

On the basis of Article 2, paragraph 1, of the Foreign Affairs Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia Nos. 113/03 – official consolidated text, 20/06 – ZNOMCMO, 76/08, 108/09, 80/10 – ZUTD, and 31/15) and Article 110 of the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia Nos. 92/07 – official consolidated text, 105/10, and 80/13), the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia adopted at its session of 10 July 2015 the following

DECLARATION OF FOREIGN POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA (DeZPRS-1)

In the context and time frame determined by twenty-five years of a sovereign, independent and democratic state, ten years of membership of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), and the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the adoption of the Helsinki Final Act, the creation of the United Nations, the end of the Second World War and the beginning of the First World War,

The National Assembly,

- Considering the changes in the international community since the Declaration of Foreign Policy of the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 108/99), particularly new regional and global challenges at the beginning of the 21st century,
- Considering the national interests of the Republic of Slovenia in its sovereignty, the safety of its nationals, the protection and promotion of constitutional values and national culture, sustainable development, the economic and general prosperity of its nationals, safeguarding and consolidating the rule of law and respect for human rights, safeguarding and strengthening parliamentary democracy and the market economy, the protection of the rights of the autochthonous Italian and Hungarian national communities, the concern for autochthonous Slovenian national minorities in neighbouring countries, the concern for Slovenians abroad and the preservation and development of the common Slovenian cultural space,
- Considering that the nationals of the Republic Slovenia opted, with a prevailing majority, for membership of the European Union, which has provided the Republic of Slovenia with a basic framework of values and political standards to ensure prosperity and fundamental rights, and for membership of NATO, which has provided a basic framework for ensuring national security,
- In accordance with the key national strategic documents, particularly those concerning Slovenia's national security and development,
- Taking into consideration the relations of the Republic of Slovenia with other subjects of international law and its engagement in various forms of cooperation within the international community at the global and regional levels, through which it constructively contributes to the development of the international community on the basis of peace and security, the peaceful resolution of disputes, the sovereign equality of states, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and human dignity, respect for international law, guaranteeing human security, international justice and solidarity, adhering to the principles of good governance, and the attainment of sustainable development goals at the global level,

Has adopted the Declaration of Foreign Policy of the Republic of Slovenia

I. VALUES, LEGAL FOUNDATIONS AND GEOPOLITICAL SITUATION

The foreign policy of the Republic of Slovenia is founded on the values of Slovenia's independence and statehood, the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, the values of the European Union and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The position and activities of the Republic of Slovenia in the international arena are based on the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, the Basic Constitutional Charter on the Sovereignty and Independence of the Republic of Slovenia, the Foreign Affairs Act, and other internal legal instruments and international law that is binding on the Republic of Slovenia.

The Republic of Slovenia is a Central European and Mediterranean country, lying at the heart of the Alpine-Adriatic-Danube region and the meeting point between the Western Europe and the Western Balkans. The Republic of Slovenia is a maritime state.

II. FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

The foreign policy objectives of the Republic of Slovenia are:

- the security of the Republic of Slovenia: peace, security and political stability in the neighbourhood, Europe and beyond;
- the prosperity of the Republic of Slovenia and its nationals;
- effective bilateral relations: good neighbourly relations and enhanced relations with partners in the European Union and other key political and economic partners;
- a positive image and the visibility of the Republic of Slovenia as a successful member of the European Union;
- the positioning of the Republic of Slovenia at the centre of a deepened and widened European Union, with a strong foreign and security policy, which is able to promote the interests of its member states as a key global player;
- a consolidated multilateral system based on an effective United Nations, the sovereign equality of states, collective security, the peaceful resolution of disputes, the self-determination of peoples, high human rights standards, a powerful role of international law, intensified international development cooperation, humanitarian assistance, and sustainable development;
- the visibility of Slovenia's excellence in culture, science and education at the international level; the preservation and development of Slovenian minorities in neighbouring countries and Slovenian communities around the world; the promotion of the Slovenian language in neighbouring countries, in the European Union and around the world.

