



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

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## Ambassador Dr. Cerar Presents Letter of Credence to the U.S. President

The new Slovenian Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Božo Cerar, presented his Letter of Credence to the U.S. President Barack Obama on Tuesday, September 17, afternoon.

The ceremony took place in the White House, where Dr Cerar tendered his credentials to the President along with a letter outlining a bilateral agenda. The ambassador also conveyed to President Obama the assurances of highest consideration from the Slovenian President Borut Pahor.



Slovenian Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar presented his Letter of Credence to U.S. President Barack Obama on September 17, 2013.

Since Slovenia and the U.S. share democratic values and principles such as respect for and universal protection of human rights, inclusive economic growth, the ambassador and President Obama agreed to further cooperate on bilateral levels as well as to act as proactive members of the international community. President Obama also outlined the importance of allied partnership between the two countries.

President Obama welcomed Ambassador Dr. Cerar and his family to the U.S. and wished him all the best in his future endeavors.

Beside the Ambassador of Slovenia, the newly appointed Ambassadors of Malta, Norway, Ireland, Grenada, Guatemala, Equatorial Guinea, Tonga and Sweden were also in attendance at the ceremony.



## Former President Dr. Danilo Türk lectures at SAIS

During his visit to the United States, former President of the Republic of Slovenia and professor of international law, Dr. Danilo Türk, on Monday, September 16, had a lecture at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies. The topic he discussed with his counterpart experts in international law was: "The Discreet Charm of Legitimacy: The United Nations, Crisis Management and Reform".

While in Washington, the third Slovenian president also attended meetings at the U.S. Department of State and the National Security Council. In New York, he is meeting with several U.N. officials and delivering a lecture at Columbia University. He is also visiting Boston, where he will have meetings at Harvard Law School, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and Suffolk University. Dr. Danilo Türk will also join former U.S. President Bill Clinton at the annual Clinton Global Initiative conference.



Dr. Türk discussed the U.N. crisis management and possible political solutions for existing conflicts.

Dr. Türk in 1992 became Slovenia's first permanent representative to the United Nations. At the time, Slovenia also served as a non-permanent member of the U.N. Security Council. Following the successful conclusion of Slovenia's term as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Kofi Annan,

secretary-general of the United Nations, appointed Dr. Türk assistant secretary-general for political affairs. In the summer of 2005, after 13 years in New York, Dr. Türk returned to Slovenia, where he resumed teaching international law. On November 11, 2007, Dr. Türk was elected president of the Republic of Slovenia and served until December 2012.

## BUSINESS

## FDI Summit in Ljubljana

The annual international FDI Summit conference, focusing on foreign investment, took place in Ljubljana on Tuesday, September 17, under the title "A Clear Vision for the Future". The fourth FDI summit was hosted by the Ljubljana Economics Faculty and featured seven panels and around 30 speakers.

A number of distinguished guests from politics and business were addressed by Prime Minister Alenka Bratušek, Finance Minister Uroš Čufer, Interior Minister Gregor Virant and EBRD Director General for Central and South-East Europe Jean-Marc Peterschmitt..

The FDI Summit debates

focused on privatization, and welcomed the government's commitments in this respect. Prime Minister Bratušek pointed out in her address Slovenia's favorable geographic position, a strong industrial base, a developed infrastructure, and a well-educated and hard-working labor force as the key

advantages that the government is determined to help develop, also by choosing responsible investors.

The summit is an annual opportunity to make new contacts with the leading business people in the region, top government officials, existing international investors in Slovenia and those interested in entering the Slovenian market and develop business in the wider region.

More information are available at: <http://www.fdi.si/>  
(Source: STA)



Over two hundred participants attended the annual FDI summit in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

## EVENTS

# 11th Diplomatic Regatta in Izola, Slovenia

For the 11th year, the diplomatic regatta took place in Izola, Slovenia, on Saturday, September 14, organized as traditionally by the sailing club, Jadralni klub Veter. The honorary sponsor of this year's event was the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Karl Erjavec. On his behalf, Deputy Foreign Minister Bogdan Benko addressed numerous Slovenian politicians, business representatives, foreign diplomats and sailing professionals, who gathered in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

Ambassador Benko congratulated the contest winners and pointed out that the occasion presents every year a great business opportunity for Slovenia's coastal region. By promoting social and sports activities, the event enables sailing experts, diplomats, politicians and business people to meet in one place, exchange experiences



Photo is a courtesy of Jadralni klub Veter (<http://www.veter-klub.com/>).  
Photographer: Miha Crnič.

and opinions, establish business contacts and, above all, have fun and demonstrate their sailing skills.

