

DIPLOMATSKI ZVEZEK

DIPLOMATIC BULLETIN



Nr 19
July 2026



Minister Kajzer's remarks at the Economic Diplomacy Conference / Author: MFEA

»Foreign policy, especially for smaller countries, must be based on continuity and must always keep in mind national interests as our foremost priority, as well as the creation of tangible benefits for our citizens and the Slovenian economy.«

Tone Kajzer
Minister of Foreign and European Affairs

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

This 19th edition opens with an address by Tone Kajzer, the newly appointed Slovenian Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, in which he outlines the framework for foreign policy action in the coming years. We extend a warm welcome to the new minister and wish him every success in our joint future endeavours.

One of his first official acts was to present Dr Dimitrij Rupel, one of the founders of the Slovenian state and the country's first foreign minister, with a Lifetime Achievement in Diplomacy Award. This issue of the Diplomatic Bulletin features highlights from the awards ceremony. We also report on some of the major events organised by the Ministry towards the end of spring. The 15th Africa Day International Conference once again demonstrated the great potential for cooperation across a range of sectors. The fifth national conference on artificial intelligence brought together representatives from the public sector, businesses, academic sphere, research institutions and civil society. This year's conference focused on the transition from the potential of artificial intelligence to its ethical and responsible implementation in practice.

The two-day economic diplomacy consultations were held as part of the Slovenian Global Forum again this year. The focus was on integrating diplomacy more closely with the needs of the economy and science, and on strengthening Slovenia's competitiveness. The section that covers the work of our embassies is dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the Slovenian Language Lectorate in Lisbon. In this issue, Ambassador Brian Bergant, Head Diplomatic Supervisor, reflects on the importance of overseeing the work and operations of our diplomatic missions.

The 'In the Past' section focuses on Bled and its significance, including its role as a diplomatic hub. We have researched the events that have taken place there over the past 150 years. Continuing the theme of Bled, be sure to read about how this town became a permanent and significant conference venue for the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission, despite there being no whales in Lake Bled or Slovenian waters. This edition also outlines the preparations made by the Bled Strategic Forum for this year's international conference, which will once again establish the town's position as a major diplomatic hub.

Have a peaceful and pleasant summer!

Sabina Stadler, Chief Editor

Table of contents

- Foreword by Minister Kajzer
- Slovenia's first Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Dimitrij Rupel, receives Lifetime Achievement in Diplomacy Award
- Economic diplomacy consultations 2026 and participation in the Slovenian Global Forum
- Fifth national conference on artificial intelligence
- Africa Day 2026
- Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission in Bled,
- Reflections by Alain Brian Bergant, Ambassador, Head Diplomatic Supervisor
- Bled Strategic Forum 2026
- In the past...: Bled as a diplomatic venue
- Slovenia in Portugal
- Last Page

FOREWORD BY MINISTER KAJZER

Dear readers,

It is my great pleasure, as the new Slovenian Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, to address you in this edition of the Diplomatic Bulletin. Now in its fourth year of publication, the Bulletin offers valuable insights into the work of the Ministry and its staff, as well as the numerous projects and issues that shape Slovenian foreign policy.

As I have emphasised on several occasions, I view foreign policy as a means of advancing Slovenia's national interests, which primarily concern the security, stability and well-being of its citizens. These interests are rooted in the values of freedom, democracy, the rule of law and human rights.



Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Tone Kajzer / Author: MFEA

These values also form the basis of Slovenia's sovereignty, economic prosperity and international credibility.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of Slovenia becoming an independent and sovereign state, as well as the 35th anniversary of Slovenian diplomacy. The work of Slovenian diplomats has played a pivotal role in shaping the country's development and international standing to this day. Slovenia is a responsible member of the international community, a reliable European partner, a committed transatlantic ally and a peaceful neighbour. Maintaining good relations with neighbouring countries is one of our key foreign policy priorities. Others include promoting regional cooperation in Central Europe and strengthening strategic bilateral partnerships within the European and transatlantic spheres.

As part of the EU's decision-making core, Slovenia must act with confidence and decisiveness. However, Slovenia is also part of a wider world that is changing rapidly, becoming increasingly unpredictable and competitive. This is why we cannot simply observe these processes from the sidelines. As a member of key international organisations and alliances, we must pursue an active, pragmatic, interest-driven foreign policy to strengthen our influence and generate tangible benefits for our citizens and their well-being.

All progress is built on peace and security. During my term of office, I intend to devote considerable attention to promoting a broader understanding of security and its importance, and to strengthening the internationalisation of the Slovenian economy. I am convinced that there is considerable scope to enhance economic diplomacy within the Ministry and across its diplomatic and consular network. I am confident that we will be able to capitalise on this potential, by utilising the full range of modern diplomacy tools.

A modern, responsive and effective ministry can only be based on the professionalism, expertise and commitment of its employees. The diplomatic profession requires dedication to the public interest, knowledge and a diverse range of professional expertise, as well as integrity. The Ministry possesses all these qualities and experience in abundance. Alongside our families, Slovenian diplomats are proud ambassadors of our country's values, professional excellence and innovation. However, to fulfil this role effectively, we also need the Ministry to provide us with effective administrative support and high-quality organisational assistance. This is an area to which I will devote special attention.

I am confident that the Ministry will contribute even more to building trust, promoting Slovenia, and enhancing its reputation and prosperity in the future. As Minister, I am committed to achieving this. I believe we all share this goal, and look forward to collaborating with you on this important process and to hearing your ideas and initiatives.

Tone Kajzer, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

SLOVENIA'S FIRST MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DR DIMITRIJ RUPEL, RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN DIPLOMACY AWARD

On the 35th anniversary of Slovenia's independence, the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Tone Kajzer, presented Dr Dimitrij Rupel with the highest award for a lifetime's work in diplomacy. Dr Rupel was the longest-serving minister of foreign affairs, having held the post from 1990 to 1993, in 2000, from 2000 to 2004 and from 2004 to 2008).

The award recognises individuals who have significantly impacted Slovenian diplomacy and helped establish the country's international reputation through years of outstanding service.

