

THE EXPOSURE OF THE POLITICAL PRESSURE NETWORK CREATED TO MANIPULATE ELECTIONS HAS ALSO STARTED IN SLOVAKIA



SUMMARY

Based on minutes of secret meetings, Slovak Member of the European Parliament Erik Kaliňák presented a video series on the campaign machine developed by Globsec in Bratislava, which aimed to strengthen globalist narratives and suppress opposing views in Slovakia. According to the information available, Globsec, which is funded by the Open Society Foundations and the European Commission, acted as a political actor in the 2023 Slovak election campaign with the aim of preventing Robert Fico's party from coming to power and improving the chances of victory for the Progressive Slovakia party, which pursues a pro-American and pro-globalist policy in line with the expectations of the US Democratic Party and its business circles. Globsec has multiple ties to Hungarian political pressure organisations and is part of the same network that was involved in a prohibited foreign campaign financing scandal during the 2022 Hungarian parliamentary elections. One of the organisations involved in the campaign even refers to Hungarian partners who advised them on how to circumvent the law. The Slovak example also highlights the importance of tightening national regulations to prevent foreign-funded political pressure organisations from interfering in the decision-making process of a sovereign nation.

The role of Globsec in the political pressure network

Globsec is a global organisation with offices in Bratislava, Brussels, Kiev, Vienna, and Washington, D.C., which, according to its own definition, "acts in the spirit of European values and international cooperation." In reality, however, it is an integral part of a political pressure network created by Democratic administrations in the US and the George Soros foundations to gain influence and shape political decision-making in target countries in line with their own interests. **Globsec's role within the network is to steer public opinion in member states towards the geopolitical ideas of its clients and, at the same time, to discredit the security, defence, and economic decisions of nation states that do not fit in with its clients' expectations.** Globsec has recently become a key pressure organisation for the European Commission, with an increasing proportion of its funding coming from Brussels programmes.

Reports by the Sovereignty Protection Office have revealed personal connections and active cooperation between Globsec and certain Hungarian political actors and pressure organisations. Former Prime Minister Gordon Bajnai is a member of the organisation's board of directors. Among the advisors is Dávid Korányi, whose organisation Action for Democracy was a key player in the 2022 scandal involving prohibited foreign campaign financing¹. Another advisor

¹ Sovereignty Protection Office: Report on the examination of the recordings published on X.
Source: szuverenitasvedelmihivatal.hu/dokumentumok/jelentes-az-x-kozossegi-platformon-megjelent-felvetelekrol.pdf

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is Zoltán Varga, CEO of Central Media Group, publisher of 24.hu, whose group of companies is also one of Globsec's donors. In addition to these personal connections, Globsec is a partner of The Eastern Frontier Initiative (TEFI), a media project financed by Brussels and led by Magyar Jeti Zrt., the publisher of 444. As revealed by the Sovereignty Protection Office², this is in fact a propaganda campaign that manipulates public opinion on issues that most deeply affect national sovereignty, such as the attitude towards the Russian-Ukrainian war. In addition, Globsec has long been financially supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), a US government agency that distributes US government funds and is known as the extended arm of the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the "sugar daddy of covert operations"³, which was also implicated in the 2022 foreign campaign financing scandal. Globsec's activities are financed with millions of dollars from George Soros' Open Society Foundations.

Networking and attempts at censorship in Slovakia

Ahead of the 2023 elections in Slovakia, globalist-progressive political forces sought ways to bring social media under their control in a democratic country where freedom of expression is a constitutional principle. Erik Kaliňák, Member of the European Parliament for the Direction – Social Democracy (Smer-SD) party, points out in a video series exposing Globsec's pressure activities in Slovakia^{4, 5}: Christopher Walker, a leader of the NED, argued at a Globsec conference that a "comprehensive response" was needed to counter opinions labelled as disinformation by globalist political forces.⁶ Walker was previously vice president of Freedom House, also part of the Soros network, before becoming vice president of the NED.

