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# Today

Official Bulletin of the Bled Strategic Forum • Monday, 31 August 2015

2015 BLED STRATEGIC FORUM STARTS TODAY

## VISIONS OF NEW PARTNERSHIPS



Photo: Anže Malovrh/STA

Throughout its 10 years of existence, the Bled Strategic Forum (BSF) has been a successful platform for discussions among prominent leaders from politics, business, academia and the non-governmental sector. It has become a forum where today's discussions help create tomorrow's actions.

The Visions of New Partnerships, as the title of the 2015 BSF reads, are also the common thread of the Forum's 10 year presence on the international stage.

The BSF brings together influencers of truly diverse backgrounds, encourages an open and frank exchange of views, and builds partnerships that go beyond the conference program. Its role has been recognized in the new foreign policy strategy of the Republic of Slovenia, where it is defined as an important element of Slovenian visibility within the international community. As an annual gathering of decision-makers it contributes to increasing Slovenia's role in its neighbourhood, the Euro-Atlantic area and in other regions.



### Peak of electric mobility at Bled Strategic Forum 2015

BMW i is a brand of the BMW Group that stands for visionary mobility and vehicle concepts, inspiring design and a new understanding of premium that is strongly defined by sustainability. BMW i is represented with the vehicles BMW i3 (uncompromisingly different in concept and construction for pure electric driving) and the BMW i8 (progressive hybrid sports car with the fuel consumption of a small car), as well as a multitude of mobility services in the field of electric and interconnected mobility.

### Experience sheer driving pleasure

Participants are welcomed to have driving experience with BMW i3, new BMW 2 Series Gran Tourer and BMW 4 Series Gran Coupe.

Registrations: 1 September from 9.00 onwards at the BMW info desk situated at the entrance to the conference hall in Hotel Golf.

Experience drives: 1 September from 10.00 till 16.00.



Photo: Nebojša Tejić/STA

There is a growing awareness that different dimensions and perspectives – from politics and the economy to human rights and climate change – are crucial for effectively addressing the pressing issues of today's globalised world. The BSF and its participants have never been afraid of bringing up and discussing issues that cause controversy and division or encounter opposition among the international community. The Forum gives a voice to differing positions, views and understandings of all the topics that require our attention.

Taking into account the valuable contribution of other, less conventional spheres of cooperation, the BSF has also developed a tradition of discussing the hidden dimensions of international relations, such as science, sports and music.

Regularly beginning interesting discussions, the BSF can truly be perceived as a cross-issue forum. Its multifaceted identity is complemented by two additional programmes, the Business BSF, offering a platform for cooperation of the private and public sectors, and the Young BSF,



Photo: Nebojša Tejić/STA

voicing visions of the upcoming generation of leaders.

The ever-changing political, security and economic landscape and the dynamic global arena call for innovative thinking and trustful partnerships. There are many serious challenges that compel us to reconsider the existing relations, share our visions and reinforce our cooperation.

This year marks the anniversaries of several remarkable long-term partnerships, such as 70 years of the United Nations or 40 years of the Helsinki Final Act. At the same time, the international community hopes to launch new ambitious global programmes aimed at improving



Photo: Anže Malovrh/STA

everybody's life, security and well-being. We have high expectations regarding the Post-2015 Development Agenda to be launched in New York next month. We also hope for a substantial and sustainable agreement at the Paris Conference on Climate Change in December.

As in previous years, the 2015 BSF will again strive to contribute to the global debate and cooperation by calling for partnerships of various stakeholders and their visions. It is my hope that it will offer a good opportunity for reflection and a sound basis for future cooperation. ■



**Karl Erjavec**  
Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

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#### BSF Today

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## Getting around BSF: Map of Bled



- 1 Bled Festival Hall (Cesta svobode 11)
- 2 IEDC – Bled School of Management (Prešernova 33)
- 3 Hotel Krim (Ljubljanska 7)
- 4 Hotel Park (Cesta svobode 15)
- 5 Grand Hotel Toplice (Cesta svobode 12)
- 6 Best Western Premier Hotel Lovec (Ljubljanska cesta 6)



- 7 Kompas Hotel Bled (Cankarjeva 2)
- 8 Hotel Golf (Cankarjeva 4)
- 9 Hotel Savica (Cankarjeva 6)
- 10 Vila Bled (Cesta svobode 18)
- 11 Hotel Astoria (Prešernova 44)
- 12 Vila Zlatorog (Veslaška promenada 9)

## Partnerships as a cornerstone of ITF's efforts

ITF Enhancing Human Security (ITF) has been a major contributor to the post-conflict reconstruction, development and stabilisation of the war-torn South-Eastern Europe, as well as other conflict-affected regions around the world. Partnerships, as the key theme of this year's BSF, are indispensable to its humanitarian mine action activities. ITF's perspectives on partnerships will be discussed at the BSF Side Event taking place:

on Tuesday, 1 September 2015,  
from 11:00 to 12:00  
at Hotel Golf, Libertas Hall.

Go to [www.itf-fund.si](http://www.itf-fund.si)



## What's in the news?

Bled Strategic Forum guests have free access to the English and Slovenian online service of the Slovenian Press Agency, starting on 28 August and ending on 4 September.

Please visit <https://english.sta.si> and use the following credentials to access their content:

Username: bsf  
Password: sta2015



## INTERVIEW WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, DR MIRO CERAR

# The world is changing more rapidly than we imagined



### What does 10 years of BSF symbolise?

Ten years ago, Slovenia had just started developing its identity as a full member of the European Union and NATO. Ten years ago, Slovenia was chairing the OSCE, which had fifty members at that time. Over the last decade, Slovenia and Europe have gone through political and economic turmoil. To me, the 10th BSF symbolises consistency and the gradual growth of our country's strategic impact.

