

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Polity5 regime codes:

fac	scode	polity	pers	bmon	bday	byear	emon	eday	eyear	exec	exconst	polcomp
1X	SLO	7	6	1	1	1993	10	30	1998	8	6	7
1O	SLO	9	8	10	31	1998	6	16	2006	8	7	9
1Oa	SLO	10	13	6	17	2006	99	99	9999	8	7	10

PITF Problem Events: none

1X) Date of Change to Factional-Democratic: January 1, 1993 (independence)

Brief Explanation of Change To:

Dissatisfaction with the status of Slovakia in the Czechoslovakia federation led to a unilateral declaration of sovereignty by the Slovak National Council on July 17, 1992. An agreement was reached on August 27, 1992, on terms for dissolving the federation on January 1, 1993, at which time the Slovak Republic became an independent state. Slovak nationalism had been a unifying issue prior to independence, however, the establishment of a Slovak state elevated competing interests and alternative visions of the future (partisan politics). During the early years of statehood, political affiliations were fluid and party organizations were subject to re-formation.

Identify Main Factions:

- Tensions within the dominant HZDS (Movement for a Democratic Slovakia) between *reformers*, led by communist Michal Kovac, *Western-oriented liberals*, led by Milan Knazko, and Slovak *nationalists*, led by Vladimir Meciar, amid serious disagreements, and scandals, over privatization contributed to political polarization, splits, and, eventually, difficulty in forming a ruling coalition.
- Lesser factions:
Ethnic-Hungarians continued to pressure the nationalist government to respect minority rights.

1O) Date of Change from Factional-Democratic (Slovakia): October 31, 1998 (new government)

Brief Explanation of Change From:

Elections to the National Council were held in September, with the nationalist, ruling Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) narrowly winning the largest number of seats. The four opposition parties—the Slovak Democratic Coalition (SDK), the Party of the Democratic Left (SDL), the Party of the Hungarian Coalition Party (SMK) and the Party of Civic Understanding (SOP)—with a combined total of 93 of the 150 seats, stated that they would form a new government. In response, Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar conceded defeat and announced that he would not try to form a new administration.

Changes within Democratic Consolidation Period:

1Oa) June 17, 2006 (parliamentary elections) – The coercive element in electoral politics in the Slovak Republic stemmed from the tensions involving the Slovak nationalists, represented mainly by former Prime Minister Meciar and the HZDS party, and the Hungarian minority. In recent elections, support for the nationalist agenda has waned and the main, ethnic-Hungarian

party has joined the governing coalition. June 2006 parliamentary elections are noted as the consolidation of open, inclusive institutions in Slovakia.