"Dr Dimitrij Rupel's career is exceptional in many respects. As an intellectual, university professor, publicist, dissident, politician and diplomat, he has spent decades contributing to a shared space of free thought, democratic dialogue and international openness in Slovenia. When Slovenian statehood was being established, he made a significant contribution through his valuable knowledge, vision, international connections, incisiveness, boldness and persuasive arguments, ensuring that Slovenia's voice reached far beyond its borders. This was not just any position. It was a historic responsibility," Minister Kajzer highlighted in his speech.



Dr Rupel receives an award for his lifetime achievement in diplomacy / Author: STA

According to the minister, Dr Rupel played a vital role in strengthening Slovenia's standing as a credible, responsible and respected international player. He helped steer the country's integration into European and Euro-Atlantic structures, represented Slovenia in the most important international forums and contributed to the development and professionalisation of the Slovenian diplomatic service. He was also the driving force behind prestigious Slovenian public diplomacy projects, such as the Bled Strategic Forum and the Centre for European Perspective. These projects have enhanced Slovenia's international reputation for over 20 years.



In his acceptance speech, Dr Rupel recalled the period during which we fought for independence. He noted that, in his view, statehood had been achieved not through war, but through defence. In any case, international recognition was necessary. He described the Brioni Agreement of 7 July 1991, which brought the Ten-Day War to an end, as marking the beginning of Slovenian diplomacy and representing the first step towards international recognition.

Acceptance speech by Dr Dimitrij Rupel / Author: STA

Reflecting on the priorities for Slovenia's future foreign policy, which were first discussed at the 2003 'Talks on the future of Slovenia', initiated by President Janez Drnovšek, he said: "The convention on the future of Slovenia could, if properly structured, evolve into the Coalition for the Future of Slovenia." He concluded: "The past of Slovenian foreign policy is written on thousands and thousands of pages, but its future remains a blank page, waiting for its authors."

ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY CONSULTATIONS 2026 AND PARTICIPATION IN THE SLOVENIAN GLOBAL FORUM

The Directorate for Economic, Cultural and Science Diplomacy organised its annual two-day economic diplomacy consultations, which were attended by 42 economic advisers from Slovenian diplomatic missions and consular posts around the world. The audience included economic advisers, diplomats and locally engaged staff responsible for the internationalisation of the Slovenian economy at Slovenia's diplomatic missions abroad. This year saw the first attendance of Science Attachés from the Permanent Representation to the OECD in Paris and the Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office.

On the first day, 8 June, the consultations took place at the MFEA and focused on current events and topics that economic advisers regularly encounter in their work. In his address, the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Tone Kajzer, emphasised the key role of economic diplomacy in implementing Slovenia's strategic interests. 'My vision is a proactive, pragmatic and credible diplomacy that puts Slovenia's interests first,' he said. 'The priorities of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia are national security, the well-being of Slovenian citizens and achieving concrete results for the economy, science and society. The goal is clear: to align diplomacy more closely with the needs of the economy and science, strengthen Slovenia's international position and enhance the competitiveness of the Slovenian economy,' underlined Minister Kajzer.



Participants in the meeting with Minister Kajzer
Author: MFEA

In his presentation, Prof. Mojmir Mrak from the School of Economics and Business at the University of Ljubljana discussed Slovenia's role in strengthening economic security within the EU during a period of political and economic change. Matej Skočir, Acting Director-General of the Directorate for Industry, Entrepreneurship and Internationalisation at the Ministry of the Economy, Labour and Sport, presented Slovenia's new start-up strategy. Dr Uroš Kerin, Director of Elektroinštitut Milan Vidmar, moderated the panel on energy and artificial intelligence, which featured Andrej Souvent, Director of Operato, and Andraž Bole, Director of Unweave. The second panel focused on science diplomacy. Tanja Permozer, Head of the Slovenian Space Office (Ministry of the Economy, Labour and Sport), and recently elected Vice-Chair of the Council of the European Space Agency, presented Slovenia's priorities in the space sector.

During the internal session held in the afternoon, diplomats who were completing their assignments in economic diplomacy shared their experiences. English-speaking locally engaged staff who were attending the consultations for the first time, also presented their perspectives. The heads of all three sectors outlined their work plans for the rest of the year.

The Directorate for Economic, Cultural and Science Diplomacy of the MFEA organises the Slovenian Global Forum in Maribor each year. Economic diplomacy consultations are held alongside the forum, enabling participants to connect with Slovenian companies for business talks (B2B) on the opportunities in the markets covered by diplomatic missions and consular posts abroad.

On 9 June, the consultations continued at the Maribor centre, where Slovenia's flagship event on the internationalisation of the Slovenian economy was held.



The arrival of Minister Kajzer at the Slovenian Global Forum in Maribor / Author: Klemen Golob

The opening addresses were delivered by the Minister of the Economy, Labour and Sport, Dr Anže Logar, and the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Tone Kajzer

In his speech, Minister Kajzer emphasised the ongoing importance of economic diplomacy in creating new opportunities for Slovenian companies in international markets. 'Although Slovenia is a small country, its entrepreneurs, researchers, innovators and athletes prove every day that size is no barrier to global ambition. In fact, it is bravery, knowledge and perseverance that lead to the greatest successes, which is why economic diplomacy is one of our key priorities. We want to strengthen the link between diplomacy and the needs of the economy, and deliver tangible results in foreign markets,' he said.

During the afternoon, around 160 B2B meetings were held, with the support of 42 economic advisers helping Slovenian companies to develop business opportunities across 82 foreign markets.

FIFTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE – FROM VISION TO TRUST

In cooperation with other ministries, the academic and research community and business associations, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the Ministry of Digital Transformation and the Ministry of Defence organised the fifth national conference 'Artificial intelligence – from vision to trust' at Jablje Castle. This was the central event for debate on the future development and use of artificial intelligence in Slovenia, as well as in a broader European and international context

The conference brought together representatives from government, business, academia, research institutions and civil society. Topics discussed covered the opportunities that AI brings for economic development, greater efficiency in public administration and increased competitiveness. Other topics included trust, safety, regulation, ethics and the social effects of new technologies. As Slovenia's leading expert-level event dedicated to artificial intelligence in 2026, the conference continued its tradition of bringing together key stakeholders from across the country's AI ecosystem.