The titles of the last nine meetings indicate that the BSF has always managed to capture a global issue facing Europe and Eurasia which was relevant at that particular time. From EU enlargement to energy, climate change and economic crisis, it continued to grow and became increasingly strategic, as suggested by its name. This has been proven by the high-level attendance from all around the world.

I am proud that Slovenia has managed to bring the BSF to its current level, and I trust that the event will continue to show that the interest of Slovenia and its policies and activities take into account and contribute to developments in both its immediate neighbourhood and beyond.

### Can the title of this year's Forum (Visions of New Partnerships) be translated into the work of the Slovenian Government?

The primary goal of the Slovenian Government is to continue to bring stability and prosperity to the country and its citizens. This can only be achieved if we all understand that we are living in a global world in which interconnectedness, networks and partnerships are preconditions for successfully tackling the difficult security, economic and social issues of our time.

The challenges we face are much broader than ever before, and much more difficult to tackle alone. Anyway, it would also be unnecessary or imprudent to face them alone. I would say that governments also need to reconfirm, build on, renew, and upgrade existing partnerships through frameworks such as the United Nations (now in its seventieth year), and the CSCE/OSCE (which is now forty years old) and through the EU and NATO, and by developing further bilateral and regional initiatives that continue to enhance mutual trust and bring us closer together.

### What is your vision for BSF discussions in 10 years' time?

I see them developing and continuing on the path of the previous 10 years, constantly adjusting to new circumstances, focusing on specific topics that will be at the forefront in this part of the world on the one hand, and fitting it into global topics on the other. I hope we will have resolved the pertinent issues occupying us today and be able to reflect on preservation of democratic values, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the preservation of nature and its resources. One of the challenges in deciding on the long-term vision for discussions is that our world is technologically and scientifically changing more rapidly than we ever imagined. In addition, new situations, including security and environment-related ones, require us to continuously adapt our outlook and strategies, and, consequently, our debates. What needs to be at the basis and remain a permanent feature of any vision, however, is peaceful and stable societies that uphold human values. ■

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BSF

# Programme for Monday, 31 August

## 14.00 Gathering

–15.00 @Bled Festival Hall

## 15.00 Opening of 2015 Bled Strategic Forum

–16.00 @Bled Festival Hall

Welcome address: **H. E. Mr Karl Erjavec**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

Mayor's welcome: **Mr Janez Fajfar**, Mayor of Bled, Slovenia

Keynote speech: **H. E. Dr Miro Cerar**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia

Chaired by: **Ambassador Alain Brian Bergant**, Secretary General of the Bled Strategic Forum

## 16.00 Leaders' Panel - New Global Order: Confrontation or Partnerships?

–17.30

@Bled Festival Hall

Keynote address: **H. E. Mr Donald Tusk**, President of the European Council

Speakers:

› **Mr Christian Friis Bach**, Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

› **H. E. Mr Xavier Bettel**, Prime Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

› **H. E. Ms Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović**, President of the Republic of Croatia

› **H. E. Mr Borut Pahor**, President of the Republic of Slovenia

› **H. E. Mr Aleksandar Vučić**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia

› **Ambassador Lamberto Zannier**, Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Moderated by: **Dr Nik Gowing**, International Broadcaster and Visiting Professor, King's College, London, United Kingdom

## 18.00 Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict: One Year after the Summit

–19.30

@Bled Festival Hall

Speakers:

› **Ms Christine Beerli**, Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross

› **Dr Chris Dolan**, Director of the Refugee Law Project, Uganda

› **Mr Bojan Glavašević**, Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs of the Republic of Croatia

› **Ms Sabiha Husić**, Director of the Association Medica Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina

› **Mr Stavros Lambrinidis**, European Union Special Representative for Human Rights

› **Ambassador Maria Henriette Schuurman**, NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security

Moderated by: **The Rt Hon Baroness Anelay of St Johns DBE**, Minister of State, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom

## 20.00 Networking reception

–22.00

@Grand Hotel Toplice, Grand Hall

Welcome address: **Mr Janez Škrabec**, CEO of RIKO d.o.o., Slovenia

Keynote address: **Dr Danilo Türk**, Former President of the Republic of Slovenia

## 22.00 Night-Owl Session – Looking Around Corners: Why the Future Isn't What it Used to Be

@Grand Hotel Toplice, Lake Lounge

Speakers:

› **Mr Luciano Cirinà**, CEO at Generali CEE Holding B.V., Czech Republic

› **Mr Thomas M. Countryman**, Assistant Secretary for International Security and Nonproliferation, US Department of State

› **Mr Richard C. Koo**, Chief Economist, Nomura Research Institute, Japan

› **Mr Primož Pesar**, Partner and CEO of Pristop, Slovenia

› **Ms Alenka Smerkolj**, Minister without portfolio responsible for Development, Strategic Projects and Cohesion of the Republic of Slovenia

Moderated by: **Dr Angela Wilkinson**, Strategic Foresight Counsellor at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

# MEET THE SPEAKERS

## Opening of 2015 Bled Strategic Forum



**H. E. Mr Karl Erjavec**  
*Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia*

Starting his career in the private sector, Karl Erjavec was elected to Kranj City Council in 1990. Between 1995 and 2000, he first served as Director of the Specialist Service and then as Head of Cabinet in the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office. From 2001 to 2004, he was State Secretary at the Ministry of Justice. In 2004, he was appointed Minister of Defence, holding the office until 2008, when he became Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning. In February 2012, he was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.



**Mr Janez Fajfar**  
*Mayor of Bled, Slovenia*

Janez Fajfar was born in 1955 in Bled, Slovenia. He graduated in Ethnology and Geography from the University of Ljubljana in 1979. He spent his summer holidays working as tour guide. After travelling the world in 1980, he joined the Iron Forging Museum in Kropa as a curator. In 1984, he became reception manager at Hotel Vila Bled, the former summer residence of Tito, and, in 1991, he was appointed hotel director. In 2006, Janez Fajfar was elected Mayor of Bled. He was re-elected in 2010.



