



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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U.S. Slovenia Political- Military Consultations



Photo was taken in December 2012 in Ljubljana during last year's political consultations with the U.S.

On November 18, the seventh military-political consultations between the U.S. and Slovenia were conducted at the U.S. Department of State. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, Gregory Kausner, and Director General for Global Issues and Multilateral Political Relations at the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Dragoljuba Benčina, chaired the dialogue that was built on the success of last year's meeting, held on December 11, 2012, in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The dialogue focused on a wide range of political and military issues, including shared strategic challenges in the region and continuation of efforts to enhance partnerships in security cooperation, peacekeeping, non proliferation, and disarmament.

Since 1992, the United States and the Republic of Slovenia have developed an impressive track record of cooperation on bilateral, regional, and global issues. Slovenia provided assistance to the United States and NATO by

facilitating the deployment of a multinational stabilization force to Bosnia and Herzegovina after the conclusion of the Dayton Accords. The United States supported Slovenia's 2004 accession to the North Atlantic Alliance and continues to work with the Slovenian military to promote greater cooperation and interoperability with NATO forces, including in its current roles as a contributor to both the KFOR mission in Kosovo and to the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.



Slovenia has also made critical contributions to international peacekeeping efforts.

Since 1998, the United States has supported Slovenia's development of ITF Enhancing Human Security, an organization specializing in mines and weapons destruction and abatement programs. Since 1998, ITF has enabled public and private donors to address lingering threats from landmines, unexploded munitions, and other post-conflict challenges such as landmine survivors' assistance and reducing excess, deteriorating, and potentially at-risk munitions stockpiles. As part of the dialogue, both parties

discussed future cooperation in bilateral military and security field.

Director General Benčina also met on the side with Acting Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Thomas P. Kelly, and also with Acting Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations, Dean Pittman, with Dr. E. William Colglazier, Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State and Director for Central and Northern Europe at the National Security Council, Lynette M. Behnke.

In these meetings,

Director General Benčina outlined Slovenian foreign policy priorities and presented Slovenian candidacy for the United Nations Human Rights Council for the period 2016–2018. Furthermore, she outlined Slovenia's aspirations for promoting the Responsibility to Protect concept as well as presented the invitation to the International seminar on Mediation in the Mediterranean, which will be hosted by Slovenia in March 2014.

(Source: U.S. Department of State Press Release, Slovenian MFA Press Release)

EVENTS

Young Professionals in Foreign Policy at the Embassy

On Wednesday, November 20, the Embassy of Slovenia hosted members and guests of the Young Professionals in Foreign Policy community, which consists of promising young professionals with diverse professional and cultural backgrounds, all of whom are bound together by an interest in addressing global challenges.

The young leaders were first addressed by Ambassador Dr. Cerar, who presented Slovenian current foreign policy in the geopolitical context of the country. He pointed out that Slovenia, placed at the crossroads of main European cultural and trade routes, gained its independence in 1991 and less than 15 years later became a member of EuroAtlantic integrations, both the NATO Alliance and the E.U. He stressed that Slovenia is a central European country, historically linked to the Habsburg Empire as well as to the Western Balkans. Because of its



Ambassador addressed around 40 young professionals. The event was organized in cooperation with Ms. Anna Atlaskina and Ms. Elisabeth Polich of YFPF.

geographical position, the country is nowadays also member of the Alpine Group and, at the same time, because of its short, but important share of the Adriatic coast, also a Mediterranean one. All these features, together with certain historical facts, pursuit of national interests, but also promotion of

democracy and human rights, are reflected in its foreign and national security policy.

The ambassador's address was followed by a Q and A session, which led into a comprehensive conversation that continued with a reception with Slovenian wine and culinary delights.

'Slovenia: Business Opportunities for U.S. Companies'



Consul General Žmauc with Ray J. Marvar and Jenifer Stueber of the Tucker Ellis LLP.



Consul General Žmauc and Economic Counselor Gorazd Renčelj with Cleveland City Councilman Michael Polensek.

On November 14, 2013, the Slovenian American Business Association (S-ABA) held in Cleveland, OH, a business conference titled 'Slovenia: Business Opportunities for U.S. Companies'. The goal of the conference was to promote business relations between American and Slovenian companies. With over 60 companies from across Slovenia, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and New York, it was the very first Slovenian business conference organized in the state of Ohio.

