



Slovenia: 25 years, achievements and new challenges

Presentation by H.E. Ksenija Skrilec, Ambassador of Slovenia
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- Slovenia - diverse and ambitious
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Republic of Slovenia

- **Independence referendum on 23 December 1990**
- **25 June 1991 Basic Constitutional Charter of the Sovereignty and Independence**
- Process of **transformation** into a modern state
- MS UN SC, president UNSC Danilo Türk, Aug 98, Nov 99
- **2004**: accession to NATO and EU
- **2005** Chairmanship of OCSE
- **2007**: Slovenia joined the Eurozone (Jan), Schengen (Dec)
- **2008**: rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU



Size / 20 273 km²

Inhabitants / cca 2 mil

State / Democratic parliamentary republic since 25 June 1991

Capital / Ljubljana (260 000 inhabitants)

National flag / Horizontal stripes in white, blue and red with Slovenian coat of arms on its left upper side

Coat of arms / Three six-pointed yellow stars are symbols of the Counts of Celje with Triglav as a symbol of Slovenehood and underlying two wavy lines symbolizing Slovenian rivers and the sea

Neighbouring states / Austria, Italy, Hungary, Croatia

State holidays / June 25 - Statehood Day, December 26 - Independence and Unity Day

Official Language / Slovene, in some nationally mixed border areas also Italian and Hungarian

Highest mountain / Triglav 2 864 m

Longest river / Sava 221 km

Currency / EUR

Economy

- Among countries that are most affected by the economic crisis
 - GDP growth in 2012: -2,5%
 - Estimates for 2015: 1,2%
- Today, on the right path towards the exit from the crisis
- Priority: to establish stable and predictable business environment, consolidate public finances and increase competitiveness
- Export is the engine of growth
- Hungary is the 6th trading partner – trade in goods in 2014 amounted to 1,7 billion EUR

I FEEL
SLOVENIA

- Slovenia – competitive, young, dynamic, diverse, green, modern, environmentally aware (60% forest), biodiversity
- Slovenian tourism promoted under the slogan **I feel Slovenia** (mainly in tourism but also in sport events)
- Tourism provides jobs for every tenth employee, its share in GDP amounts to 12,3%

Slovenian-Hungarian bilateral relations

- 15 January 1992 recognized by HU & EU MS
- Excellent political relations, bilateral agreements in all fields (protection of minorities – joint minority commission)
- Strong connecting point: minorities
- HU minority in Slovenia 1 out of 2 autochthon minorities with special rights (1 MP),
- Slovenian minority in HU – advocate in HU Parliament
- Unexploited opportunities (economy – infrastructure/Port Koper, energy/electricity, gas, culture)

Facing the challenge of mass migration

- **Smallest country** on the migration route through the Balkans
- Since 17 October, more than **255 000 migrants** have entered Slovenia
- 26 Oct: mini Summit in Brussels improved cooperation and information exchange
- 10 Nov: **technical obstacle** to secure controlled entry and the security of the country and citizens
- Slovenia responsible EU member state and **guardian of the Schengen border**
- Problems to be resolved along the **entire route** from Greece onwards
- **International cooperation** to protect Schengen borders: Slovenian police officers assisted by foreign officers

Achievements:

Role of women in the Slovene society

- Focus on and significant progress towards gender equality: support to **UN Women** and **#HeForShe** campaign

Women in political decision-making:

- **Legislated candidate quotas** – equal opportunities to stand as candidates in all elections guaranteed by the Constitution
- Voluntary political party quotas
- **High share of female politicians** – 36% of MPs, 43% of ministers according to **Deloitte survey**
- Gender pay gap considerably low – **World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap report ranked Slovenia at 9th place**
- 15% of board positions in large companies occupied by women – higher share than EU average

- 11th EU nation to **approve same-sex weddings** by a law in March 2015, first of the countries that joined the EU in 2004 or after
- The law will be contested in a **referendum** to be held on 20 December 2015
- If the law is implemented, Slovenia will become the **first country in Central Europe, in the post-communist Europe and first Slavic country to allow same-sex couples to marry**
- 2015 Eurobarometer: 54% of Slovenians think same-sex marriage should be allowed throughout Europe (40% oppose)

Thank you for your attention.