**H. E. Dr Miro Cerar**  
*Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia*

Before becoming Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia in August 2014, Mr Cerar was a Full Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana (the Theory and Philosophy of Law, Comparative Law and the Ethics of the Legal Profession). In 1990 and 1991, he took part in drafting the Slovenian Constitution and other constitutional acts. He has been a legal advisor to the National Assembly. As a Fulbright scholar, he taught Comparative Constitutional Law at the Golden Gate University in San Francisco and underwent training in Berkeley. He authored and co-authored books and papers at home and abroad.



**Ambassador Alain Brian Bergant**  
*Secretary General of the Bled Strategic Forum*

In addition to being in charge of the Bled Strategic Forum, Ambassador Bergant also serves as Head of Diplomatic Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia. He joined the Foreign Ministry in 1993, after graduating in International Law from the University of Ljubljana.

As a junior diplomat, he served at the Slovenian embassies in Budapest and Stockholm. From 2002 to 2006, he was Chargé d'Affaires at the Slovenian Embassy in Helsinki. In 2007, he was appointed Political Director at the Foreign Ministry and later Slovenian ambassador to Macedonia.

## Leaders' Panel - New Global Order: Confrontation or Partnerships?



**H. E. Mr Donald Tusk**  
*President of the European Council*

Donald Tusk, born on 22 April 1957 in Gdansk, Poland, got involved with Solidarity in 1980, later becoming one of the movement's prominent young intellectuals. He was one of the founders of the first pro-European party in Poland, the Liberal Democratic Congress. In the 1990s, he was a Member of Parliament, serving also as Deputy Speaker of the Senate. In 2001, he was one of the initiators of the Civic Platform, a new centrist party. In 2007, Donald Tusk became Prime Minister, an office he held for seven years. In 2014, he was unanimously elected President of the European Council.



**Mr Christian Friis Bach**  
*Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe*

Christian Friis Bach is Executive Secretary of UNECE. Mr Bach brings to the position a combination of deep knowledge in international economy and development affairs coupled with innovative and result-oriented leadership. He was Member of the Danish Parliament and Head of the parliamentary group of the Danish Social Liberal Party. Previously, he served as Denmark's Minister for Development Cooperation and Special Advisor to the European Union Commission for the United Nations Global Sustainability Panel. Mr Bach holds a PhD in International Economics and an MSc in Agronomy from the Royal Danish Agricultural University.



**H. E. Mr Xavier Bettel**  
*Prime Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg*

Xavier Bettel was born in 1973 in Luxembourg City. After being awarded a master's degree in Public and European Law at the University of Nancy and a DEA in Political Sciences and Public Law, he worked as a barrister in Luxembourg. From 1999 to 2013, he was a Member of Parliament representing the Democratic Party. From 2000 to 2013, he served as a municipal councillor, as an alderman and as mayor in Luxembourg City. In December 2013, he was appointed Prime Minister, Minister of State, Minister for Communications and

Media and Minister for Religious Affairs in the coalition government.



**H. E. Ms Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović**  
*President of the Republic of Croatia*

Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović was elected President of Croatia in January 2015. Holding a Master's degree in International Relations, she was a Fulbright scholar in international relations and security policy at the George Washington University, and a Fellow in the "Senior Managers in Government" Executive Program at Harvard Kennedy School. A career diplomat, she was sworn in as Minister of European Integration in 2003, in 2005 as Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, leading Croatia on its path to Euro-Atlantic integration. In 2008, she became Ambassador to the US. In 2011, she was appointed NATO Assistant Secretary-General for Public Diplomacy.



**H. E. Mr Borut Pahor**  
*President of the Republic of Slovenia*

In 1990, Borut Pahor served as a delegate in the Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia. In 1992 and 1996, he was elected to the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia. In March 1997, he was elected President of Social Democrats. In 2000, he was appointed President of the National Assembly. In June 2001, he was re-elected as President of Social Democrats. In June 2004, he was elected a Member of the European Parliament. Following the 2008 parliamentary elections, he was appointed Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia. On 2 December 2012, he became the fourth President of the Republic of Slovenia.



**H. E. Mr Aleksandar Vučić**  
*Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia*

He was born in 1970 in Belgrade. In 1994, he graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade. He started his political career in 1993 as a Member of both the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Assembly of Yugoslavia and Minister of Information (1998–2000). In 2008, together with Tomislav Nikolić, he founded the Serbian Progressive Party and became its vice president. In 2012, he became Minister of Defence and First Deputy Prime Minister. He became Prime Minister in April 2014, when his party won a landslide victory. He speaks English and Russian, is married and has two children.

Mr Vučić sees Serbia as an organised, modern European country, a regional leader in the economy, politics, infrastructure, energy and overall stability.



**Ambassador Lamberto Zannier**  
*Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe*

Lamberto Zannier is OSCE Secretary General since July 2011. Between June 2008 and June 2011, Ambassador Zannier was UN Special Representative for Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). From 2002 to 2006, he was Director of the

OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre. His previous senior positions include permanent representative of Italy to the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague (2000–2002), chairperson of the negotiations on the adaptation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (1998–1999) and Head of Disarmament, Arms Control and Cooperative Security at NATO (1991–1997).



**Dr Nik Gowing**  
*International Broadcaster and Visiting Professor, King's College, London, United Kingdom*

Nik Gowing is an international broadcaster. He was the main news presenter for BBC World News between 1986 and 2014. He presented The Hub with Nik Gowing, BBC World Debates, and Dateline London. For 18 years, he worked at ITN, including as bureau chief in Rome and Warsaw and diplomatic editor for Channel Four News. He sits on the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Geo-Economics, and regularly attends Davos to chair TV debates and top-level sessions. Nik has extensive reporting experience over three decades in diplomacy, defence and international security. He is a visiting professor at Kings College in London.

## Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict: One Year after the Summit



**Ms Christine Beerli**  
*Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross*

Lawyer by background, Christine Beerli is the Vice-President of the ICRC since January 2008. She works closely with ICRC's President in handling its external relations and humanitarian diplomacy. Her work also includes the cohesion, smooth running and development of ICRC's governance and internal control mechanisms, as well as relationships within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Before joining the ICRC, Ms Beerli was director of the School of Engineering at Bern University of Applied Sciences. Between 1996 and 2003, she headed various committees of the Swiss Parliament's upper house as a member of the Swiss Free Democratic Party.



**Dr Chris Dolan**  
*Director of the Refugee Law Project, Uganda*

Chris Dolan is a leading activist, practitioner and academic on the issue of conflict-related sexual violence against men. His insights into gender, sexuality and conflict are grounded in extensive work with refugees and IDPs and other conflict-affected populations in South Africa, Mozambique, DR Congo and Uganda from 1990 to date. The Refugee Law Project in Kampala, which Chris directs, made extensive presentations at last year's Global Summit and has been at the forefront of generating international momentum to recognise sexual violence against men and boys and address it as an integral component of humanitarian assistance, international criminal law and transitional justice.


**Mr Bojan Glavašević**

*Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs of the Republic of Croatia*

Bojan Glavašević is Assistant Minister at the Ministry of Veterans Affairs. Mr Glavašević graduated in general linguistics and sociology at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University in Zagreb in 2012. In 2013, he was Head of Minister's Office at the Ministry of Veterans Affairs.


**Ms Sabiha Husić**

*Director of the Association Medica Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Sabiha Husić is Director of the nongovernmental organisation Medica from Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina. She has been engaged in preventing and responding to gender based violence since 1993 when she became active in Medica as a theologian, therapist and since 2007 as the director of the organisation. Since 1993, she has been continuously and devotedly working with the survivors of war rape and sexual violence and other forms of violence, advocating for their rights. Sabiha Husić has been recognised through many accolades. In 2014, she was awarded the Woman of the World Award for her extraordinary leadership and unwavering commitment to helping women and children survivors of war and post-war violence in BiH and for her work recognising violence against women as a pressing world problem. In 2015, she was commended for her contribution to and the promotion of the work of the NGO sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina.


**Mr Stavros Lambrinidis**

*European Union Special Representative for Human Rights*

Stavros Lambrinidis (1962) is the EU Special Representative for Human Rights since August 2012. In 2011, he was Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece. Between 2004 and 2011, he was Member of the European Parliament with the Greek Social Democratic Party (PASOK). In 2009, he was elected Vice-President of the European Parliament and between 2004 and 2009 he was Vice-President of the EP's Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee (LIBE). Earlier in his career, Mr. Lambrinidis served in senior positions in the Greek Ministry for Foreign Affairs and as an Attorney in Washington, D.C.


**Ambassador Maria Henriette Schuurman**

*NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security*

Ambassador Marriët Schuurman was appointed the NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security in October 2014. She is the high-level focal point on all aspects of NATO's contributions to the women, peace and security agenda, aiming to facilitate coordination and consistency in NATO's policies and activities and to take forward the implementation of the NATO/EAPC Policy and Action Plan on the Implementation of UN SC Resolution 1325 and the related resolutions. Prior to her nomination as Special Representative, she was the representative of the Netherlands to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.


**The Rt Hon Baroness Anelay of St Johns DBE**

*Minister of State, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom*

Baroness Anelay was appointed Minister of State with responsibility for human rights, international organisations and climate change in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in August 2014. In June 2015, she was appointed the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict. Lady Anelay was raised to the peerage in 1996 and has held various opposition and government positions. She was a history teacher between 1969 and 1974 and served as a magistrate between 1985 and 1997. She was also associated with the Citizen's Advice Bureau from 1976 to 2010.

## Networking reception


**Mr Janez Škrabec**

*CEO of RIKO d.o.o., Slovenia*

Janez Škrabec (1963) is the founder and managing director of the company Riko, d.o.o. He studied Economics at the Faculty of Economics in Ljubljana. His further studies took him to the IEDC – Business School

Bled (SLO), Cleveland State University (USA) and INSEAD Fontainebleau (France). Mr. Škrabec is Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Morocco and an active member of several diplomatic and business clubs. He shares his experience in management, philanthropy and sustainable development with the wider public at round-table discussions and as a guest lecturer in Slovenia and abroad.


**Dr Danilo Türk**

*Former President of the Republic of Slovenia*

Professor of international law, diplomat and politician. Prior to his term as the third President of the Republic of Slovenia (2007-2012) he was the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Law, University in Ljubljana (2006-2007). In the years 2000-2005 he served as the UN Assistant-Secretary-General for Political Affairs in New York. In the years 1992- 2000 he was Ambassador of Slovenia to the UN in New York and served on the UN Security Council in 1999-2000. In the years 1982 to 1992 he was teaching international law at the University in Ljubljana, Faculty of Law. He worked also as human rights expert and activist.

## Night-Owl Session – Looking Around Corners: Why the Future Isn't What it Used to Be


**Mr Luciano Cirinà**

*CEO at Generali CEE Holding B.V., Czech Republic*

Based in Prague since 2013, Luciano Cirinà is responsible for the business activities of Generali Group in Central and Eastern Europe. He was appointed CEO of Generali Versicherung AG in Austria in 2007 and went on to become Head of Generali Holding Vienna. From 2005 to 2006, he served as Area Manager at the Company Head Office in Trieste, overseeing activities in Austria, Central and Eastern Europe, Greece, Tunisia and the Middle East. Previously, he was Head of Corporate Risks Division for Austria and CEE countries in Vienna. He was elected President of the Austrian Insurance Association in 2012.


