



Restitution of Expropriated Land in Slovakia

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RESTITUTION OF EXPROPRIATED LAND IN SLOVAKIA

After the demise of the communist government in Czechoslovakia in 1989, the new regime enacted three laws to deal with the restitution of property in land which was expropriated after the 1948 communist takeover. These laws apply in Slovakia with additional Slovak laws as follows:

- Law No. 403/1990, on the Mitigation of Effects of Some Wrongs concerning Property, amended by Laws No. 458/1990, and No. 137/1991. It provided for restitution to the owner or his heirs of urban property which was appropriated by the state or public authorities by specifically enumerated measures. If restitution could not be made, some monetary compensation was to be provided. Claims had to be filed by April 30, 1991, and in some cases by August 31, 1991. Failure to file extinguished the right to restitution.
- Law No. 87/1991, on Extrajudicial Rehabilitation, amended by Law No. 267/1992, with special application to Slovakia by Slovak Law No. 319/1991 as amended by Laws No. 312/1992 and No. 492/1992, provided, among other things, for restitution to the owner or his heirs of urban property appropriated by the state or public authorities in all other cases. To be entitled, the claimant had to be a Czechoslovak citizen permanently residing in Czechoslovakia, a condition not required under Law No. 403/1990 above. If restitution could not be made, some monetary compensation was to be provided. Claims with respect to the restitution of property had to be filed by September 30, 1991. Failure to file extinguished the right to restitution.
- Law No. 229/1991, on Ownership of Agricultural Land and other Agricultural Property, amended by Law No. 93/1992, with special application to Slovakia by Slovak Law No. 293/1992, provided for restitution to the owner or his heirs of agricultural land and appurtenant buildings and forest land appropriated by the state or public authorities. The claimant must be a Czechoslovak citizen permanently residing in Czechoslovakia. If restitution cannot be made, some monetary compensation is payable. Claims with respect to the restitution of property had to be filed by December 31, 1992, with the organization in possession of the land. Failure to file extinguished the right to restitution.

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