

JÁN FIGEL'

*President of KDH Party (Slovakia)
and former European Commissioner*



Keynote speech (19h30-20h00)

CAREER PATH

- Chief Negotiator of the SR for negotiations on the accession of Slovakia to the EU
- Member of the European Commission
- First Deputy-PM of the Government of the Slovak Republic and Minister for Transport
- Member of the Advisory Board of the Political Network for Values
- Vice-president of the National Council of the Slovak Republic
- Chairman of the Christian-Democratic Movement (KDH), Slovakia

A LEADER IN DEFENCE OF LIFE

He is deeply convinced that real, sustainable prosperity can be based only on respect to genuine values and on ethics of responsibility. He is a devoted Christian.

Declaration of the National Council of the Slovak Republic regarding the sovereignty of the member states of the EU in the cultural and ethical issues initiated by KDH in 2002. Based on the principal of subsidiarity it insists in not being forced to adopt practices that the Slovak tradition, history and ethical values did not support. It emphasizes the human dignity and right to life from conception to natural death and traditional marriage and family. The Declaration witnesses KDH awareness of possible risks in the process of European integration.

Definition of marriage in the Slovak Constitution (June 2014)

Marriage is a unique union between a man and a woman. Slovak Republic shall protect marriage comprehensively and shall promote its good. In Central and Eastern Europe has been formed a bulwark of countries which defend genuine notion of marriage – namely Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Rumania, Bulgaria.

Prospering families for a prosperous Europe - What is good for the family is good for

KDH as member of the European People's Party strives to be an active member bringing fresh ideas inspired by Christian roots. In January 2015 EPP adopted resolution on **family mainstreaming** proposed by KDH. It stresses that "throughout the ages, the core of social wellbeing in European nations has been fuelled by a social order based on stable and lasting family bonds, consisting in stable and lasting marriages between a man and a woman oriented towards, and with responsibility for, their children."

EU Special Representative for religious freedom in the world

A long lasting priority of the political endeavours of Ján Figel' is defense and support of persecuted people for their conviction and faith – especially the Christians. The future post should help to defend persecuted people for religious matters in the world and put this urgent issue higher in the endeavors of EU.