**Mr Thomas M. Countryman**

*Assistant Secretary for International Security and Nonproliferation, US Department of State*

Thomas Countryman, a career member of the United States Senior Foreign Service, rank of Minister-Counsellor, is currently serving as the Assistant Secretary for International Security and Nonproliferation (ISN). The ISN bureau leads the U.S. effort to prevent the spread of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, their related materials and their delivery systems.


**Mr Richard C. Koo**

*Chief Economist, Nomura Research Institute, Japan*

Richard C. Koo is the chief economist of Nomura Research Institute (Tokyo) and a Senior Adviser to the Center for Strategic and International Studies (Washington D.C.). Mr. Koo is best known for developing the concept of balance sheet recession which is now used around the world to explain post-1990 Japan and post-2008 West. He has advised successive Japanese Prime Ministers and taught at Waseda University as a visiting professor from 1998 to 2010. Prior to joining Nomura, he was an economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and was a doctoral fellow of the Federal Reserve Board.


**Mr Primož Pucar**

*Partner and CEO of Pristop, Slovenia*

Primož Pucar is Managing Partner at Pristop Group, one of the leading communications agencies and consultancies in SE Europe. Headquartered in Slovenia, Pristop has been a partner to local and global companies as well as governmental, non-governmental and international organisations for over 20 years. Primož has been heading Pristop since 2007 and leading the company in its quest of providing clients with top level multidisciplinary support in business development and communication. Under his leadership, Pristop has become a dominant regional force in its markets and has been consistently ranked among global market leading independent agencies in terms of both efficiency and creativity.


**Ms Alenka Smerkolj**

*Minister without portfolio responsible for Development, Strategic Projects and Cohesion of the Republic of Slovenia*

Alenka Smerkolj has years of experience in banking. She worked in the field of international business and financial markets for over 25 years. From 1988 to 2014, when she was appointed State Secretary, she was employed with Nova Ljubljanska Banka (NLB) as Director of the Division for financial markets, before that as Deputy Director and Director of department. During her professional career in banking, she managed relations with NLB's key international banking partners, was in charge of supervision and coordination of debt instruments, and of promoting sales of capital market instruments to Slovenian companies. She was also responsible for NLB liquidity and balance sheet management.


**Dr Angela Wilkinson**

*Strategic Foresight Counsellor at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development*

Ms Wilkinson is responsible for the strategic foresight capabilities of the OECD. She has led over 100 futures studies, including major multi-stakeholder initiatives. Angela has over 30 years of research, managerial, executive and consultancy experience spanning the public and private sector. She was director of futures programmes, Saïd Business School, University of Oxford, a senior member of Shell's global scenario team and is an expert in foresight with the EU Commission. She has published many articles on avoiding the impact gap and her next book on scenario planning will be published in 2016. She holds a PhD in Physics.

# Innovative Entrepreneurship, Sustainable Development and Internet Security in Focus of the 5<sup>th</sup> Young BSF



Photo: Anže Malovrh/STA

Young BSF, bringing together young professionals and aspiring leaders from across the world, discussed in the weekend preceding the Bled Strategic Forum (BSF) a number of burning issues faced by countries and societies around the globe.

Between Friday and Monday, some 35 aspiring diplomats, entrepreneurs, NGO members, scholars and civil society activists, discussed innovative entrepreneurial environments, environmentally-friendly development and internet security. The panel debates and workshops were permeated with a discussion on partnerships and visions, which are also in the focus of the BSF.

„Partnerships, which give birth to visions, cannot exist without trust,” Young BSF Programme Director Simona Leskovar has said. „Young people have visions and ideas and we need to lend them an ear because they know how to think outside the box,” said Leskovar, whose goal it was to give aspiring leaders an opportunity to debate burning issues as equals. The participants came from Afghanistan, Bra-



Photo: Anže Malovrh/STA

zil, Bulgaria, Colombia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Iran, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, United States, and Slovenia.

Following a reception at a lakeside Villa Zlatorog on Friday evening, the participants dived into innovative business issues the next morning. A panel debate on ways to foster innovative entrepreneurial environments discussed above all issues startups face when launching their products to the market. The debate moderated by Mr Tilen Travnik, the COO of D-Labs, a Ljubljana-based company helping start-

ups take their ideas to the market, heard that multinational corporations play a vital role in the startup environment, as they provide the bulk of the early stage funding. But multinationals also need startups in order to help them adapt to the ever changing market and client demands, according to the panellists, Ms Anamarija Meglič of Ypsilon, an institute focusing on cross-generation projects, and Mr Dejan Roljič of ABC Accelerator, one of the top startup accelerators in the world. Moreover, it is important for startup teams to be innovative and think outside the box, yet to keep their focus and believe in their products. But this alone is far from enough, as the companies also need to be capable of catering to the market and addressing the demands of their clients.

Green technologies and business models were at the centre of the second panel debate of Young BSF featuring Mr Aidan Cerar of Regional Development Agency of the Ljubljana Urban Region who presented Ljubljana-based Library of Things, a community-based project, Dr Marko Maver, an environmental researcher, and Ms



Photo: Anže Malovrh/STA

Gaja Breclj of Umanotera, a Slovenian NGO promoting sustainable development. Moreover, participants spent the afternoon in Ljubljana, the European Green Capital of 2016, a title the city and its people are very proud of. Acquiring the title given by the European Commission has provided an additional boost to the city's brand, driving up the number of tourists, Deputy Mayor Tjaša Ficko told Young BSF at the Town Hall. Apart from the fact that two thirds of city surfaces are green, the city also closed much of its centre to traffic and boasts high quality drinking water accessible to everybody at public drinking fountains.