At the beginning of the conference, Gorazd Renčelj, Economic Counselor at the Slovenian Embassy in Washington DC, spoke about the current economic climate in Slovenia with special emphasis on privatization. Petra Mitchell, the president and CEO of the company Catalyst Connection, based in Pittsburgh, PA, presented a very interesting topic, titled 'The Resurgence

of Manufacturing in America'. Raymond Marvar and his colleagues from the law firm of Tucker Ellis LLP followed up with a corporate overview of doing business in the United States.

Two companies that were already engaged in international trade (one of them through SABA) gave very informative presentations summarizing their business ventures. The first, presented by Dr. Zorica Črnjak, outlined the collaboration between The PoliMat Center of Excellence located in Slovenia and the Austen Bioinnovation Institute, located in the city of Akron, Ohio. The second example described the partnership between Grah Lighting of Slovenia and WIRIC Corporation of Detroit, Michigan; it was presented by Phil Warburton, President and General Manager of WIRIC Corp.

To conclude the conference, Jurček Žmauc, Consul General of the Republic of Slovenia in Cleveland, introduced all of the members of SABA. This included

a total of 36 companies: 22 from Slovenia and 14 from the U.S.

Along with the regular activities planned for promoting business relations between Slovenia and the U.S., SABA plans to hold its 2nd Annual Business Conference in 2014 in the city of Pittsburgh.

During the conference, Slovenian wines by St. Tomas, and Črnko and Protner, Laško beer, and Slovenia Vodka were all promoted by Mr. Emil Gaspari, a Slovenian wine and beer importer in New York.

The city of Cleveland awarded to the president of SABA, Mr. Jože Kokal, a proclamation recognizing him for encouraging and strengthening business ties between Cleveland and the Republic of Slovenia. Additional sponsors included SPIRIT Slovenia, the Slovenian Consulate in Cleveland, Team NEO, and Tucker Ellis LLC. More information about SABA is available at: <http://www.sloaba.com/> (Jurček Žmauc, Consul General of the Republic of Slovenia)

“Luxury Slovenia” Brand Presentation

On Friday, November 15, the Embassy of Slovenia, together with the tourist agency Imperial Travel from Slovenia organized a presentation of Luxury Slovenia brand, introducing Slovenia as a luxury tourism destination.

In his introductory remarks, Ambassador Dr. Cerar outlined the importance of the tourist sector for Slovenian economy. He emphasized Slovenia’s advantages as a luxury destination: its combination of modern infrastructure along with beautiful and diverse nature and genuine hospitality, which provide sophisticated guests with unsurpassed luxury.

Imperial Travel’s General Managing Partner Matěj Valenčič presented Luxury Slovenia as a highly accomplished brand which boasts quality, exceptional service and perfect balance between price and top-quality luxury. He outlined



most recognized partners of Luxury Slovenia such as the elite countryside luxury apartment complex Pule Estate, Premium winemaker from Primorska region Kocijančič-Zanut winery and the luxurious G Design Hotel that boasts an excellent

location only five minutes from the center of Ljubljana. Mr. Valenčič also presented Slovenia as a hospitable destination for LGBT guests. More information about Luxury Slovenia trademark can be found at: <http://www.luxuryslovenia.eu>

ANNOUNCEMENT

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, December 13**, 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!).

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 **December 10, 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.

Bogdan Grom

The acclaimed Slovenian painter and sculptor Bogdan Grom passed away on Monday morning aged 94 at his home in Englewood, New Jersey. Born in Devičina, a village near Trieste, to a Slovenian family, Grom gained international acclaim with his paintings and sculptures, many of which can be seen in churches and galleries across the world.

Grom's works are part of permanent exhibitions at the New York Guggenheim Museum, the White House Art Collection, the Cincinnati Art Museum, the National Museum in Belgrade and the Ljubljana Museum of Modern Art. Born in 1918, Grom studied art in Perugia, Venice, Rome and Ljubljana. He travelled a lot and lived in Trieste, Prague, Ljubljana, Zagreb, Belgrade, Subotica and Ptuj. He moved to the U.S. in 1957 and gradually made a name for himself as an artist. A statue of a panda he made even found its place in the Oval Office during Richard Nixon's presidency. Several of his major architectural installations can be found in the New York

metropolitan area, including St. Vartan's Armenian Cathedral in New York City, St. Thomas's Armenian Church in Tenafly, NJ, and the Schulman Chapel in the Woods (Congregation Kol Ami) in White Plains, NY.

