

Mikuláš Dzurinda, Former Prime minister, Chairman of SDKU

Immediately after the revolution in 1989 he participated in shaping of the Slovak Christian Democracy, quickly became one of its most distinctive figures, and from 1993 participated in the process of defining its economic programme. From 1991 to 1992 he assumed his first executive position of the Deputy Minister for transport and communications; in 1994 he became the Minister for this sector.

Between 1994 and 1998 he was one of the most eloquent representatives of then opposition and the critics of Vladimír Mečiar's policies. He played a significant part in strengthening of the authority of Christian democracy and a decisive role in foundation of the alliance for 1998 elections named the Slovak Democratic Coalition (SDK). As the leader of this alliance, he led SDK to its victory in the 1998 elections and subsequently formed a democratic coalition government, of which he became the Prime Minister.

At the beginning of 2000, in his reaction to the weakening and differing opinions on the future of this alliance of democrats, he declared the establishment of the Slovak Democratic and Christian Union (SDKU) by saying: "We are responsible for the victory of democrats in 1998, for the implementation of reforms and their continuation after the coming elections." SDKU very quickly gained significant public support and under his leadership formed its own structures. The founding Congress of SDKU that took place in November 2000 elected Mikuláš Dzurinda to the position of the party chairman.

In 2002, in the Primary Elections, he became the leader of the party for parliamentary elections and was actively involved in the pre-election campaign. Parliamentary elections in 2002 were successful for SDKU; party repeatedly gained trust of a significant part of the Slovak public. After the electoral victory, he again assumed the position of the Prime Minister of the government, formed from the parties placed on the centre-right of the political spectrum. At the SDKU Congress that took place in November 2002 he was re-elected in the position of the SDKU Chairman.

After the parliamentary elections in 2006, SDKU-DS became part of the opposition and Mikuláš Dzurinda became its leader. In the same year at the SDKU-DS Congress he was re-elected as SDKU Chairman for the third time. He is a Member of Parliament and the Foreign Affairs Committee.