A full auditorium at Jable Castle
Author: MFEA

The diversity of participants, together with the more than 350 people who registered to attend either in person at Jablje Castle or online, demonstrates that artificial intelligence is an issue that transcends individual sectors. It requires a comprehensive societal dialogue, practical implementation and a clear vision for future development.

From theory to (responsible) practice

The main topic of this year's conference was the shift from discussing the potential of AI to its deliberate, responsible and trustworthy implementation. Special emphasis was placed on specific examples of AI application and the design of environments that foster innovation while protecting fundamental rights, democratic values and public interest. Participants also focused on identifying Slovenia's niche opportunities in this rapidly developing field, which presents significant political, economic and security challenges in its use and development.

AI is no longer a concept of the future; it has become part of everyday life and is increasingly embedded in business, public administration, education, healthcare, sustainable development and the energy sector, defence and security. It is reshaping international relations, global economic and security dynamics, geopolitics and many other areas. Recognising both its significance and our responsibility in its application and development is therefore essential. Equally important is promoting lifelong learning and raising public awareness of both the opportunities and potential risks associated with these technologies.

Technology in the service of people

Many renowned national and international experts from the fields of law, technology, research, ethics and public policy participated in the event. They confirmed that AI can make a significant contribution to addressing societal challenges if its development is based on trust, transparency, responsibility and the inclusion of various stakeholders.

The conference took place during a particularly significant year, as Slovenia is celebrating 50 years of AI development, further highlighting the importance of the domestic research community and the achievements of Slovenian researchers at the international level.

The conference's key message was that AI is no longer merely a technological vision of the future; it is becoming a fundamental part of the infrastructure of modern society. Therefore, it is essential to ensure its responsible, safe and trustworthy use, while also creating conditions that foster innovation, economic competitiveness and technological sovereignty in Slovenia.

Key conference topics

The introductory part of the conference focused on the development of AI in Slovenia and its role in modern society.

Dr Vida Groznik's presentation 'Fifty years of artificial intelligence in Slovenia' outlined the remarkable development of the Slovenian research community in this field. Participants learnt about the beginnings of AI research at the Jožef Stefan Institute in 1970, the international impact of the Slovenian research community and advances in machine learning, expert systems, bioinformatics, computer vision and language technologies. They also heard about recent achievements, including Slovenian generative language models and the national AI infrastructure.

The second introductory address was delivered by Prof. Dr Verica Trstenjak, who outlined the relationship between AI, fundamental rights, ethics and justice in law. She also emphasised the need for a responsible use of AI for the benefit of both people and society.

The first panel addressed the global development of AI and Slovenia's position in a rapidly changing international environment. Moderated by Dr Aleš Dobnikar, this panel featured Dr Aida Kamišalić Latifić (FERI, University of Maribor), Dr Vida Groznik (FRI, University of Ljubljana), Dr Jelena Virant Burnik (Information Commissioner) and Ambassador Andrej Slapničar. The panel's key conclusions were that Slovenia has a high-quality research base; that the commercialisation of knowledge needs to be faster; that collaboration between researchers, the government and the business sector is crucial; that trust must become the central guiding principle of development; and that technological sovereignty is becoming a strategic priority.



Panelists in the discussion / Author: MFEA

The second panel focused on the practical aspects of implementing AI in organisations. Dr Slavko Žitnik (FRI, University of Ljubljana) moderated the panel, which featured Nataša Vidmar Kraljević (AKOS), Prof. Dr Sašo Džeroski (Jožef Stefan Institute), Prof. Dr Domen Mongus (FERI, University of Maribor) and Marko Štefančič (Competence Centre for Artificial Intelligence, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia). Key conclusions included the need for organisations to strategically integrate AI, increased investment in people and infrastructure, regulation that supports innovation, a general increase in digital competencies, and closer collaboration between the private sector, public administration and the research sector.

The third panel focused on best practices and specific Slovenian projects. These demonstrated that Slovenia already has a number of successful AI applications with significant practical value in various fields, including industry, public administration, agriculture, healthcare, education and diplomacy. Of particular note was the presentation by Peruna, a company that employs people with disabilities. The presentation highlighted the collaboration between these employees and the robots that assist them in their work, describing how initial scepticism towards humanoid robots was replaced by enthusiasm once employees started working alongside them.



Conference organizers
Author: MFEA

Conclusion

The fifth national conference on artificial intelligence confirmed that Slovenia has the knowledge, research capabilities and organisational potential to actively co-shape the future of artificial intelligence both in Europe and around the world.

Discussions revealed that artificial intelligence is an exceptional opportunity for Slovenia's development. However, its success will depend on the integration of research, industry and government, investment in people and infrastructure, and the cultivation of public trust.

The conference made it clear that the future of artificial intelligence is not just a technological issue, but also a matter of societal, economic, democratic development, as well as improvements in quality of life. Building on five decades of excellence in AI research, Slovenia is well placed to remain internationally recognised in this field.

The conference was successfully concluded, once again reaffirming its role as the central national forum for shaping the future of artificial intelligence in Slovenia. The event at Jablje Castle demonstrated again that Slovenia is thinking strategically, boldly and collaboratively in addressing one of the defining technological developments of our time. Speakers and participants unanimously emphasised that artificial intelligence is ultimately a tool, and that how we choose to use it depends entirely on our sense of responsibility and the future we wish to build.

A video recording of the conference is available at : <https://www.youtube.com/live/Y6SsUfsLBBk>

AFRICA DAY 2026

The Africa Day international conference took place at Jablje Castle on 2 June. Now in its 15th year, the event was organised by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and, for the first time, took place at ambassadorial level. More than 100 guests attended, including representatives of African countries, Slovenian companies and ministries.

David Tavželj, Executive Director of the International Centre for Promotion of Enterprises (ICPE); Neva Grašič, State Secretary; and Dr Zlatko Šabič, Adviser to the President of the Republic, opened the conference. In their opening addresses, they emphasised the importance of dialogue and cooperation in overcoming shared challenges and in promoting economic development, cooperation and mutual respect



Representatives from nine African countries attended the conference: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Morocco, Rwanda, Sudan, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Each delegation presented their country's economic profile, development priorities and opportunities for closer cooperation with Slovenian partners. These presentations provided valuable insights for Slovenian businesses interested in expanding into African markets, offering a clearer understanding of potential export opportunities across the continent.

