



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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President Pahor at the U.N. General Assembly

Slovenian President Borut Pahor and Foreign Minister Karl Erjavec traveled to New York to take part in the sixty-eight regular session of the United Nations General Assembly. The latter opened on September 23, 2013, with high-level meetings and general debate running between September 24-27 and September 30-October 1.

President Pahor, who headed the Slovenian delegation, addressed the U.N.



President of the Republic of Slovenia addressing U.N. Genreal Assembly.
(Photo: STA / <http://www.up-rs.si/>)

General Assembly on Thursday, presenting Slovenia's views and comments on issues of national and international relevance. He stressed that the U.S.-Russian agreement on Syria must be implemented immediately to protect the people of Syria, emphasizing that the U.N. must "acknowledge some disappointing and frustrating setbacks and failures". He also outlined his belief that now

more than ever the U.N. must play a major role in international relations. The president urged immediate implementation of the U.S.-Russian agreement on the Framework for the Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons and labeled Syria's accession to the U.N. Chemical Weapons Convention a positive step.

The president, moreover, called for a "decisive progress



in Security Council reform” to improve the efficiency, transparency and accountability of the Security Council. He noted that as part of this effort the permanent members should consider refraining from using the veto in situations of genocide, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law. In his address, the president also highlighted the importance of responsibility to protect, peaceful solution of disputes, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and climate and other environmental issues. The president also stressed that it is important to focus on the post-2015 agenda following Millennium Goals. He presented the initiatives in the light of Slovenia’s candidacy for the U.N. Human Rights Council during the period 2016-2018.

On the sidelines of the session, Pahor had other engagements, including attending a reception hosted



President Pahor and Foreign Minister Erjavec participated in several discussions while in New York. (Photo: <http://www.mzz.gov.si/>)

by the U.S. President Barack Obama and a meeting with the U.N. Secretary General, Ban Kee-moon. Before the meeting with Ban, he held joint talks with his counterparts from Serbia, Libya, Chile, Nigeria and Turkey, highlighting among others also the Brdo Process, a Slovenian-Croatian initiative aimed at

fostering cooperation in the Balkans.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister, Karl Erjavec, met his Albanian and Algerian counterparts and spoke at a ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration on Human Rights. Minister also deposited the instrument of ratification of the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. He attended Friends of Syria meeting and ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends of Mediation among other engagements.

On Tuesday, President Pahor and Foreign Minister Erjavec attended a reception for the Slovenian community in New York, hosted by Slovenian permanent representative to the U.N., Andrej Logar. The event was held in the new premises of the mission and was joined by the new Slovenian ambassador to the United States, Dr. Bož Cerar.



President and the Foreign Minister together with Permanent Representative Andrej Logar at the reception on the premises of the Slovenia’s mission to the U.N. on Tuesday evening. (Photo: RP)

Slovene Archaeologist Ivan Sprajc Lectures at the Honorary Consulate in Mexico City

Mexico is full of archaeological sites dating from pre-Hispanic times. It may be surprising that many of these ancient cities are yet to be rediscovered and reclaimed from the tropical jungle in the south of Mexico.

Slovene Archaeologist, Dr. Ivan Sprajc, from the Slovene Academy of Science and Arts, has devoted most of his professional career to unearthing mysteries still hidden in the Yucatán peninsula. He organized an expedition last April, which resulted in one of the most fascinating archaeological discoveries in recent years: the expedition found the remains of the Mayan city of Chactún. Hidden in the middle of the Yucatán peninsula, in the Mexican State of Campeche, and in the middle of the Calkmul natural reserve, Dr. Sprajc's expedition found what was a rather large and important Mayan city with possibly as many as 40,000 inhabitants. Spread over about 54 acres of land,



From left: Primoz Kajdič, President of the Slovenes in Mexico association, Dr. Ivan Sprajc, and Ariel López, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia in Mexico.

the city was completely covered by jungle growth and vegetation when archeologists came across it.

Sprajc and his team went hunting for Chactún after looking at some aerial photos of Yucatán rainforests. They found many features that were obviously

architectural remains. From there, they took the coordinates and the next step was to locate the ancient alleys used by tappers and loggers to reach the area. They spent about three weeks clearing a 10-mile path to reach Chactún. The site is divided into three sections, each with its own monuments. In front of each of the monuments, the team found ceramic offerings, which show that these might have been places of worship. It will take years for future expeditions to reveal all the knowledge still hidden in the city of Chactún.

The Slovene community in Mexico City as well as several guests had the opportunity to listen to Dr. Sprajc's lecture, organized by the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia in Mexico, Ariel López, in which the archeologist took them hand in hand all the way to the heart of the Yucatán jungle.



Dr. Sprajc working at Chactún.

Consular Hours in New York City

The consular officer from the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, DC, will hold consular hours and provide consular services (authentications, certifications, passport applications, etc.) in New York City on Friday, October 18, 2013, at the premises of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations, located at 630 Third Avenue, 20th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017. **(Please note the new address of the Mission!)**

To schedule an appointment, please, fill out the form available at the embassy's website and send it to the Embassy of Slovenia at vwa@

gov.si by October 15, 2013, to allow the embassy enough time to verify your data.

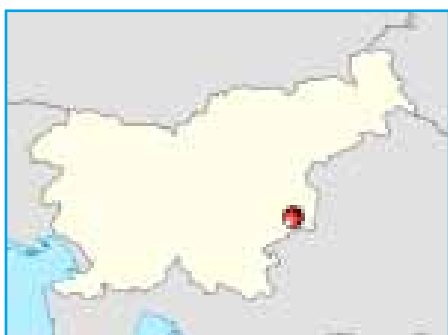
The embassy will suggest the time of your appointment and give you further information on the documentation you need to bring along. You may also visit the embassy website <http://washington.embassy.si/> (Consular Affairs, Visas) for documents required for most consular services. Please note that the consular fee must be paid with a money order made out to "Embassy of Slovenia". Cash, personal checks or credit cards will not be accepted.