Very topical internet security and privacy issues were discussed at a debate Sunday morning, with panellists underlining the need for the public to be informed about what sort of data is being collected by governments and private companies

and for what purposes. The principle of proportionality must always be observed, Ms Nataša Pirc Musar, a human rights lawyer and former Information Commissioner in Slovenia, underlined. Moreover, Drago Kos, the country's first president of the Commission for Prevention of Corruption, talked about whistleblowers, stressing that not every peace of information is in public interest and that leaking confidential data does not automatically make you a whistleblower. Both panellists also pointed to the responsibility of each individual to assess which information to share over the internet. Following the debate moderated by Ms Simona Vučak of the Foreign Ministry Public Relations Office, the afternoon was spent at the Pokljuka Alpine plateau, the venue of World Cup events in biathlon, followed by a trip to the glacial lake of Bohinj. Several

prominent individuals working and living in Slovenia hosted interesting dinner sessions at various locations discussing the overarching theme of this year's Young BSF.

Young BSF concluded this morning with the debate entitled „Building the Future: Opportunity for Aspiring Young Leaders“, which featured Slovenia's former President, Dr Danilo Türk, human rights activist, Mr Tomo Križnar and MEP Ms Tanja Fajon. The list of panellists also included the Euro-Mediterranean University President, Dr Abdelhamid El-Zoheiry, founder of the European Centre for Dispute Resolution, Ms Katarina Kresal and Dr Danica Purg, president of the IEDC Bled School of Management, the host of the Young BSF. (Text by STA) ■



Photo: Tamino Petelinšek/STA

## Today at 22:00

**What changes and challenges are you preparing for? Are your expectations of the future making you blind to what is really going on?**

At the Night-Owl Session, a distinguished expert panel will highlight what they see as the key global shifts, emerging risks and new opportunities that we will face in the next 20 years. **Join us tonight at 22:00 at the Lake Lounge of Grand Hotel Toplice.**



# 10 years sharing visions building partnerships

**2006**  
Political Reform and Sustainable Development in South Caucasus



**2015**  
Visions of New Partnerships



**2007**  
European Union 2020: Enlarging and Integrating



**2008**  
Energy and Climate Change: Synergy for the Future



**2009**  
The Politics of Economic Crisis: Redefining Economic and Geopolitical Landscapes in Europe and Eurasia



**2010**  
Global Outlook for the Next Decade



**2011**  
The Power of the Future



 Young BSF

**2012**  
Europe and the Reshaped Global Order



**2014**  
The Power of Trust



**2013**  
A Changing Europe in a Changing World



 Business BSF

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I FEEL SLOVENIA

#ifeelsLOVEnia



## LOVE STORY, TRUE STORY, MY STORY

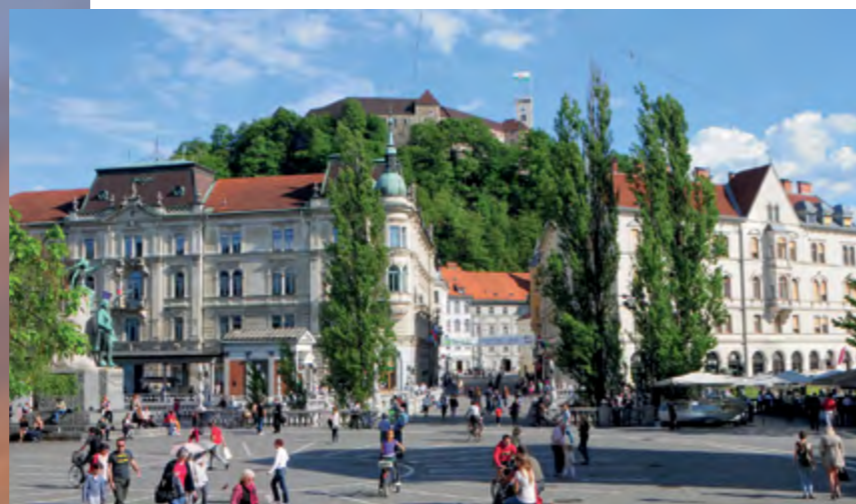
Feel Slovenia! Welcome to the only country in the world that bears love in its name. An old folk tale says love has a special power here. In Slovenia, beautiful things are right next to each other and you can experience them in a single day.



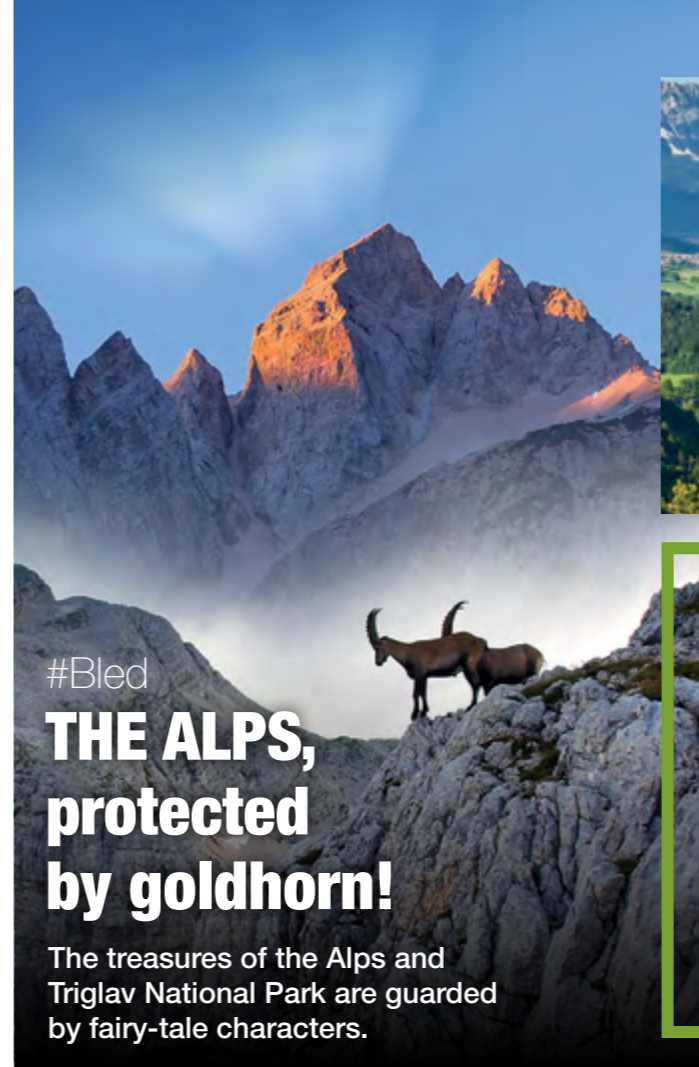
#Ljubljana

**LJUBLJANA, beloved!**

Ljubljana. The centre of Slovenia. Everything is nearby!