Africa Day 2026 / Author: MFEA

In addition to the official speakers, Slovenian entrepreneurs who have experience of doing business in Africa shared their practical insights with companies that are considering entering these markets. Representatives of Slovenian ministries and other public institutions also outlined development programmes that could support cooperation with African partner countries.

Exchanging knowledge and experience is fundamental to building equal and respectful partnerships. In line with this principle, the conference panels brought together a diverse range of stakeholders, enabling participants to share their perspectives and learn from each other.

This year's conference focus was water resource management. The guest of honour was therefore the Kingdom of Morocco, one of the countries most affected by water scarcity. A dedicated panel explored this issue in depth. Laila Oualkacha, representing the Moroccan Ministry of Equipment and Water, presented an overview of the country's approach to water management and its policies to address increasing water scarcity. She emphasised that this issue is treated as a national priority in the country's long-term strategies and policy measures, particularly in the National Water Plan 2020–2050.

As water management was the conference's main theme, a delegation of African representatives also attended the Bled Water Forum at Vila Bled the following day, accompanied by representatives of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. The forum brought together experts and decision-makers from the government, businesses and research institutions from around the world for a series of panel discussions. After the forum, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs team took the African ambassadors on a short visit to Bled Castle, where they had the opportunity to admire one of Slovenia's most iconic landmarks.

With participation from a wide range of African countries, the 15th Africa Day once again demonstrated the diversity of the African continent. Far from being a single, homogeneous entity, Africa comprises 54 internationally recognised sovereign states, each with their own distinct characteristics. By hosting the conference, Slovenia continues to foster mutual understanding and respect, laying the foundations for long-term cooperation.

The accompanying programme was enriched by the participation of the African diaspora in Slovenia. Through presentations of their culinary traditions, music and dance, members of the diaspora pointed out the importance of intercultural dialogue as a key element of modern diplomacy. During the evening reception at the Grand Plaza Hotel, Fred Uduma, president of the African diaspora in Slovenia, emphasised the important role of the diaspora in building bridges between Slovenia and African countries. He said that they make a valuable contribution to fostering stronger mutual understanding and lasting partnerships.

The 2026 Africa Day once again demonstrated the growing potential for cooperation between Slovenia and African countries. As the conference continues to grow, it is becoming an increasingly important platform for dialogue, networking and developing mutually beneficial partnerships between Slovenian and African stakeholders.



Highlights from Africa Day 2026 / Author: MFEA

MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION IN BLED, WITH AN ACCOMPANYING CULTURAL PROGRAMME

On 27 and 28 May 2026, Slovenia co-hosted the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission ([IWC SC](#)) meeting for the seventh time. The meeting was attended by 230 participants, primarily scientists from over 30 countries. Supported by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, the meeting was organised by the IWC Secretariat. The accompanying programme introduced participants to Slavic mythology through film and music, with the aim of transcending regional conflicts.



Meeting of the International Whaling Commission, Bled, May 27 and 28, 2026 / Author: MFEA

Slovenia has co-hosted these meetings since 2014 (2016, 2017, 2018, 2023, 2024 and 2026) due to its high standards and its excellent reputation for environmental protection both on land and at sea. This is a priority for Slovenia's foreign policy and the international scientific community. Since 2018, these meetings have been held consecutively in Bled, after Slovenia negotiated an agreement for the town to become the permanent host venue for the IWC SC.

Hosting these meetings in Slovenia is significant for another reason: as well as whales, the IWC SC addresses dolphins. These marine mammals are frequently encountered in Slovenian waters and the Gulf of Trieste. In Slovenia, they are monitored and studied by the [Morigenos Society](#), whose president, Dr Tilen Genov, chaired one of the IWC SC working groups.

The Scientific Committee provides the International Whaling Commission with the scientific basis for its decision-making. Slovenia's Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning have co-hosted several such meetings in Portorož, while this year's meeting will be held in Australia. The IWC SC assesses the size of global whale and dolphin populations and their genetic diversity. The committee also provides expert opinions on the appropriateness of quota levels for specific forms of whaling, and is involved in the conservation and observation of these species and their environments.

In recent years, the main issues have been reducing the impact of underwater noise, as whales and dolphins are sensitive to it because they use echolocation to communicate, navigate and hunt, and tackling marine pollution, entanglement in fishing nets and collisions with ships. These issues have become even more pressing in light of recent geopolitical developments, which have led to increased traffic in certain areas. The west coast of South Africa is one such example. This region is of global importance to humpback whales, and the number of vessels there has quadrupled since shipping was rerouted away from the Red Sea and around the Cape of Good Hope at the end of 2023. Due to the impact on the whales, this development has attracted the attention of the international media.

Slovenian media covered the IWC SC meeting held in Bled, which was also featured on the popular TV SLO1 programme Ugriznimo znanost and can be viewed [here](#).



From the movie Shadows of the Gods / Author: Rudi Uran

Sound public policy is essential for protecting marine mammals and safeguarding international peace and security both on land and at sea. Such policies can be even more effective when underpinned by greater mutual understanding between nations and cultures. Against the backdrop of a history marked by ideological divisions, political tensions and conflict, the accompanying programme introduced participants to aspects of Slavic cultural heritage and mythology through music, film and costume design. The programme featured the screening of an excerpt from the upcoming film *Shadows of the Gods*, directed by Prof. Boštjan Brezovnik.

The film tells the story of a modern man and the moment when myth merges with history. A pivotal character in this narrative is Veles, the god of the underworld, who is stripped of his immortality by the goddess Zora, enabling him to walk among humans. Transformed into a Turkish man, Veles accompanies Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent on his march towards Vienna in 1532. The film intertwines the mythological and the real worlds, merging them into a single flow of images, sound and silence. Conceived as a slow, atmospheric experience, the film invites viewers to reflect on human nature – fragility, violence and need for meaning – rather than providing guidance.

The film excerpt was accompanied live by the Slovenian Flute Orchestra, which is made up entirely of academic musicians and is conducted by Prof. Matej Zupan. The orchestra then performed a concert. The flute, a central instrument in the ancient period in which the film is set, enchanted the audience.

