



Embassy of the Czech Republic



## The Embassy of the Czech Republic and The Embassy of the Slovak Republic

in collaboration with

### The University of Pretoria (Department of Political Sciences) and The South African Institute of International Affairs

cordially invite you to a

### Panel Discussion

on

## Peaceful democratic transitions: the Czech and Slovak experiences

In 2013 the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic mark 20 years of their independence. The negotiated split of former Czechoslovakia on 31 December 1992 remains an example of peaceful conflict resolution. Both countries continued on the path of political and economic transformation after the fall of the totalitarian communist regime in 1989, on the basis of the reforms undertaken in the early 1990s in Czechoslovakia. Today they are fully integrated members of the European Union, NATO and OECD and enjoy very close and friendly relations. The year 2013 is also the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the independent Czech Republic and Slovak Republic and South Africa.

**Date:** 16 September 2013

**Venue:** University of Pretoria, Lecture room No. 2-69 (2nd level) Graduate Centre  
The venue is building 52 on the attached map. Participants are advised to use entrance A or D

**Time:** 15:00 to 18:00 followed by light refreshments and an exhibition

**Parking:** Parking is limited, guests are encouraged to use a drop and collect system

To confirm your attendance please [Register Here](#)

This seminar provides an opportunity to better understand the peaceful separation of two countries during a historic period in Central Europe, which coincided also with South Africa's own negotiated settlement and the establishment of a constitutional democracy, and the cross-regional lessons that can be drawn from their respective experiences.

**Programme:**

**15:00-15:20 Introductions**

- Dr. Yolanda Spies, University of Pretoria, Programme Director
- Ambassador of the Czech Republic, Ms. Blanka Fajkusová
- Ambassador of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Alexander Iľaščík

**15:20-16:20 Panel discussion (30 min each)**

**Moving towards democracy and rule of law: remarks on the last 20 years in the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic**

**Dr. Jakub Landovský:** Institute of Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

**From Czechoslovakia to the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic: South African Perspectives on a Peaceful Evolution**

**Dr. John Maré:** Independent consultant on international public affairs and Special Adviser: Africa for Fipra International

**16:20-16.45 Discussion and closing remarks**

Elizabeth Sidiropoulos: Chief Executive of The South African Institute of International Affairs

**16:45-18:00 Cocktail and exhibition** of the history of both countries after the separation in 1993

**Dr. Jakub Landovský** is an assistant professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, and an international lawyer. He was Fulbright visiting researcher at Oregon State University, consultant for both UNDP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. He worked as an adviser to the Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of the Czech Parliament and directed the Middle East Water Project for Forum 2000 foundation. His research interests include geopolitics, international law, international relations, international freshwater resources and complexity theory.

**Dr. John Maré** had a long diplomatic career with postings including Tokyo, New York (UN) and later in Brussels (European Union) as Deputy Head of Mission in 1992-1997 when he helped negotiate the current Trade, Development & Cooperation Agreement (TDCA) between South Africa and the EU as well as helped coordinate this into the African/EU context. He played a major role in establishing the official relationships between SA and Central/East Europe in 1990/91. He is currently a Special Adviser for the Brussels-based FIPRA International network of public affairs consultants and SA representative for the London-based Business Council for Africa (BCA). His academic training includes economics, history, negotiation and international relations. Dr. Maré has continued to retain a strong association with the Czech and Slovak Republics throughout the last 23 years, both bilaterally and in their EU contexts.

**To update your personal details on the SAIIA Database, [Click Here](#)**

***SAIIA has been voted the leading think tank in Sub-Saharan Africa for the fourth consecutive year in the University of Pennsylvania's Global Think Tank Survey.***