In June 2011, Grom was decorated with the Order of Merit by former President Danilo Türk. Two years earlier, the acclaimed Slovenian film director, Damjan Kozole, made a documentary about him entitled "Bogdan Grom, Portrait of an Artist".

Grom was devoted to depicting nature in its limitless beauty, patterns and colors. He will be fondly remembered not only as a remarkable man and a distinguished artist, but also a generous friend of the Slovenian embassy in Washington, DC. His sculpture, The Sentinel (Straža), adorns the entrance of the embassy and his painting The Document (Dokument) is on permanent display in the lobby of the premises. The Embassy of Slovenia also hosted in 2009 a retrospective of his extensive



Bogdan Grom next to his sculpture The Sentinel in front of the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, D.C. in 2012.

body of work, covering the period from 1947 to 2008, the series "From Trieste Karst to SouthWest Canyons" and the "Winnetou Series", an homage to German author Karl May.

A memorial service for Mr. Grom will be held at the Slovenian St. Cyril's church in New York, for which he created the Way of the Cross, the baptistry and the tabernacle. He will be buried in Trieste in April. (Source:STA)

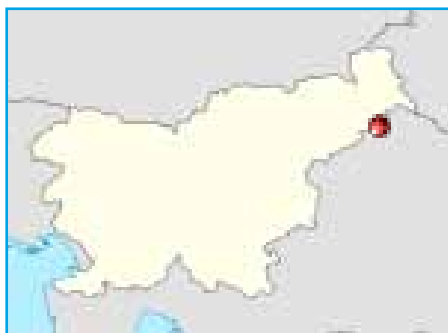


Grom was very attached to Kras region and often depicted this part of Slovenia.



Bogdan Grom also depicted the famous Washingtonian panda. On the photo is official White House Panda Collector Plate issued in 1982.

Ormož



The municipality of Ormož lies in the northeastern part of Slovenia. Located between the Drava and Mura rivers, it belongs to the Prlekija region. The Ormož natural terrace extending along the Drava river was inhabited already around 2100 BC. Here, under the hills of Slovenske gorice, at the crossroads of major traffic routes, was woven the rich history of Ormož. Archeological remains testify to the existence of rich building technology and a vibrant residential, culinary and drinking culture already during the Bronze Age when Ormož was the largest settlement in Eastern Alps.

Ormož is known for its rich cultural heritage. (Photos: www.Ormož-info.si)

The town was first mentioned as Holermus in a document dating back to 1273. Due to its strategic importance, it attained municipal rights in 1293 and city rights in 1331. At the time, battles for the eastern border between the Hungarian kingdom and the Salzburg archdiocese were taking place and it is for this reason that a fortified castle was erected by the Ptuj nobility to defend the Austria border from the Hungarians.

The construction of the castle dates back to 1278 when

Rudolph of Habsburg granted the right to build a castle in Ormož to Friderik of Ptuj. After the decline of the Ptuj Lords in the 15th century, the property was owned by various noble families. Currently, the castle serves as a venue for representational purposes of the Ormož municipality and houses the Franc Ksaver Meško library, the Ptuj–Ormož Regional Museum, Radio Prlek and the Tourist Information Center (TIC). The Ormož Castle property includes of a number of barns, built throughout different periods starting with the 18th century. The complex currently houses several exhibitions, including the Medieval Statutes from the Ormož area and a thematic presentation of the Ormož late-Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery (11th to 1st century BC).

The Ormož Castle Park contains a number of exotic trees. Due to its design and variety, it is considered to be one of the most beautiful gardens in Slovenia and one of the most exceptionally well-preserved Slovene castle parks.

The town, separated



View of Kerenčič Square in Ormož. (Photo credit: Ciril Ambrož)



The area around Ormož is known for beautiful terraced vineyards.

from the castle by walls in the Middle Ages, continued to develop independently. To honor Ptuj's Lord Friderik, who granted to it city rights, the town was renamed Friedau, however, the previous name Holermus was not completely forgotten. Through centuries of phonetic changes the name of the town developed into the current name of Ormož.