Flute orchestra / Author: MFEA



The supporting programme was organised in collaboration with the Municipality of Duplek, the Maribor Institute for Local Self-Government, the Forum of Slavic Cultures, the Slovenian Flute Orchestra and the Bled Water Forum, which presented its water sommelier training programme in partnership with water, cultural and scientific diplomacy.

Sometimes, science and art are directly connected. At other times, music can contribute to the success of a scientific conference by helping create the right atmosphere. This time, the conference resulted in one of the most complex assessments that the committee has ever conducted regarding North Pacific minke whales.

DUTIES AND BEST PRACTICES, AND THE ROLE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HEAD DIPLOMATIC SUPERVISOR

Reflections by Alain Brian Bergant, Ambassador, Head Diplomatic Supervisor

The office of the Head Diplomatic Supervisor was established in 2009. The first regular supervision took place from 29 March to 2 April 2009 at the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Athens and was led by the inaugural Head Diplomatic Supervisor, Ambassador Miha Vrhunc. He was succeeded by Ambassador Dr Andrej Grasselli, who held this office from August 2016 to December 2022, when it was taken over by Ambassador Darja Bavdaž Kuret. Ambassador Alain Brian Bergant took up the role of fourth Head Diplomatic Supervisor in November 2023, with Minister Plenipotentiary Vesna Rek Kovačič serving as expert associate. The duties and responsibilities of the Head Diplomatic Supervisor are set out in the Rules on Supervision in Representations of the Republic of Slovenia Abroad.

The fundamental objective of supervision is to ensure that diplomatic missions operate in an orderly, effective and economical manner when performing their duties in areas such as consular affairs, finance, human resources and security. The Head Diplomatic Supervisor, who is a member of the Minister's Office, conducts supervision independently, professionally and impartially. Together with the supervision team, Head Diplomatic Supervisor assists and advises the heads of diplomatic missions in good faith, helping them to rectify any identified irregularities or weaknesses, and to improve their own performance and that of the diplomatic mission as a whole.

Supervision can be either regular or extraordinary. The Ministry determines regular supervisions in its annual supervision plan, while the Minister determines extraordinary supervisions. Supervision may be either announced or unannounced. In terms of scope, both types of supervision can be comprehensive or partial. Partial supervision focuses on a specific area of the mission's operations. In exceptional cases, supervision may also be conducted at the Ministry. The Office of the Head Diplomatic Supervisor strives to ensure that the supervision process is as unobtrusive as possible, and that it does not disrupt the normal course of work at a diplomatic mission or consular post. The Strategic Studies and Analyses Service reviews the diplomatic mission's substantive reporting for the past two years. The Office of the Head Diplomatic Supervisor prepares a separate analysis that evaluates these reports, reviews contacts and assesses the various activities carried out by the head of mission and other diplomats.

Regular supervisions are scheduled in annual plans. When preparing the annual plan, the Office of the Head Diplomatic Supervisor follows the principle that each mission should be supervised at least once during the head of mission's term of office. According to the Rules on Supervision in Representations of the Republic of Slovenia Abroad, the supervisor must submit the annual plan to the Minister for approval by 15 December for the following year. The Office has established the practice of first preparing a draft of the proposed supervisory visits in October of each year, following prior consultation with the relevant departments of the Secretariat. The draft gives priority to missions where supervision has not yet been carried out or where years have passed since the last supervision, and where the head of mission is typically midway through their term. The head of mission may also propose a regular supervision at the request of the Office. For the upcoming annual plan, the Office is also considering taking into account the best practices of certain other EU member states and the EEAS, whereby it would add those missions that are being led for the first time in their career by a new ambassador or consul general. When determining the criteria for a supervisory visit, the Office also takes into account any identified issues, irregularities and warnings at particular missions. The Office then coordinates the draft plan in November with proposals from sector and department heads, directors-general, the secretary-general, the head of Minister's Office, and finally with the two state secretaries. In the end, the finalised proposal for annual supervision is approved by the Minister, though it may be supplemented or amended as needed during the course of the year.

The head of mission must be notified of regular supervision at least three days in advance. However, in practice, the Office of the Head Diplomatic Supervisor typically coordinates supervisory visits with the heads of missions included in the annual plan for the coming year on a monthly basis, immediately after the Minister approves and signs the annual plan, or no later than January of the year in which the annual plan is implemented. As a rule, extraordinary supervision may be conducted without prior notice. These supervisions are not specified in the annual plan; rather, each individual extraordinary supervision is carried out on the Minister's order.

REFLECTIONS

Based on the Annual Plan for Regular Supervisions in Slovenian Representations Abroad for 2026, which was adopted in December 2025, the Head Diplomatic Supervisor has conducted six out of the ten planned supervisions by mid-June 2026: in January at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg; in February at the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Beijing; in March at the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Tokyo; in April at the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Athens, in May at the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Addis Ababa, and in June at the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Belgrade. In the first half of this year, the Office also conducted an extraordinary supervision which is still ongoing. According to the annual plan, by the end of 2026, the Office intends to conduct regular supervisions at the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Manila, the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Bern, the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, and, tentatively, at the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Tehran. Due to the war in the Middle East, the planned regular supervision at the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Tehran was postponed from last year to this year. In October 2025, it was replaced by a regular audit at the Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia in Szentgotthárd, Hungary. By way of comparison, in 2025 the Office conducted nine regular and one extraordinary supervision, while in 2024, it conducted twelve regular, one partial extraordinary and one specialised supervision.

For each supervision, the Head Diplomatic Supervisor prepares a supervision plan specifying the resources, methods, scope and duration of the supervision. The plan primarily includes gathering assessments and information on the mission's operations from the Ministry's relevant sectors and departments; obtaining the mission's annual activity report; a questionnaire for the head and staff of the mission, which serves as the basis for the supervision process; providing instructions to the head of mission regarding the purpose, preparation and implementation of the supervision; determining the start date and duration of the supervision; preparation of a schedule for the supervision process; conducting a preliminary analysis of the collected data, assessments and findings; notifying the head or all diplomatic staff and employees of the supervisory findings; and setting the deadline for submitting the supervisory report to the Minister.

