



European Parliament
**FORMER MEMBERS
ASSOCIATION**

FMA VISIT TO SLOVENIA

Programme

27 -28 September 2021

Ljubljana

Sunday | 26 September 2021

or

Monday | 27 September 2021

Arrival of the delegation members

Own arrangements for transfers from airport to hotel

Hotel Slon Best Western Premier

Slovenska cesta 34,

1000 Ljubljana,

Slovenia

T: +386 (0)1 470 11 00/ E-Mail: sales@hotelslon.com

24 September 2021



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Monday | 27 September 2021

16.25

Meeting at the Slon Hotel lobby to start the guided visit

16.30 - 18.30

Cultural guided tour around Plečnik's Ljubljana (on foot)

During the tour the delegation will visit Ljubljana's landmarks designed by the famous architect Jože Plečnik (1872-1957) have been included in UNESCO's World Heritage List. In designing Ljubljana, the nation's new capital, Plečnik tried to use modern approaches while modeling the city on ancient Athens. His style, innovative even by today's standards, is characterized by the use of classical architectural elements, such as pillars, lintels, balustrades, and colonnettes, redesigned and combined in the master architect's own special way.

Tuesday | 28 September 2021

08.30

Departure from the Slon Hotel to the EP Liaison Office (by taxi)

09.00 - 10.30

Meeting on the Conference on the Future of Europe organised in co-operation with the EP Liaison Office in Ljubljana

Title of the event: **"Europe Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow"**. More information in Annex I

Venue: Dunajska cesta 20. SI-1000 Ljubljana

10.40

Departure from the EPLO to the Presidential Palace (by taxi)

11.00 - 12.00

Meeting with **Dr Ernest Petrič**, Senior Adviser to the President of the Republic

Venue: Presidential Palace (entrance on Erjavčeva 17), Hall Jože Pučnik (1st floor)



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12.10

Departure from the Presidential Palace to Ljubljana Castle (by taxi)

12.30 - 14.10

Working Lunch hosted by H.E. **Gašper Dovžan**, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-chair of the Executive Board of the Conference on the Future of Europe during the Slovenian Presidency

Venue: Ljubljana Castle (<https://www.jezersek.si/si/lokacije/ljubljanski-grad>)

14.10

Departure from Ljubljana Castle to the National Assembly of Slovenia (by taxi)

14.30 - 15.00

Meeting with **H.E Igor Zorčič**, Speaker of the National Assembly of Slovenia

Venue: Large Meeting Room. National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia. Šubičeva ulica 4. 1000 Ljubljana

15.15 - 16.00

Meeting with **Marko Pogačnik**, President of the National Assembly's Committee on EU Affairs, **Monika Gregorčič**, President of the Committee on Foreign Policy and other Members of both Committees.

Venue: Large Meeting Room. National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia. Šubičeva ulica 4. 1000 Ljubljana

16.15

Departure from National Assembly of Slovenia to [Jozef Stefan Institute](#) (by taxi)

16.45 - 18.00

Meeting with **Prof. Dr. Boštjan Zalar**, Director of Jožef Stefan Institute, and **Dr. Romana Jordan** Advisor to the Director and Member of the Administrative Board of the **European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)**

Venue: Institut Jožef Stefan, Jamova cesta 39, 1000 Ljubljana

18.10

Departure from Jozef Stefan Institute to Hotel Slon (by taxi)

20.00

Working Dinner organised by FMA at TaBar Restaurant



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Invited guest Speakers:

Ms **Zofija Mazej Kukovič**, Deputy Chair of the ECDC Management Board. Former Minister of Health (2007-2008). Former MEP. Former FMA Board member who has helped organise the visit.

Mr **Jelko Kacin**, State Secretary, National Logistics Coordinator for the Mass Vaccination Campaign against COVID-19, Office of the Prime Minister. Former MEP.

Mr **Alojz Peterle**, Former Prime Minister (1990-1992) and Minister of Foreign Affairs (1993-1994). Former MEP. FMA member.

Venue: TaBar, Ribji trg 6, 1000 Ljubljana

END OF THE VISIT

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ANNEX I

EUROPE YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW

House of the EU in Ljubljana
28 September, from 9.00-10.30

The event will be divided into three parts:

EUROPE YESTERDAY (20 minutes)

- Mr. Hans-Gert Pöttering discusses his experience as a **member of the first directly elected European Parliament** in 1979: how does he remember that time? Suggested discussion points: Treaty changes, changing relationships between the 3 main institutions; role and position of women in politics then and now
- Mr. Alojz Peterle discusses **his experience as an MEP from a new MS** joining in 2004. Additional aspect is **voters' turnout at European elections**: how has it evolved through time (with special emphasis on the low turnout of new MS)? What could we do to increase it again (voting at 16? transnational lists? online voting)?
- Both: How did the EU react to different **crises in the past** (institutional crisis after the Convention on the Future of the EU in 2003, the subsequent referendums in France and the Netherlands, the financial and the sovereign debt crisis, the record migratory flows to the EU in 2015 and 2016, Brexit etc.)

EUROPE TODAY (20 minutes)

- Zofija Mazej Kukovic, Deputy Chair of ECDC Members Board and Former Minister of Health will give an introduction regarding **Health Union**, and the epidemic. What about those areas where the EU has no competences? Public health, for instance and the ongoing plans for a health union?
- Prof. dr. Avbelj, prof. dr. Janja Hojnik: **It seems that the EU has come out of each crisis stronger**. Would you agree with this statement? How have the competences of the EU evolved in relation to the different crises? Where has the EU become stronger and where/if weaker?
- What are the views on the role of the **ECJ as a political actor**?
- What about the competences of the EP, how did it manage to put itself in the **middle of the institutional triangle** (Budgetary powers, Lisbon treaty)? How far can it still or should go?
- How do you see the discussion around the concept of the **European Strategic Autonomy**?
- What is the role of the EU on the **international stage**? What are the thoughts on the so-called **Brussels effect**?

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EUROPE TOMORROW (20 minutes)

- For the young people: Are you aware of how strong the EU has become through the years? What does this mean to you? What is your opinion on the topics discussed? What would you change? What about the roles of different institutions? Do you feel the EP as the only elected body should have more powers? Do the institutions listen to young people? What and how should they improve in the dialogue with the youth?
- Does the EU include young people enough into its decision-making processes?
- What will the role of the EU be like in the future according to you? Should it have more competences? If yes, in which areas?

Everyone (some examples): What are the **lessons of the pandemic**? Is there a growing inter-generational divide or rather stronger inter-generational solidarity in the EU? What is the role of education? Do we need an EU-wide curriculum on civic involvement and active citizenships and last but not least on EU matters?

Q&A: 15 minutes