The town was often devastated by fires and was ravaged by the Hungarians

(1487), Turks (1532), rebel Hungarian farmers (1605) and the Kruci (Cruciati, 1704). A more peaceful era for its development began only in the second half of the 18th century. In addition to their general town privileges, the townsfolk were also allowed to organize annual fairs. This tradition has been preserved to the present day; St. Jakob's Fair continues to take place on Monday after St. Jakob's Sunday, St. Jakob being the patron of the parish church,

located at the eastern edge of the Ormož Town Square.

The oldest frescoes in the church originated in the mid-14th century, while the expressive composition of the Last Judgment was created on the wall of the triumphal arch in 1630. There is a significant painting on the north side of the nave, where 48 scenes from the Old and New Testaments are depicted in four rows. Another interesting part of the Ormož Franciscan monastery interior is the baptismal font from the 16th century.

The area around Ormož is known for beautiful terraced vineyards, viticultural traditions, pristine nature, good food, superb wines, pumpkin-seed oil and rich cultural and ethnological heritage. The hillsides of Ormoške gorice are home to vintage wines such as 'laški rizling' (Welschriesling), 'šipon' (Furmint), sauvignon, 'traminec' (Traminer), 'beli pinot' (Pinot blanc), chardonnay and 'renski rizling' (Rhine Riesling).

A number of traditional wine cellars stand on the hills surrounding Ormož, typically wooden, straw-covered, with their origin dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries. The locals call such wine cellars 'klečaje' ('klečaja' in singular). Vineyard cottages, wine shops, taverns and tourist farms located in the area offer excellent wine and diverse culinary delights, and are included in the Ormož Wine Route, which is itself suitable for biking, horseback riding, carriage rides and for long walks on well-marked trails. For more information on visiting Ormož see: www.Ormož-info.si or www.slovenia.info/Ormož



Each year, summer evenings are enriched by a series of events in the courtyard of the Ormož Castle, including theatre shows, concerts, and workshops.

Concert by Mak Grgić and Nejc Kuhar at the National Gallery of Art

The Seventy-Second Season of Concerts 2013–2014 in the National Gallery of Art will feature Slovenian guitarists Mak Grgić and Nejc Kuhar. Music by J.S. Bach and Slovenian composers.

When: [November 24 at 6:30 p.m.](#)

Where: [West Building, West Garden Court, The National Gallery of Art](#), located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets NW along Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC.

Admission free.

More information: <http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/calendar/concerts/seventy-second/nov-24-2013.html>



Slovenian film DUAL at the 26th Annual AFI – EU Film Festival in Silver Spring

Now in its 26th year, the AFI European Union Film Showcase continues its tradition of bringing the best in European cinema to Washington audiences. This year's selection of more than 50 films includes award-winners, international festival favorites, local box-office hits and debut works by promising new talents, plus many countries' official Oscar® submissions for Best Foreign Language Film. Slovenia will be represented by the film *The Dual* (*Dvojina*).

"A delicately crafted charmer of a film, for a while Nejc Gazvoda's colorful, funny and insightful film feels like a lesbian equivalent of *BEFORE SUNSET* as two young women wander the warm nighttime streets of Ljubljana, talking, having fun and gradually coming under each other's spell." –Mark Adams, *Screen Daily*.

Synopsis: Iben is a free spirited Dane, stopping through Slovenia on the way to a holiday in Greece. When her flight is delayed, she crosses paths with Tina, the straitlaced bus driver who picks her up at the airport. As the two spend the evening together, sparks begin to fly.

Official Selection, 2013 Karlovy Vary Film Festival. DIR/SCR Nejc Gazvoda; SCR Janez Lapajne; PROD Aleš Pavlin, Andrej Stritof. Slovenia/Croatia/Denmark, 2013, color, 102 min. In Slovenian and Danish with English subtitles. NOT RATED

When: [Saturday, December 14 at 11:00 a.m.](#); [Monday, December 16 at 9:45 p.m.](#)

Where: [AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center, 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910](#)

More information: <http://www.afi.com/silver/eushowcase/>