Upon concluding the supervision at a diplomatic mission, the Head Diplomatic Supervisor verbally informs the head of mission of the main findings, including draft proposals for corrective measures and recommendations for improvements, and calls on the head of mission to immediately remedy any deficiencies or irregularities and to consistently implement regulations, general acts and the Minister's instructions. The head of mission submits to the Head Diplomatic Supervisor any comments and suggestions regarding the draft report on the findings, which the Office of the Head Diplomatic Supervisor, at its discretion, incorporates into the final report. The Head Diplomatic Supervisor then prepares a final report, which includes a description of the process, content, findings and assessments of all aspects of the supervision, together with proposed recommendations and measures. The Head Diplomatic Supervisor is also responsible for ensuring that the report includes all findings, including any identified illegalities, regulatory violations, irregularities and weaknesses in the mission's operations.

The Head Diplomatic Supervisor submits a report on the completed supervision, together with proposed recommendations and measures, to the Minister within the timeframe specified in the supervision plan. The Minister adopts the measures and recommendations by signing the report.

The Head Diplomatic Supervisor forwards the final report, containing the adopted recommendations and measures, to the head of the mission where the supervision was conducted, and, at their discretion, to the heads of the relevant internal organisational units of the Ministry so that they may become familiar with the findings regarding the mission's operations within their respective areas of responsibility. Where measures require a longer period for implementation, the head of the mission must prepare a plan to improve the mission's operations.

The Head Diplomatic Supervisor, in cooperation with the organisational units responsible for their implementation, monitors the implementation of the adopted measures and recommendations. The head of mission must submit a report on the implementation of the recommendations and measures to the Office of the Head Diplomatic Supervisor within the deadline set by the Head Diplomatic Supervisor. The Office keeps a record of the measures adopted, the progress of their implementation and all related reports.

REFLECTIONS

During the current year, the Head Diplomatic Supervisor monitors the implementation of recommendations and measures through video calls and drafts reports on their implementation for the supervisions conducted in 2024, 2025 and 2026. Monitoring is also underway regarding the implementation of recommendations and measures that are systemic in nature and fall under the purview of the Ministry's internal services, particularly of the Secretariat and the Consular Sector. The Head Diplomatic Supervisor also prepares an annual report by 31 January of each year, including an overview of the most important findings, other areas of operation and recommendations.

The most common irregularities, illegalities, regulatory violations and shortcomings identified in the operations of diplomatic missions during the supervisions conducted include: inadequate management and communication; poor interpersonal relations; inadequate recording of daily work attendance, assignment and notification of on-call duty; a call for holding regular weekly staff meetings; improper reporting of departures from the host country and arrangements for acting heads of mission; low housing allowances for lower-ranking diplomats and for professional and technical staff; high childcare costs, particularly outside the EU; inconsistent recording of consular matters in the ISKO information and communication system; establishing cashless payment options; inadequate furnishings in some office spaces and residences (e.g. artwork) and a proposal to purchase additional furniture; the importance of keeping archival materials organised on an ongoing basis; regular logging of entries into the server room; installation of a bulletin board displaying the current house rules; a proposal to install an alarm system even in rented residences; low or uncompetitive salaries for locally hired staff at some missions; a reminder of the possibility of raising salaries for locally hired staff based on three performance evaluations; establishment of an electronic guest book; inaccessibility of business premises for people with reduced mobility; installation of a key storage cabinet, additional cash registers and lockers for storing mobile phones; a recommendation to make greater use of residences for various protocol events; a recommendation to consistently implement the Ministry's instructions (writing diplomatic cables, weekly reports, use of funds or co-financing of projects from various funds, new handover reports, etc.); a reminder regarding poor communication between heads of mission and posted staff in the host country at all levels; a call for a greater presence on social media and in the media in the host country, as well as for strengthening public diplomacy; and difficulties associated with the implementation of the new FIN SP programme.

On 9 September 2025, the Head Diplomatic Supervisor attended the annual meeting of diplomatic supervisors/inspectors from EU member states at the EEAS headquarters in Brussels. This was the first meeting since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. It focused on sharing experiences and best practices on "a well-functioning diplomatic mission." In parallel, thematic discussions were held on integrity and confidentiality, new supervision tools, including the use of artificial intelligence and other online resources, as well as monitoring and enforcing the implementation of supervision with specific challenges, such as job profiles and addressing poor performance. This September, the annual meeting in Copenhagen will be hosted by our Danish colleague, Ambassador Jes Brogaard Nielsen. The theme of this year's meeting is 'The Future of Supervision in Foreign Service' and the thematic workshops will focus on the supervision of modern embassies (experiences with hybrid remote supervision and the use of artificial intelligence, data-driven risk assessments, locally hired staff and risks associated with outsourcing). On 11 November 2025, the Head Diplomatic Supervisor attended the second workshop on mediation and working groups on mental health and workplace conflicts, dealing with how to engage employees who lack motivation to improve relationships, and best practices for resolving conflicts with limited human resources.

The Head Diplomatic Supervisor also serves as the confidential adviser under the Whistleblower Protection Act. Two cases were handled in 2024, and one case in 2025. The Head Diplomatic Supervisor is a member of the Finance and Personnel Committee and the working group for the implementation of workplace health promotion, and participates in joint meetings of the state secretaries and the secretary-general's staff meeting, lectures candidates preparing for the diplomatic and senior diplomatic examinations, and conducts interviews with heads of mission, diplomats, and professional and technical staff prior to their assignment to diplomatic missions.

REFLECTIONS

The work of the Head Diplomatic Supervisor is highly dynamic and varied, as each supervision presents new professional challenges that require flexibility, initiative and effective collaboration with colleagues both at home and abroad. Through supervision, we strive to move beyond the “that’s how we’ve always done it” mindset and encourage the adoption of well-intentioned recommendations and updated ministry guidelines aimed at improving efficiency, transparency, and modernisation, while ensuring the legality and transparency of operations.

I enjoy my work and do it with the greatest pleasure, as it constantly provides opportunities to learn, gain new experiences and identify ways to further improve our performance. What motivates me most is the knowledge that, together with the supervision team, we can contribute to achieving our common goal: enhancing the image of Slovenian diplomatic missions so that they become even more efficient, friendly, responsive and accessible. We want all employees to work as ‘Team Slovenia’ in a collaborative, professional, respectful, inclusive and transparent manner.