See everything by bike or on foot. The centre of the city along the **Ljubljanica River** is close to the ancient remains of Roman Emona, a mighty town, which is revived by numerous events in 2015, and also close to the viewing **castle** above the city and the **city parks**.



#Bled

**THE ALPS, protected by goldhorn!**

The treasures of the Alps and Triglav National Park are guarded by fairy-tale characters.



**Mt Triglav** is the highest peak of Slovenia. The mountain, featured in the Slovenian coat-of-arms, carries the same name as the ancient Slavic god that had power over the sky, earth and the underground. Here, the magnificent treasures are protected from human greed by the fairy-tale **Goldhorn**. This kingdom of nature is located among the oldest natural parks in Europe. **Lake Bled**, beneath the peaks of the Julian Alps, is an image of paradise according to the greatest Slovenian poet.

People come to the **Slovenian coast** to feel good. The hinterland invites them to see the **olive plantations** and **vineyards**, caressed by the salty winds. The winds mixed with the music of virtuosos such as Tartini and the sounds of birds that return to protected wetlands.



#Portoroz & Piran

**SLOVENIAN ISTRIA, salty love!**

Along the northernmost salt pans of the Mediterranean.



#PostojnaCave

**KARST STONE with soft heart!**

Over 10.000 karst caves are located beneath the surface of Slovenia.

**Postojna Cave** is the largest, and with more than 36 million visitors, the most visited karst cave in Europe. A special train has been carrying tourists since 1818. The **Škocjan Caves** are on the **UNESCO** world heritage list. This is where the Lipizzaner horses from the oldest stud farm graze. The Karst is the region in south-western Slovenia; karst phenomena can be found on almost one half of Slovenian territory.





## WATERS and their healing touch!

Indulge in the water and other natural features that 15 Slovenian spas have to offer.



**Thermo-mineral waters** in Slovenia have always been a source of health and well-being. They enable us to take care of ourselves. **Slovenian spas** in various regions combine natural features, hundred years of healing and contemporary medical approaches. Relaxation in modern thermal water pools with attractions, wellness and therapies supplement various possibilities for spending time actively in the green countryside and nearby towns.

Genuine Slovenian inns, tourist farms and restaurants that vary their menus with the seasons prove that **Slovenia is a culinary paradise**. The ingredients for delicacies come from the nearby fields and forests, rivers, lakes and the sea. Let yourself be surprised by the food in the street at the Open Kitchen in Ljubljana, for instance!



## #tastesLOVEnia CHEERS, love!

Slovenian wine-growing areas are ranked among the 3 to 5 per cent of the best locations in the world.

