matter to the National Council of the Slovak Republic.

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8) Act No 71/1967 Coll. on administrative Proceeding (Administrative Proceedings Code).

(4) In cases where weaknesses and shortcomings identified by the audit have been communicated by the Office to an authority other than the Government and this authority has not fulfilled its obligations under the paragraph 2, the President shall discuss the matter with the head of such authority. If no agreement is reached by them, the President shall refer the matter through the Prime Minister to the Government for measures to be taken to resolve the matter in question. The Government shall inform the Office of the measures taken. If the Government fails to take the measures necessary for resolving the matter, the President shall refer the matter to the National Council of the Slovak Republic.

(5) In cases where the Office determines that the audited entity has failed to implement the measures taken to remove weaknesses and shortcomings identified by the audit, the Office shall apply the procedure under the paragraph 1. The authority, to which the Office has communicated the failure to implement the measures, shall be obliged to remedy the situation within the time period specified by the Office. If this authority fails to remedy the situation, the Office shall apply the procedures under the paragraphs 3 and 4.

## **Article 20a**

(1) The Office shall notify any weaknesses and shortcomings identified by the audit to the authority of the municipality or the upper-tier territorial unit concerned acting on behalf of such municipality or upper-tier territorial unit in relation to the activities of the audited entity. If a municipality itself or an upper-tier territorial unit is the audited entity itself, the Office shall notify any weaknesses and shortcomings identified by the audit to the municipal authorities (the Municipal Council) or to the self-governing authorities of the upper-tier territorial unit (the Upper-Tier Territorial Unit Council) concerned.

(2) The authority to which weaknesses and shortcomings identified by the audit have been communicated by the Office shall be obliged, within the scope of its competence and within the time period specified by the Office, to ensure removal of the identified weaknesses and shortcomings and to submit, without delay, to the Office a report thereof.

(3) If the mayor of the municipality (the mayor of the city or the town) concerned or the chairman of the upper-tier territorial unit concerned fails to fulfil its obligations under the paragraph 2, the Office shall refer the matter to the Municipal Council or to the Upper-Tier Territorial Unit Council concerned.

(4) In cases where the Office determines that the audited entity has failed to implement the measures to remove weaknesses and shortcomings identified by the audit, the Office shall apply the procedure under the paragraph 1. The authority, to which the Office has communicated the failure to implement the measures, shall be obliged to remedy the situation within the time period specified by the Office. If such authority fails to remedy the situation, the Office shall apply the procedures under the paragraph 3.

## **Article 21**

(1) Any natural person, who has interfered with the audit due to his or her failure to fulfil obligations under the Article 18 and the Article 22 of this Act, can be imposed a disciplinary penalty of up to EUR 3 319.

(2) In case where the obligations have not been fulfilled within a newly specified time period, the disciplinary penalty can be repeatedly imposed.

(3) The disciplinary penalty can be imposed within two months after the infringement of the legal obligation was discovered but no later than twelve months after the infringement of the legal obligation occurred.

(4) The aggregate amount of disciplinary penalties imposed under the paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not exceed EUR 6 638.

(5) When deciding on imposition of disciplinary penalties, the Office shall act as a central body of the state administration. The procedure of imposing a disciplinary penalty shall be governed by the general rules on administrative proceedings.

(6) Disciplinary penalties shall be revenues of the state budget of the Slovak Republic.

## **Budget**

### **Article 21a**

(1) Budget of the Office forms a separate budget chapter in the state budget of the Slovak Republic.

(2) The Office shall submit a draft of the budget chapter for approval to the competent committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic. The competent committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic shall submit the approved draft of the budget chapter to the Office of the Government by 30 June of the current year. The Government shall decide on the draft of the budget chapter of the Office. If the Government makes any changes in the draft of the budget chapter of the Office, it shall give reasons for such changes upon the time when the bill on the state budget is submitted to the National Council of the Slovak Republic.

(3) The Office is accountable to the National Council of the Slovak Republic for the management of the state budget funds under the budget chapter of the Office.

(4) The National Council of the Slovak Republic shall control the management of the state property, including the state budget funds under the budget chapter of the Office, by the Office.

## **Common, Temporary and Final Provisions**

### **Article 22**

(1) The entities under the Article 4 shall be obliged to provide the Office, upon its request, with the information, submit documents and give explanations related to the exercise of the competence of the Office within a reasonable time period specified by the Office; they shall be obliged to cooperate with the Office, in particular to ensure the execution of an audit and shall be obliged to present documents resulting therefrom.

(2) The entities under the Article 4 shall be obliged to provide the Office, upon its request and within a reasonable time period specified by the Office, with direct connection to the information systems operated by them, as well as the access to the data processed by such systems, to the full extent necessary for the exercise of the competence of the Office.

(3) The State Treasury shall provide the Office, upon its request, with direct connection to the information system of the State Treasury and the access to the data processed by the system, for the purposes of exercising the competence of the Office in relation to the entities under the Article 4 who are the clients of the State Treasury.

(4) The auditors and other employees of the Office shall maintain confidentiality in relation to third parties concerning the facts learned from the information provided to them upon request under the paragraphs 1 through 3.

(5) The obligation to maintain confidentiality survives the termination of their civil service employment relationship.

### **Article 23**

Entities authorised to execute budgetary measures, to allow expenditures not covered in the state budget and to withhold state budget funds must inform the Office of any such

actions taken by the end of the calendar month following the calendar month in which such actions were taken, at the latest.

## **Article 24**

The President shall issue the Organizational Order of the Office governing mutual relationships between its bodies and organizational divisions.

## **Article 24a**

*Cancelled from 12 May 2006*

## **Article 24b**

### **Common and temporary provisions effective from the day of the introduction of the euro**

Since the introduction of the euro in the Slovak Republic, the power to appoint the auditor for the audit of final accounts of the National Bank of Slovakia passes from the Office on to the Council of the European Union, whereas upon demand from the National Bank of Slovakia the Office shall participate in the process of appointing the independent external auditor for the audit of final accounts of the National Bank of Slovakia, if it is allowed by regulations effective in the Eurozone for the process of appointing independent external auditors of national central banks within the framework of European System of Central Banks;<sup>10)</sup> however, the power of the Office to appoint the auditor for the audit of financial accounts of the Bank of Slovakia relating to an accounting period prior to the introduction of the euro in the Slovak Republic, remains unaffected.

## **Article 25**

This Act shall enter into force on 15 February 1993.

Act No 458/2000 Coll. of Laws entered into force on 1 January 2001

Act No 559/2001 Coll. of Laws entered into force on 1 January 2002

Act No 385/2004 Coll. of Laws entered into force on 3 July 2004

Act No 261/2006 Coll. of Laws entered into force on 13 May 2006

Act No 199/2007 Coll. of Laws entered into force on 1 May 2007

Act No 659/2007 Coll. of Laws entered into force on 1 January 2008

Act No 400/2009 Coll. of Laws entered into force on 1 November 2009

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9) Act No 291/2002 Coll. of Laws, on State Treasury and on amendments to certain other acts, as amended by subsequent regulations

10) Article 27 paragraph 27.1 of the Protocol on the Statute of the European System of Central Banks and of the European Central Bank (O.J. C 321E, 29.12.2006)