III. PRIORITY FOREIGN POLICY AREAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

In the context of the foregoing objectives, the implementation of the foreign policy of the Republic of Slovenia focuses on the following priority areas:

- consolidating political and economic ties at the national and regional levels in the Alpine-Adriatic-Danube region, with Central European countries and within Central European integrations;
- supporting enhanced trade and strong presence of Slovenian companies in the markets of the European Union member states and in the third markets, increased foreign direct investments, the internationalisation of Slovenian companies and the promotion of start-ups; supporting the promotion of Slovenian know-how abroad and the flow of knowledge; promoting the visibility of the Republic of Slovenia in culture, science, education and tourism as well as its general visibility and positive image;
- promoting the interests of the Republic of Slovenia as an active member at the heart of the European Union; supporting the integration of the Republic of Slovenia in pan-European transport and energy networks with due consideration for its prime geographical position; promoting Koper as the leading North Adriatic and Central European port in connection with the Baltic-Adriatic Corridor;
- attaining the full implementation of the Agreement on Succession Issues and settlement of unresolved succession issues;
- increasing Slovenia's presence in the Western Balkans; actively supporting the enlargement of the European Union and NATO, provided that the required conditions, particularly those relating to the rule of law, are met;
- increasing the visibility and role of the Republic of Slovenia within NATO, the basic framework of national and European security; strengthening transatlantic cooperation on the basis of shared values and mutual interests; fighting terrorism and extremism, including the elimination of conditions that provide fertile ground for extremism;
- supporting the position and development of the Slovenian autochthonous national communities in Austria, Croatia, Italy and Hungary; promoting ties between Slovenians living abroad and the Republic of Slovenia in all spheres of life;
- conducting consular activities to protect Slovenian nationals abroad and promote international cooperation in business, culture, science and education, cooperation among Slovenians around the world, safe migration and the fight against trafficking in human beings;
- actively championing the rights of children, women, national minorities and the most vulnerable groups, including the promotion of the principle of responsibility to protect; strengthening intercultural dialogue and respect for diversity; dealing with the issue of ageing population;
- dealing with climate change, with a special focus on the sustainability of water and forest resources, and biological and geographical diversity.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA AND THE DECLARATION

The following elements of the foreign policy of the Republic of Slovenia are essential for the successful implementation of the Declaration:

- the central role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in coordinating all international activities and all stakeholders involved in the international relations of the Republic of Slovenia, and in integrating these activities into a coherent, authentic and comprehensive foreign policy; the active and concerted engagement of all ministries at the Council of the European Union and other international and regional organisations; the leading role of the National Assembly in drafting positions on all foreign affairs matters; the coordinating role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in planning and implementing economic diplomacy;
- strengthened foreign policy culture, which is marked by a foreign policy focused on national interests, the continuity of foreign policy principles and values, the search for wide political and social agreement on the fundamental foreign policy orientation, key decisions and major international candidacies, and the coordinated championing of national interests in appearances of office-holders and foreign policy stakeholders abroad;
- long-term and stable provision of adequate budgetary funds for the implementation of foreign policy;
- the greatest possible presence of the Republic of Slovenia abroad and in international organisations in accordance with its political and economic interests; the strengthened diplomatic presence of other countries and a strong presence of international organisations in the Republic of Slovenia;
- a modern, efficient, professional and adequately equipped diplomatic service and the promotion of its modernisation and development.

The modes and means of attaining specific objectives according to the priority areas defined under this Declaration will be specified in a strategic document on the foreign policy of the Republic of Slovenia to be passed by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the basis of the Declaration. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia will draft an action plan on the basis of this document.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, the Minister of Foreign Affairs will present an annual assessment to the National Assembly of the state of international relations and status of the Republic of Slovenia in the international community according to the objectives and priorities specified under the Declaration and the strategic document from the preceding paragraph. On this basis, the National Assembly will draft positions and guidelines for the Government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia.

In implementing the Declaration and the strategic document, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia will actively and systemically cooperate with Slovenian political, business and other legal entities, civil society, NGOs and the interested expert and general public.

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National Assembly of the
Republic of Slovenia
Dr Milan Brglez, /s/
President