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## THE GROWTH OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMY CAN BE STRENGTHEN BY TARGETED FOSTERING OF TALENT

*The development of talent is one of the crucial tools to influence the increase of competitiveness and economic growth. This is the opinion shared by the participants of the international Conference on the Fostering and Development of Talent, which takes place on 12-13 September within the framework of the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU in the Double Tree hotel by Hilton in Bratislava. At the opening of the conference the participants were addressed by the President of the Slovak Republic, Andrej Kiska, the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, Peter Plavčan and Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Tibor Navracsics.*

Representatives of institutions and bodies of the European Union, policy makers from the member states of the EU as well as representatives of organizations which focus on the work with talent, are discussing in Bratislava the role of talent in business as well as other activities supporting talent on the European level. They also focus on the possibilities of positively influencing talented individuals and their development.

*"Discovering the bent of genius of every child is the very purpose of today's conference: how to identify and tap the talent of every person, of every pupil so that they find their place in society, as an accomplished professional and an engaged citizen"* emphasized the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, **Tibor Navracsics** at the press conference.

The Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport **Peter Plavčan** emphasized the importance of the case-by-case approach in developing talent of every individual: *"I am convinced that every individual has a particular kind of talent. However, it needs to be discovered and adequately developed and supported from the early childhood. Identification of talented individuals in childhood is a complicated but very important task and represents the starting point for appropriate education."*

The press conference was attended by **Evarist Bartolo**, the Minister for Education and Employment of the Republic of Malta, which is going to take over the Presidency of the Council of the EU after the Slovak Republic. Experts on various initiatives in the field of the fostering and development of talent were represented by **Péter Csermely**, the President of the organization ECHA (European Council for High Ability)

Among the participants of the conference were also talented high school students from the Slovak city of Košice, who won the first prize on the most prestigious festival of student businesses in Riga, for their chewing

gum for weight loss. In their opinion the crucial aspect of the development of talent is the support from teachers and schools.

The purpose of the conference is to promote the importance of the development of talent on the national as well as European level.