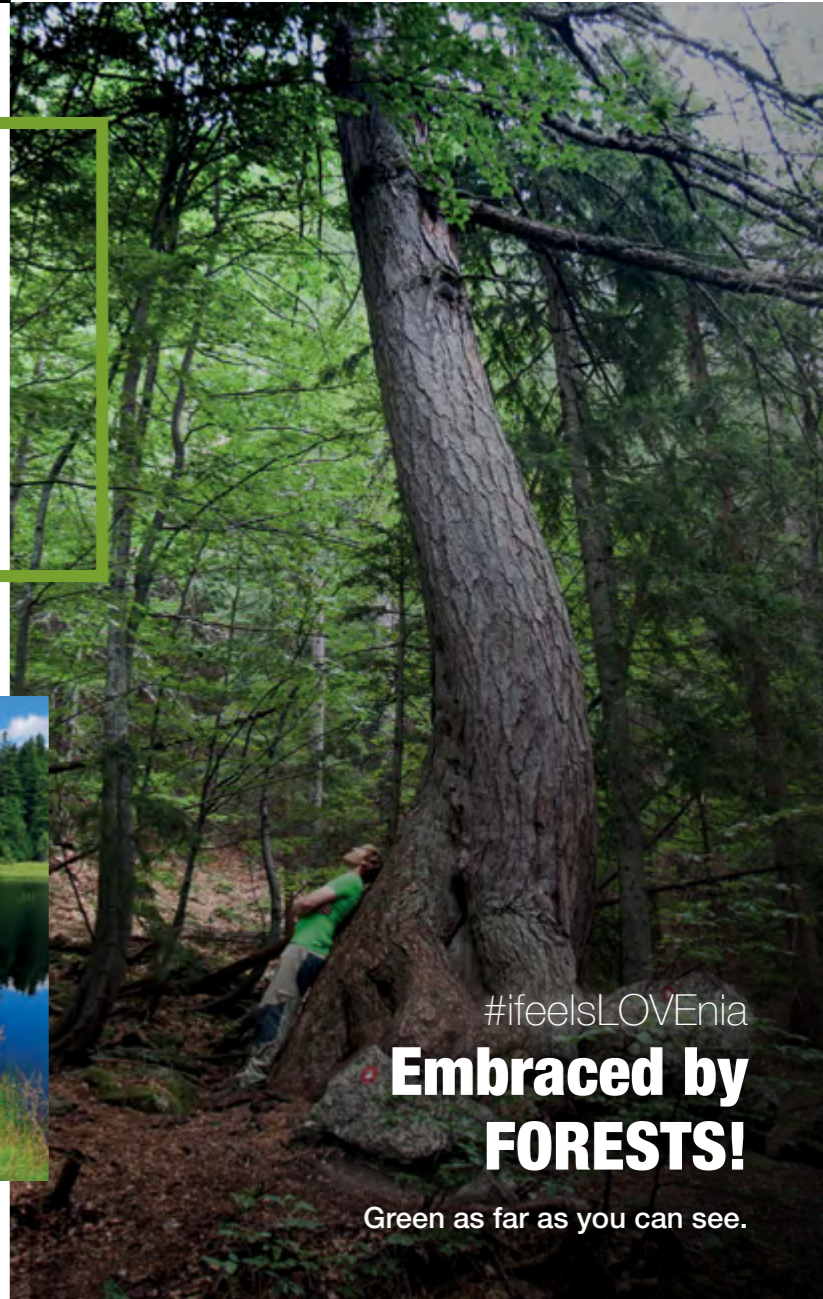


## SLOVENIANS, conquerors of the world!

Meet the people of Slovenia.

Send greetings when **Tina Maze** and other Slovenian sportsmen and women achieve victories. See what **Matevž Lenarčič** did on his flight around the world. Check what the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change did to earn the Nobel Prize. Read **Slavoj Žižek**. Listen to the **Avsenik Brothers ensemble**...

The best things in **Slovenia happen in nature**. It is crisscrossed with trails, and some which are not that easy and can be followed with guides. Besides hiking and cycling, there are water sports, fishing, golfing and riding, paragliding, caving and climbing, adrenaline parks and adventure parks. Do not miss the winter in Slovenia: visit the Slovenian ski resorts, stadiums, amusement parks.



## #feelsLOVEnia Embraced by FORESTS!

Green as far as you can see.



TOMORROW MORNING:

## Music as a tool in diplomacy?



Photo: Nebojša Tejić/STA

Join this year's Hidden Dimension panel and meet a member of the music group Laibach, who held a concert in North Korea a week ago, becoming the first band to ever perform in the country known for its strong resistance to Western culture. Hear what an acclaimed performing artist and the most successful Slovenian representative at Eurovision has to say about music in international relations, and discuss musical diplomacy with a renowned Grammy-nominated composer.

The panel "Resounding Diplomacy: Music in International Relations" that takes place on Tuesday from 9:30 to 10:30 in Libertas Hall, Hotel Golf, will be moderated by BSF Creative Director Žiga Pirnat, who is also the composer and conductor of the opening event of this year's BSF. "Music is one of the most effective channels of communication that can penetrate barriers that are otherwise insurmountable. It is definitely a source of power and influence worth discussing in the context of international relations," revealed Žiga for BSF Today.

Indeed, recent findings imply an incredibly strong connection between the human brain and musical impulses, which explains why, for more than a century, diplomacy and other stakeholders in international relations have used music to influence others and achieve their goals. In the early years of the Cold War, Western nations increasingly turned to music in their cultural diplomacy. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, thousands of American musicians performing classi-

cal music, rock'n'roll, folk and blues, and jazz travelled the world to appear in a series of concerts. These efforts were in competition with those of the Soviet Union and China, and were aimed at promoting American values, a positive image and musicianship. In the mid-2000s, the Rhythm Road initiative was launched, with hip-hop envoys countering "poor perceptions" of the United States abroad.

The sound of music can often travel where classic diplomacy cannot. Ivan Novak, one of the panellists, is very well aware of this, as the internationally acclaimed music and cross-media group Laibach, of which he is a member, has just returned from Pyongyang, where they became the first band to perform in the secretive Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The so-called Liberation Day Tour consisted of two concerts and coincided with the 70th anniversary of the Korean peninsula's liberation from Japanese colonisation and the subsequent partition into two states.

In history, several attempts were made to build and strengthen connections severed by mistrust, conflicts, and war. A famous example is the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, which unites young Israeli and Arab players. Musicians can also make a huge impact in awareness campaigns and in charity efforts, as demonstrated by projects such as when Michael Jackson and other pop stars united for Africa with the iconic "We Are the World". Michael Jackson was also among the artists who performed at a concert in West Berlin near the Berlin Wall, a year before its fall. Recently discovered files of the

East German secret police show that he was being watched closely, as there was fear of "political provocation". At the same concert, Pink Floyd turned the speakers towards the east. Born and raised in Germany, Chris Walden, six-time Grammy-nominated composer, arranger and conductor from the United States, will be able to say more about this and similar cases.

When talking about music, politics, and diplomacy in Europe, the Eurovision Song Contest cannot be ignored, as one of the most watched non-sporting events in the world, although it is often criticised due to its political voting and content. While seen as an entertaining and rather irrelevant TV show in some countries, many nations take their Eurovision participation very seriously. Several years ago, the Russian foreign minister called Azerbaijan's failure to award any points to Russia's song "outrageous", claiming the points had been stolen from their representative and that the action would receive a response. The panel will have a Eurovision flavour as well, since one of the speakers is Darja Švajger, who has represented Slovenia at the contest twice, reaching the country's best result to date. Darja is also an Assistant Professor at the University of Ljubljana and one of Slovenia's most popular and respected singers.

While music can help build partnerships, there are several instances where it can also have a divisive effect. In recent years, much controversy in the region has been caused by popular Croatian singer Marko Perković Thompson, whose performances – prohibited in many European countries – are often accused of openly glorifying the Ustaše, the Croatian fascist regime during WWII, with Perković's concerts broadcast on Croatian national TV and attracting tens of thousands of fans, many of them ultranationalists wearing fascist uniforms, symbols, and banners. Another example of music's negative connotations is illustrated by Richard Wagner, whose compositions are known to be unwelcome in Israel due to the composer's strong anti-Semitism; the few public instrumental performances there have been heavily criticised.

If you would like to learn more about the topic, join the panellists tomorrow at 9:30 in Libertas Hall, Hotel Golf. ■

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