The idea for the diplomatic regatta was given in 2002 by the Australian Honorary Consul in Slovenia, Viktor Baraga,

who wanted to invite his fellow diplomats to a sailing meet. Slovenian Foreign Ministry seized the initiative. and Jadralni klub Veter organized the event for the first time in 2003. Since then, the number of participants has grown every year.

## 28th Annual Kalorama Tour

For the 28th year, Kalorama House and Embassy Tour took place on Sunday, September 15, 2013, from noon to 5 p.m. Organized by the Woodrow Wilson House, the tour allowed guests inside some of the Kalorama neighborhood's most spectacular properties.

This year's tour featured the Embassy of Slovenia, the residences of the Ambassadors of Austria and of Portugal, the Textile Museum, and four private homes, including that of the renowned graphic designer Supon, and the Dupont Circle's Beaux Arts Andrew Mellon Building, built in 1915. Proceeds benefited the Woodrow Wilson House, Washington's only presidential museum and a National Trust Historic Site.

The building of the Embassy of Slovenia was formerly the Embassy of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in Washington. It was allocated to



Around four hundred people visited the Embassy of Slovenia.

the Republic of Slovenia in 2001 on the basis of the Agreement on the Succession Issues. The building was built in 1960s, and it was redesigned as the Slovenian Embassy by Powe and Jones Architects. Renovation works started in September 2006 and took one year. Occupying the first two floors, the chancery includes

offices, a large reception hall and a spacious terrace. Besides the chancery, the building includes the ambassador's residence on the top floor. In addition to private quarters, the residence features an entertainment-sized salon, a dining room and a terrace.

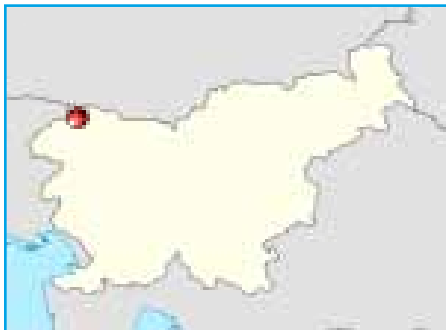
The house and embassy tour, however, not only offered an unique opportunity to see the interiors of selected Kalorama buildings but also offered an opportunity to experience the many cultures represented by the official ambassadors from foreign countries residing in the Kalorama neighborhood.

At the Embassy of Slovenia, visitors could taste some of the traditional Slovenian food, such as Carniolian pork sausage and the typical Slovenian festive dessert "potica", a walnut roll cake. They could view the display titled Identity of Slovenia--Design for the State, listen to Slovenian music and enjoy watching videos and images of Slovenia.



Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar giving a presentation on Slovenia.

## Gozd Martuljek and Srednji Vrh



Gozd Martuljek and Srednji Vrh are stories of their own. Long ago, Carinthian herdsmen tended their herds here. After World War I, railroad men renamed the village Gozd Martuljek, after the creek along which it lies. The settlement of Srednji Vrh arose during the times of Turkish invasions, which is reflected in the house-names -- pri Merkeljnu, pri Vahu. In times long gone, a pilgrimage route ran here through the Upper Sava valley, and a cargo and postal route through Koren to Carinthia.

Following World War I, there were 19 flour mills and 4 sawmills in Rute; the residents were also involved in farming and lumbering. Numerous coal pits