Due to security reasons, prior appointment is needed to enter the premises of the Mission.



TOURISM

Brežice



The town of Brežice lies in the eastern part of Slovenia, on the left bank of the Sava river in the Lower Sava Valley, near the Croatian border. Celtic graves from the 2nd century BC have been discovered in Brežice, which has been continuously settled since prehistoric times. A Slavic settlement called Gradišče was established at the site soon after the arrival of the Slovenes



Photo: A. Tokić.

in the area. The castle in Brežice was first mentioned in 1249.

Brežice was affected by Ottoman raids several times during the 15th and 16th centuries. Peasant uprisings took place there during the 16th century; in 1515, peasants

attacked the Brežice castle, burned it, and killed the nobility sheltered in it. In 1529, construction began of a new fortress with a defense wall. The work was completed in 1590.

When the Attems family occupied the castle, it was

converted into a grand residence. The chapel, the ceiling above the grand staircase, and the Knight's Hall were decorated with frescoes, the moat around the castle was filled in, gardens were planted around the castle, and the castle got a new roof. After 1860, when the Attems family moved out, some of the premises were used as municipality offices. During World War I, the castle housed a hospital, and during World War II, the Germans used the castle for offices.

Since 1949, the castle has been the home of the Posavski Regional Museum, which contains archaeological and ethnological exhibits, exhibits on the Croatian and Slovenian peasant revolt, and a modern history collection. It is one of the largest regional museums in the country. Concerts and other cultural events take place throughout the year in the Knight's Hall, the largest secular frescoed room in Slovenia, and, in summer, the castle hosts the central concerts of the Brežice Festival of Early Music SEVICQ.



A decorated hall with preserved double staircases at its sides is the best secular painted Baroque space preserved in Slovenia. (Photo: Posavski Regional Museum)

The silhouette of the medieval town of Brežice was changed in 1914 by the erection of a water tower, constructed because this flat-lying town needed sufficient water pressure. The tower of reinforced concrete has a reservoir at the top; a similar tower can be found in Slovenia only in Kranj. An interesting addition to the town is also the double-arched, 527 m (1730 ft.) long iron bridge, which

spans the Sava and Krka rivers.

The municipality of Brežice is situated above a fault line and is extremely rich with springs of thermal water, which were discovered 200 years ago near the banks of the Sava river. The town boasts a number of thermal springs, which have been put to good use. Especially renowned is the largest thermal complex in the country, Terme Čatež, as well as the newest thermal Riviera in Slovenia, Terme Paradiso in Dobova.

The Krško-Brežice plain, the heart of the Posavje area, is surrounded by hills covered with forests, vineyards and orchards. Two wine roads, the Podgorjanska and Bizeljsko-Sremiška, wind through the hills above Brežice, and organized guided tours can be arranged to the renowned natural caves of Bizeljsko Repnice, where excellent selections of wine are stored.

For more information about Brežice visit: www.visitbrezice.si



Čatež thermal riviera. (Photo: B. Kladnik, www.slovenia.info)

EuroBasket 2013 in Slovenia

EuroBasket 2013, the 38th European basketball championship, closed on Sunday, September 22, in Ljubljana with the French national basketball team winning the biggest sporting event organized in Slovenia's independent history. Lithuania took the silver and Spain played Croatia for the third-place at the playoffs in Stožice Arena in Ljubljana.

Slovenia defeated Ukraine on Saturday, September 21, to claim fifth overall place at the tournament, in what is the second-best result for Slovenia ever at European basketball championships in eleven appearances. Slovenia, thus, also qualified for the 2014 FIBA Basketball World Cup in Spain and EuroBasket 2015 in Ukraine.

Slovenian guard Goran Dragič, who plays for Phoenix Suns in the NBA, was named



Fans. (Photo: <http://www.ukom.gov.si/>)

to the all-star team of the EuroBasket 2013 tournament after Sunday's final in Ljubljana. Dragič joined French point guard Tony Parker, who was named the most valuable player of the tournament, in the back court. Along with Dragič and Parker,

the all-star team is also made up of Croatian small-forward Bojan Bogdanović, Lithuanian forward Linas Kleiza and Spanish centre Marc Gasol.

Slovenia drew praises from International Basketball Federation (FIBA) Europe and its President Cyriel Coomans, as well as numerous participating teams, fans from around Europe and media outlets for its efforts in hosting the tournament. The next event will take place in Ukraine in 2015.

A total of 90 matches, played at the tournament, were watched by a total of 330,000 spectators, which amounts to 3,700 spectators per match. Altogether, 182,000 tickets were sold and a total of 55,000 foreign guests visited Slovenia during the tournament. The event was also a major success in business terms and a major promotion of basketball among young people.



Slovenian guard Goran Dragič in action. (Photo: <http://www.ukom.gov.si/>)

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

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>



Lecture by Anthony W. Hiti on Charles F. Schweinfurth

The Slovenian-American Heritage Foundation is organizing the fifth talk in the 2013 Lecture Series. Anthony Hiti, the President of the Foundation and a principal in the architecture firm Herman Gibans Fodor, Inc. in Cleveland, will present a lecture, followed by discussion, on Charles F. Schweinfurth, Cleveland's leading architect during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

When: **Tuesday, October 8, 2013, at 7 p.m.**

Where: **Slovenian Society Home, 20713 Recher Avenue, Euclid, Ohio**

Free entrance. A coffee and strudel social will follow the lecture.

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

SCC's Vinska Trgatev/Oktoberfest

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/>

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/>

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](#)