

XXIII. SLOVAKIA

Population: 5,402,547

Religious make-up: 60.4% Roman Catholics - 3.4% Greek Catholics - 0.7% Orthodox - 6.2 % Augsburg Lutheran Church

Membership OSCE: 01/01/93 - Helsinki Final Act: - Charter of Paris:

Membership Council of Europe: 30/06/93 - Membership U.N.: 10/01/93

A. CONSTITUTION

Constitution adopted on 1 Sep 1992,

Article 12

- (2) Basic rights and liberties on the territory of the Slovak Republic are guaranteed to everyone regardless of sex, race, color of skin, language, creed and religion, political or other beliefs, national or social origin, affiliation to a nation or ethnic group, property, descent, or another status. No one must be harmed, preferred, or discriminated against on these grounds.

Article 24

(1) The freedoms of thought, conscience and religion, and faith are guaranteed. This right comprises the possibility to change one's religious belief or faith. Everyone has the right to publicly express his opinion.

(2) Everyone has the right to freely express his religion or faith on his own or together with others, privately or publicly, by means of divine and religious services, by observing religious rites, or by participating in the teaching of religion.

(3) Churches and religious communities administer their own affairs. In particular, they constitute their own bodies, inaugurate their clergymen, organize the teaching of religion and establish religious orders and other church institutions independently of state bodies.

(3) Conditions for exercising rights according to sections 1 to 3 can be limited only by law, if such a measure is unavoidable in a democratic society to protect public order, health, morality, or the rights and liberties of others.

Article 25

(1) The defense of the Slovak Republic is a matter of honor for each citizen.

(2) No one must be forced to perform military service if this runs counter to his conscience or religious belief. The details will be specified in a law.

B. LEGISLATION

Law 308/91

C. CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

Act on Civil Service (Official Gazette: *Zbierka zakonov* No. 207/1995)