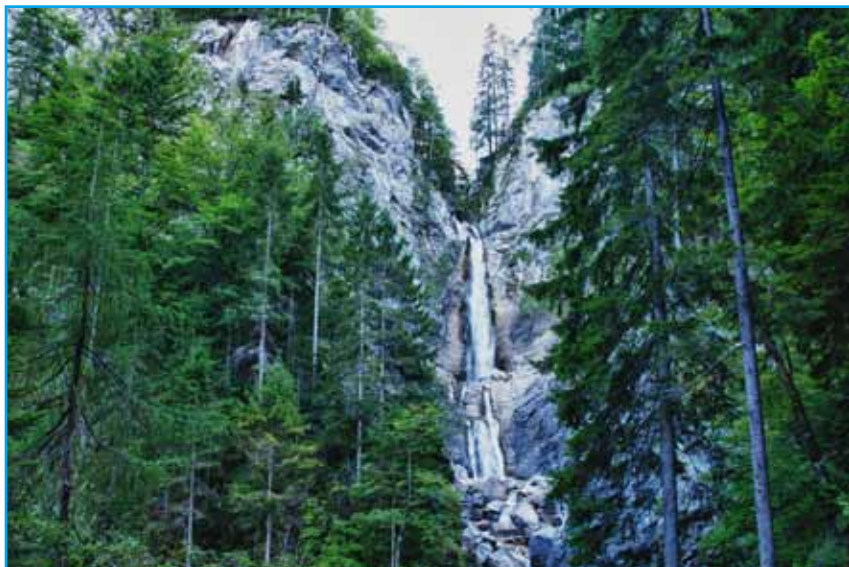
Gozd Martuljek (Photo courtesy: LTO Kranjska Gora, photographer: Matjaž Vidmar).

were operating for the needs of the blacksmith's and iron trades. All these changes were overseen by the Martuljek and Špik mountain group, whose peaks lead down among steep northern walls into the Zgornjesavska Valley. The view of the slim rocky pyramid of Špik is powerful with the display exuding a special charm.

The Martuljek waterfalls are true pearls of the Slovenian Alpine region. Their easy access along the picturesque gorge makes them a popular tourist attraction. Underneath the rock cliffs is the source of the Martuljek creek, which cascades in three stages down the 110-meter (360 ft.) high cliff as the Upper Martuljek waterfall. The stream follows its course through a 500-meter (1840 ft.) long gorge, dropping again over a 50-meter (165 ft.) high rock face as the Lower Martuljek waterfall into a 400-meter (1,310 ft.) long, narrow Martuljek canyon, carved into limestone.

At Gozd Martuljek, high above the valley, towers the Martuljek or Spik mountain range. In 1949, this region, including the Martuljek creek was proclaimed a nature park, which was incorporated into the Triglav National Park in 1981.

(Credit: LTO Kranjska Gora)



Martuljek waterfalls. (Photo courtesy: LTO Kranjska Gora, photographer: Matjaž Vidmar)

**EURONIGHT**

For the sixth year in a row, the Embassy of France will host the traditional EURONIGHT event. The 2013 edition will feature more than 20 European Union embassies, each showcasing its respective culture, traditions and culinary specialties.

When: [Friday, September 27, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.](#)

Where: [Embassy of France, 4101 Reservoir Road, NW, Washington, DC 20007](#)

More information and tickets: <https://euronight2013.eventbrite.com/>

**34th Annual Grape Harvest Dance Festival in IL**

Celebrate Vinska Trgatev, the annual Slovenian Grape Harvest Dance Festival with the Slovenian Union of America Branch 20. Entertainment by the 2013 Chicago Music Award Winner for Best Polka Entertainer, Eddie Korosa, Jr. & the Boys from Illinois.

Where: [St. Joseph Park Hall, corner of Raynor and Theodore Streets in Joliet, IL](#)

When: [Sunday, September 22, 2013](#), doors open at 3 p.m., festival hours 4 to 8 p.m.

Admission: adults \$10, children 10 and under FREE

Food and Drinks sold separately.

More information: Pat Schager at [patricia.schager@att.net](mailto:patricia.schager@att.net)

**SCC's Vinska Trgatev/Oktobefest**

Enjoy an outdoor fest featuring booths with foods from various regions of Slovenia, drinks, including spiced wine, and dancing to music by Ansambel Veseljaki.

When: [Saturday, September 28, 2013](#), beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Where: [Slovenian Catholic Center's parking lot, 14252 Main Street, Lemont, IL 60439](#)

Admission: adults \$10, age 16 and under FREE.

Food and Drinks sold separately.

More information: <https://slovenian-center.org/>

**5th Annual Slovenefest in Kansas City**

When: [September 28, 2013](#)

Where: [Kansas City, Kansas.](#)

Holy Mass starts at 4:00 p.m. in Holy Family Church at 274 Orchard Street.

Festivities will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Msgr. Mejak Hall, Gym, & School Grounds, 513 Ohio, Kansas City, Kansas.

Music & Dancing will feature The Don Lipovac Orchestra with Brian McCarty & Hrvatski Običaj. The evening will include authentic Slovenian dinner, big silent auction, children & adult games, cultural booth and souvenirs.

For more information contact (913) 371-1561 or [www.holyfamilychurchkck.com](http://www.holyfamilychurchkck.com)

## Chamber Choir Megaron in the U.S.

The mixed 40-member MEGARON choir consists of alumni who came up through the ranks of several choruses at the Saint Stanislaus Classical High School in Sentvid-Ljubljana. MEGARON has won many competition awards, and has over its 10 year existence toured Austria, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Slovakia, Poland and Canada.

MEGARON's renowned conductor is Damijan Močnik, who has gained international recognition for his work as a composer. Its guest conductor is Martina Batič, a chief conductor of the Slovenian Chamber Choir. The program will encompass the works of a variety of Slovenian composers and Slovenian folk music.

Free entrance.

When: [Monday, September 30 at 7:30 p.m.](#)

Where: [St. Mary's on 15519 Holmes Avenue in Collinwood, Cleveland, OH](#)

When: [Wednesday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [St. John's Windish Evangelical Lutheran Church at 617 E. 4th St., Bethlehem, PA](#)

More information: <http://www.bmssca.org/> or Kathy Novak at [churchlady21@aol.com](mailto:churchlady21@aol.com)

When: [Thursday, October 3 at 7:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [Holloway Hall, Salisbury University, Camden Ave., Salisbury, MD](#)

More information: <http://www.worldartists.org/waehome/index.cfm>

When: [Friday, October 4 at 7:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, 801 Chase Street, Annapolis, MD](#)

More information: <http://www.worldartists.org/waehome/index.cfm>



## Kids Euro Festival 2013

This fall, Washington will host the Kids Euro Festival, one of the country's largest performing arts festivals for children, with more than 200 free events around the city. Kids Euro Festival is staged through the cooperation of the 28 Washington-based European Union embassies and 30 major local cultural institutions.

[Slovenia's FRU FRU Theatre](#) will present a puppet show: [My umbrella is also a Balloon](#) (Moj dežnik je lahko balon) by Ela Peroci.

When: [October 16 - November 13, 2013](#)

Where: [various venues in Washington, Maryland, and Virginia](#)

More information, schedule of the performances and registration: <http://kidseurofestival.org/>

## SlovenSki Calendar for 2014 Ski Season

### **SlovenSki Weekend**

Where: WINDHAM MOUNTAIN, NEW YORK  
When: Friday, January 31 to Sunday, February 2, 2014.  
Slovenian GS Ski Race championship on Saturday.

### **SlovenSki trip #1 (Presidents Week)**

Where: SUN VALLEY, IDAHO  
When: Monday, February 17 to Sunday, February 23, 2014.  
Total cost \$1,495.00 from LaGuardia, NY to Boise, Idaho.  
6 nights lodging at Sun Valley; 3 bedroom condominiums, 5-day ski pass.  
Kids under 15 stay and ski FREE.  
Call for air info from other airports: Cleveland, Toronto, Chicago

### **SlovenSki trip #2**

Where: ASPEN / SNOWMASS, COLORADO  
Top of The Village 3 bedroom Condominiums, ski in, ski out.  
When: Monday, March 24 to Sunday, March 30, 2014  
Snowmass is home of 2014 Nastar Nationals Ski Championships during last week of March.

### More information and application:

John F. Kamin a.k.a. Ivan Kamin  
Government Council for Slovenians abroad Representative, USA  
61-32 75th Place, Middle Village, NY 11379  
Tel: (718) 424-2711, Cell: (917) 723-2456, Email: [jfkamin@verizon.net](mailto:jfkamin@verizon.net)

## The Visual Identity of Slovenia – Design for a State exhibition

This touring exhibition presents the range of designs elaborated for the young state and its institutions by one of Slovenia's top designers, Miljenko Licul. Over the course of his artistic career, Licul has created a number of great works of visual culture that are closely related to the identity of the nation and the state, and are, by any means, the most recognizable visual images of Slovenia's identity to have been created over its 22-year history as a sovereign state. Licul designed the banknotes for Slovenia's former currency – the tolar. Working together with Maja Licul and Janez Boljka, he also designed Slovenia's euro coins. Miljenko Licul is also responsible for the visual image of Slovenia's biometric passport, ID and health insurance cards, and driver's license. Licul also designed a series of postage stamps with ethnographical motifs.

When: [Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., closing in October 2013](#)

Where: [Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20008](#)



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