

**Subject:** [Fwd: Slovakian President Announces Widespread Mountain Bike Ban!]  
**From:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>  
**Date:** Thu, 02 Aug 2007 12:39:16 -0700  
**To:** Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

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**Subject:** Slovakian President Announces Widespread Mountain Bike Ban!  
**From:** Monica Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>  
**Date:** Thu, 02 Aug 2007 12:32:31 -0700  
**To:** fonvca@fonvca.org

**Kudos to this good news out of Slovakia!** IMBA and other mountain bike organizations are not happy. (see their press release below). It seems President Gasparovic did not fall for the usual mountain bike advocacy and propaganda tactics. Smart man! It does not take a rocket scientist to see the damage done by mountain biking inside our forests. It takes a strong man to stand up against the wayward mountain bike advocacy groups.

A big hearty thank you to the President and Parliament of Slovakia for standing up for the natural environment and protecting its forests from blatant eco-vandalism of mountain biking. **Why can't the province of BC and our North Shore municipal elected authorities do the same?** Is there no pride in our natural resources that they let mountain bikers ride and build roughshod over the forest floor? For shame!

--Monica Craver--

The Press Release from:

[http://www.imba.com/news/news\\_releases/08\\_07/08\\_01\\_slovak\\_bike\\_ban.html](http://www.imba.com/news/news_releases/08_07/08_01_slovak_bike_ban.html) (the mountain bikers whine)  
For Immediate Release  
08-01-07

**After Sept. 1 2007, it will be illegal to ride a bicycle on most trails in Slovakia. The regulation will be implemented by an amendment of forestry law passed by Slovak Parliament in June, and signed by Slovak President Ivan Gašparovič in July. This controversial measure.... has been criticized by mountain biking advocacy organizations.**

**Slovak mountain bikers were caught by surprise when they learned that a widespread ban of mountain biking on forest trails has been proposed. Just few days after the information became public the Slovak parliament passed the legislation, albeit after heated discussions.** Mountain bikers believed they would be able to persuade the Slovak President to veto the law. A petition against the new regulation was signed by 3,000 people within a day of the decision and eventually garnered close to 16,000 signatures. Yet, without any advocacy organization of their own, it was hard for Slovakian mountain bikers to take further decisive steps.

CeMBA a newly born mountain bike advocacy organization from neighboring Czech Republic has offered help to their neighbors. A working group coordinated Czech and Slovak activists in a campaign aimed at avoiding the pending ban. The group has provided several official statements and an overview of the situation to the presidential office. Upon CeMBA's request, IMBA executive director Mike Van Abel sent an open letter to the Slovak president. CeMBA also provided an analysis documenting the minimal environmental impacts of mountain biking, as well as the positive social and economic effects of continued trail access. **Sadly, President Gasparovic failed to acknowledge any of these pleas. On July 17, he signed the amendment that bans mountain biking access. For the time being, it seems that Slovak mountain bikers will face an uphill battle to regain access to the nation's extensive Forest trails.**

-- Text and reporting Tomas Kvasnicka.

**Slovakian President Announces Widespread Mountain Bike Ban!**

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