THE POWER TO SHAPE THE FUTURE – BLED STRATEGIC FORUM 2026

The world is entering a period of profound geopolitical uncertainty. The balance of power is shifting rapidly, and assumptions that have long underpinned the concept of a liberal international order are gradually eroding. In an increasingly complex world, partnerships are shaped by interests, circumstances and new narratives, becoming more flexible, issue-specific and closely focused on specific regions. In such circumstances, foreign policy must strike a balance between principle and the pursuit of national and common interests. The transformation of the economy, regional conflicts, cyber and hybrid threats, authoritarian revisionism, and rapid technological change are creating an international environment of unprecedented uncertainty.

In the 21st century, the power of states is measured not only by traditional metrics, but also by how it is exercised in new domains. Control of critical raw materials, industrial capacity and supply chains are regaining the importance they had in the 19th century. 21st century tools such as cyber capabilities, technological innovations, industrial productivity and military efficacy strengthen these sources of power. One of the main challenges of our time is therefore to understand how traditional and new sources of power intertwine to determine the capability of countries, their political decisions and the development of international relations.

Europe is responding to these changes in its own way. Heightened global strategic competition and Europe's exposed dependencies have brought security back to the forefront of the continent's agenda, while also testing its values and resolve. Resilience, productivity and strategic autonomy are more necessary than ever, but also harder to achieve. A strong and reliable transatlantic partnership with the USA and NATO is essential for safeguarding European security, defending shared values and strengthening the efficacy of joint action. At the same time, Europe must address its internal issues. The European Union needs to rebuild the capacities required for the new strategic environment. It should not be forgotten that the EU was originally conceived as a peace project. For this reason, it must also act as a security community.

In the face of these changes, Central Europe, including Slovenia, bears a special responsibility. Located at the heart of geopolitical transformation and influenced by its unique historical legacy, the region must champion pragmatic diplomacy, regional cooperation and economic integration. If the region's small and medium-sized countries wish to extend their influence, they must cooperate even more closely, reduce vulnerabilities, strengthen connectivity and establish policy coalitions across regions and institutions.

In these turbulent times, it is easy to feel like a mere passenger, swept along by the flood of events. However, for the small and medium-sized countries of Central Europe, including Slovenia, this new environment could present an opportunity to exert an influence beyond the limits of their size and resources. The question is whether to view this situation as a constraint to endure or a responsibility to embrace. Past generations rose to their challenges, and now it is the turn of today's generations. Future generations will inherit a world shaped by today's decisions regarding values, security, technology, connectivity and alliances.

This responsibility lies at the heart of discussions at the 2026 Bled Strategic Forum. The forum brings together leaders, policymakers, thinkers, innovators and voices of experience and youth from all over the world. The purpose of the forum is to examine the forces reshaping our world and how we can influence them. Key questions include: Which forms of power and influence will matter most in the coming decades? How can alliances, partnerships and regional cooperation provide stability amid growing geopolitical competition? How can democracies and small and medium-sized countries preserve their ability to influence outcomes in a world dominated by larger powers? What role do competing narratives play in the international order? What role do connectivity, regional initiatives, EU enlargement and economic diplomacy play in strengthening resilience and strategic leverage? How can technological cooperation and trusted partnerships help reduce vulnerabilities and expand opportunities for security, prosperity and sustainable growth? Finally, what new international order might emerge?

The future is uncertain, but it will be shaped by how the world responds to it. The key questions are: who will shape the future, what values will define it, and what forms of power and influence will affect it and for what purpose? Slovenia is committed to fostering the partnerships, ideas and leadership required to create a more secure, free and prosperous future.



BLED AS A DIPLOMATIC VENUE

The Carniolan town of Bled was renowned as a prestigious health resort and tourist destination during the era of Austrian Empire. It was particularly well known in the Czech lands. Following the establishment of a railway connection in 1870, Bled became a popular holiday destination. In 1883, it hosted Emperor Franz Joseph I and later the Crown Prince. After the First World War, Bled's prominence increased significantly. Its convenient transport links, picturesque surroundings and tourism slogan Swim 510 metres above sea level! (Slovenia had no coastline at the time) attracted the attention of the new royal family. Alexander, Prince Regent of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, first visited Bled in late June 1920. Accompanied by a flotilla of sixty small boats, he visited Bled Island and rang the church bell three times, wishing for 'all the desires of the good Slovene people to come true'. At the time, the Slovenes' greatest aspiration was to secure the nearby southern part of Carinthia.

In the summer of 1922, King Alexander I Karađorđević and Queen Maria spent their honeymoon in Bled, becoming so captivated by the area that they immediately decided to acquire a summer residence there. Due to the unique political circumstances of the time, Slovene politicians were unable to present the royal couple with a residence as a wedding gift, so they purchased one themselves for 16,000 Austro-Hungarian crowns in cash. The royal couple renamed the mansion, which was originally built in 1885, Suvobor. It had previously belonged to Prince Ernest Ferdinand Windisch-Graetz. The mansion's new name was inspired by the Battle of Kolubara (1914), in which Serbia defeated Austria-Hungary. The residence remained the king's summer home until his death in 1934.

The very summer that the royal couple acquired the mansion, the King was already signing official documents and appointing ambassadors in Bled. While the young royal family spent their summers there, the prime minister, ministers, officials, generals, and diplomats would regularly travel from Belgrade to visit them. In this more relaxed setting, the family and their guests had ample opportunity to converse, go on excursions, socialise, swim and play tennis and golf. Bled became a popular holiday destination for ministers, as well as Yugoslav and foreign ambassadors. The Diplomatic Protocol had a busy schedule there. Some embassies hosted national day receptions, while others organised concerts and other social events.

Over a century ago, the sight of limousines, chauffeurs, dark suits, top hats and distinguished guests turned the small town of Bled into the monarchy's prestigious second diplomatic capital. The presence of diplomats, officials, foreign visitors, police officers, intelligence personnel and support staff elevated Bled from a health resort to an important diplomatic and political centre. Between May and September, the Toplice, Belvedere and Jekler hotels were filled with diplomats. Many also rented nearby villas and some purchased their own properties. The American ambassador hosted summer tea parties for diplomats at his rented villa and invited singers and choirs to perform. Numerous ambassadors presented their letters of credence to the king in Bled or nearby Bohinj.

