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Previously, he served as Policy Director and head of the Security and Defense Policy Division at the Slovak Ministry of Defense. He oversaw the ministry's defence analysis, planning and evaluation activities as well as its legislative efforts, military missions and international security initiatives. He was responsible for relations with NATO and the EU and advised Ukraine and Bosnia, among others, on NATO and EU integration.

Before joining the ministry, Tomas Valasek founded and directed the Brussels office of the World Security Institute, a Washington, DC-based independent defense and security think-tank (2002-2006). From 1996 to 2002 he worked as Senior European Analyst in CDI's Washington, DC office.

Mr. Valasek is the author of numerous articles appearing in newspapers and journals including the International Herald Tribune, the Wall Street Journal, Financial Times and Jane's Defence Weekly. He advised the Slovak defence and foreign ministers, the UK House of Lords, and Madeleine Albright's 'group of experts' on the new NATO strategic concept.

He holds an MA in International Affairs from the George Washington University in Washington, DC, and a BA in journalism from the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia.