

New Director of the Visegrad Fund

BRATISLAVA (3 August 2009)—The change in the position of the Executive director of the International Visegrad Fund takes place at the beginning of August 2009. Ambassador Kristóf Forrai who headed the Fund since 2006 is replaced by Petr Vágner, the first ever Czech representative in this position.

Petr Vágner most recently served at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Kyiv, Ukraine. Petr Vágner joined foreign service in 1995. He had served at the Czech embassy in Moscow, Russia and then he worked for the Central European Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Mr. Vágner had graduated from Charles University (philosophy/history) in 1981. He worked in the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and in the *Svobodné slovo* daily.

„The Fund led by Kristóf Forrai reached plenty of interesting results; I would like to continue in his work. Observing current political, social and economical situation in our region it will be necessary and useful to devote more of our attention to the challenges which stand before the countries of the Visegrad Group. The Fund can be an effective instrument for developing activities in this regard and it should be one of our priorities,” Vágner said.

On their last summit in June 2009 the Visegrad Group’s Prime Ministers praised the activities of the Fund and agreed to raise its annual budget by 20% amounting to €6 million.

More information:

<http://www.visegradfund.org/about.html>

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About the Fund:

International Visegrad Fund is an international organization with the seat in Bratislava. It was established in 2000 by the governments of the Visegrad Group (V4) countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) to promote development of closer cooperation in the region through the support of common cultural, scientific and educational projects, youth exchanges, cross-border projects and tourism promotion.

The budget of the Fund (€6 million as of 2010) consists of equal contributions from the governments of V4 countries. The Fund provides support through four [grant programs](#), three [scholarship schemes](#) and [artist residencies](#). Among the recipients of the Fund’s support are mainly non-governmental organizations, municipalities and local governments, schools and universities, but also private companies and individual citizens.

The governing bodies of the Fund are the Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Council of Ambassadors. The executive body of the Fund comprises of the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director. The administrative body of the Fund is the Secretariat.