In 1932, Bled had 13 hotels and welcomed 2,500 guests in July alone. The presence of royalty, ministers, diplomats and the press attracted many visitors. It was not uncommon to encounter the royal couple walking or driving through the area. The town offered ministers and diplomats opportunities for informal discussions that were less common in Belgrade. Many issues relating to domestic policy, military affairs, the budget and other important matters were discussed and resolved in Bled, including the formal establishment of the Banate of Croatia in 1939. In 1932, a promotional film was produced to showcase the King's time in Bled.

IN THE PAST...

Bled's reputation was further enhanced by numerous bilateral ministerial meetings, as well as by the meetings of the foreign ministers of the Little Entente in 1926, 1936 and 1938. The town also hosted a Balkan League summit attended by representatives of Yugoslavia, Greece, Romania and Turkey. The notable Balkan Pact between Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey was signed at Vila Bled in August 1954. For a number of years following the Second World War, Bled served as the summer capital of the new republic. The country's president continued the monarch's tradition of enjoying the refined atmosphere of Vila Bled. Grand diplomatic receptions were held, including one for the entire accredited diplomatic corps on 10 August 1950 and another on 30 July 1952. Hunting parties were organised for diplomats and there were courtesy visits, interviews and meetings with domestic and foreign guests.

All these events contributed to Bled's prestige within the new state. The visit of the King of Greece in September 1955 was a particularly festive occasion. The same can be said of the visits by the President of Mali in June 1961 and Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi of Iran in May 1973.

Before 1991, Bled hosted numerous heads of state, including the Emperor of Ethiopia, the King of Jordan, the President of Senegal, the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany and the presidents of Romania, North Korea, Poland and Egypt. Members of royal families, including King Charles III when he was the Prince of Wales, as well as business leaders, actors and other distinguished guests, visited Bled in both official and private capacities. After the war, Bled also became the venue for the PEN International Writers' Meeting. The town gained a reputation as an important chess venue by hosting world-class tournaments in 1961 and 2002.

Memories of these distinguished events have become an integral part of Bled's identity in Slovenia. Since 1991, the lakeside town has welcomed many statesmen and diplomats, including Prince Albert II of Monaco, and former United States Secretaries of State, Madeleine Albright and Mike Pompeo. In June 2002, Bled hosted sixteen Central European presidents. Bled has further consolidated its reputation as a diplomatic hub since 2006 through the annual Bled Strategic Forum (BSF), organised by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.



DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS – IN FOCUS

TWENTY YEARS OF THE SLOVENE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE LECTORATE IN LISBON

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Slovene language and culture lectorate at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Lisbon (FLUL). Over the past two decades, the lectorate has developed into a key hub for Slovene language and culture in Portugal, extending beyond the context of university education. It introduces Portuguese students to the Slovene language, literature and culture, and promotes the translation of Slovenian literature. It also fosters collaboration between Slovenian and Portuguese researchers, translators and cultural institutions. One of the distinctive features of the Lisbon lectorate is its exceptional continuity: Prof. Mateja Rozman has led it since its inception.

The main anniversary celebration was held at the Faculty at the end of February, with a programme prepared in cooperation with Prof. Rozman and initiated by Mojca Nemec van Gorp, the Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to Portugal. Vesna Humar, State Secretary of the Office for Slovenians Abroad at the time, was the guest of honour at the ceremony, highlighting the importance that the Republic of Slovenia places on the Slovene language and its presence in the international academic sphere.

To mark its anniversary, the lectorate received the Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Slovenians Abroad award for its exceptional contribution to the teaching, promoting and advancing the Slovene language, literature and culture, and to connecting the Slovenian community in Portugal. Professor Rozman accepted the award on behalf of the lectorate in recognition of her significant contribution to its development through her dedicated teaching, translation and organisational work. Alongside her teaching, she has translated numerous contemporary Slovenian literary works, organised cultural events and facilitated visits by Slovenian academics, writers and other artists to Portugal. As the founder of the Slovenian-Portuguese Cultural Centre, she has been a key partner of the Embassy, particularly since the closure of the resident embassy in Lisbon. She has also played a significant role in raising the profile of Slovenia in Portugal.

One of the highlights of the programme was a literary event with Drago Jančar, one of the most important and renowned contemporary Slovenian authors on the international stage. During the presentation of the Portuguese translation of his novel *Joyce's Pupil*, translated by Prof. Rozman, Jančar discussed his literary work, emphasising the vital role of translation in making Slovenian literature accessible to international readers. The event also demonstrated how the work of the lectorate naturally encompasses language teaching, translation and the promotion of Slovenian literature.



Prof Dr. Rozman in conversation with Drago Jančar / Author: RLI



Remarks by Ambassador Nemec van Gorp / Avtor: RLI

In her opening remarks, Ambassador Mojca Nemec van Gorp pointed out that the lectorate has served as an important bridge between Slovenia and Portugal for two decades. She thanked the Faculty of Arts at the University of Lisbon and the Centre for Slavic Languages and Cultures for their long-standing support. The university's commitment to further developing the lectorate was also affirmed by the dean of the FLUL, Prof. Hermenegildo Fernandes, who presented plans to re-establish an independent Slavic studies programme. Within this framework, Slovene studies are set to become more prominent, which bodes well for their future development in Portugal.

The last twenty years of the lectorate's work have confirmed that language is one of the strongest foundations of international cooperation. Today, the Lisbon lectorate is much more than a study programme: it is a place of encounter, dialogue and lasting connections between Slovenia and Portugal.

SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

- 22 May: Publication of the 18th issue of Diplomatic Bulletin
- 3 June: 5th National Conference on Artificial Intelligence
- 8 and 9 June: Economic Diplomacy Conference and the Slovenian Global Forum 2026
- 9 June: Launch of the e-Lastovka web and mobile app

IN THE PIPELINE

- 27 and 28 August: 30th Conference of Slovenian Ambassadors
- 28–30 August: Young BSF 2026
- 31 August and 1 September: 21st Bled Strategic Forum
- 22–28 September: High-level general debate of the UN General Assembly (UNGA81)

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE

»Believe you can and you're half way there.«

Theodore Roosevelt

Diplomatic Bulletin is a newsletter on diplomacy, international relations and global affairs. It is published in electronic format six times a year (bi-monthly). The contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

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Izdaja: July 2026, ISSN 33023-9036