Kaliňák shows that in 2018, the European Union provided €300,000 in support for the Globsec project, whose stated goal is "to increase the capacity and preparedness of public administration to respond to hybrid threats." According to Kaliňák, the essence of the programme was that, in order to ensure the credibility of censorship, the authorities could not openly support the restriction of opinions deemed undesirable, instead, it could only covertly, "quietly" fund the media, civil society organisations, universities, companies, and fact-checkers so that they could later decide, as "independent experts", what constitutes disinformation and how data labelled as such can be removed from the public sphere. The security community led by Globsec has developed a US-style "whole-of-society" approach which in practice meant creating a coordination platform, the Stratcom hub, to combat disinformation and hybrid

2 Sovereignty Protection Office: The Role of The Eastern Frontier in political pressure.

Source: szuverenitasvedelmi hivatal.hu/dokumentumok/A-The-Eastern-Frontier-Initiative-szerepe-a-politikai-nyomasgyakorlasban.pdf

3 David Ignatius: Innocence Abroad: The New World of Spyless Coups.

Source: https://szuverenitasvedelmi hivatal.hu/dokumentumok/Ignatius-cikk_1991_WaPo_en.pdf

4 First part of the video series of Erik Kaliňák. Source: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gd12VOIE-RA

5 Second part of the video series of Erik Kaliňák. Source: www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNeWWM0HPvw

6 Globsec: D4: Can democracy withstand information revolution? Source: www.youtube.com/live/8cNfAOPktw8?si=kDWDHHzpmX5MjoEAe

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threats, consisting of representatives from government, academia, civil society, and other organisations. This led to the creation of an interest group specialising in “silent” political pressure. Interestingly, Globsec sought to hide the project from the public and did not publish any publicly available information about the coordination platform, even though it was created and operated by Globsec until the 2023 elections in Slovakia.

Globsec operated an election manipulation machine

Referring to Slovak government documents, Kaliňák also reported in detail on the pressure exerted by the so-called Sophia network, whose members, according to the MP, are almost identical to those participating in the Stratcom hub. During one of the Sophia network’s working visits abroad, EU and NATO representatives were told about the political consequences of Fico’s Smer-SD winning the election. In their view, Slovakia would leave NATO and become a “second Hungary,” and the European Union would “lose a valuable partner.” In this context, the network members demanded that they be allowed to meet with representatives of social media platforms before the election to persuade them to block posts by pro-sovereignty parties, and they also initiated the deployment of a NATO Task Force to campaign on behalf of NATO before the election. It can therefore be clearly stated that the political pressure organisation in question sought to interfere in Slovak domestic politics in order to steer it in a direction that would serve the globalist political agenda.

Subsequently, members of the pressure network began coordinating their election strategy against Smer-SD with the help of Globsec. They specifically targeted undecided voters, primarily women and young people, who were considering supporting progressive-globalist parties (such as Progressive Slovakia). As a practical consequence, Rastislav Kužel, an expert at Memo98 which publishes joint analyses with Globsec, launched the “I want to stay here, that’s why I vote” campaign in cooperation with the Open Society Foundations and other civil society organisations. One of the “ambassadors” of the campaign was Veronika Ostrihoňová, who has been a Member of the European Parliament for Progressive Slovakia since 2024. On behalf of Globsec, Dominika Hajdu and Katarína Klingová announced that they were planning a campaign with one of the publications of the Central Media Group, which also publishes 24.hu, namely the Refresher portal, which defines itself as a premium lifestyle magazine for young people. Shortly afterwards, they launched the campaign entitled “Don’t decide for me”, which targeted the youngest voters and those living abroad. Refresher’s partner in the campaign is TV Markíza, Slovakia’s market-leading television channel. Markíza is owned by Central European Media Enterprises (CME), a Central European media company co-founded by Mark Palmer, former US ambassador to Budapest, who is also one of the founders of the NED.

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It is important to note that Stratcom Hub was also prepared for an unfavourable election result. An official minutes presented by Erik Kaliňák reveals that a special programme was prepared for the potential victory of Robert Fico's party: five political pressure organisations selected by them were financed and trained to engage in political communication against the incoming Fico government.

According to the minutes, one of the members of the Stratcom platform, Partners for Democratic Change Slovakia (PDCS), also cooperated with Hungarian political pressure groups in developing the programme. **They mention that, in order to ensure the success of the programme, they met with their Hungarian partners, who “taught them how to circumvent Hungarian laws [on civil society organisations]” – for example, how to change the names and professional content of projects to comply with the law and then use the money for their real purposes.**

In summary, it can be concluded that the foreign-funded political pressure network under the name of Globsec was an active participant in the Slovak election campaign. Globsec did not act as a civil society actor during the election period, but clearly as a political actor. Based on the nature of its activities and its operating model, it can be clearly distinguished from grassroots organisations engaged in classic civil society activities.

On 16 April, the Slovak Parliament adopted an amendment to the law on the transparency of civil society organisations, with the express aim of identifying actors engaged in political lobbying and making their foreign funding transparent.

The Sovereignty Protection Research Institute draws attention to the fact that the organisers of foreign interference attempts in connection with the 2023 Slovak parliamentary elections belong to the same network that organised prohibited foreign campaign financing during the 2022 Hungarian parliamentary elections.