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President Türk Attends Annual Session of UN General Assembly

The President of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr Danilo Türk, will next week attend in New York the 64th session of the UN General Assembly, which begins on September 22nd. The President will deliver a speech within the context of the general discussions on Thursday, September 24th.

During visit to New York, President Türk will present this year's Annual Emile Noël Lecture at the New York University.



*President of Slovenia, Danilo Türk,
addressing the UN General Assembly in 2008*

The Jean Monnet Center for International and Regional Economic Law & Justice at New York University School of Law invited Dr. Danilo

Türk, a distinguished professor of International Law and President of the Republic of Slovenia, to present the lecture. The lecture on the state of the European Union will take the format of a Fireside Chat between the President and Professor Joseph Weiler.

Following the lecture, the President will unveil the sculpture "Abraham" of the Slovenian sculptor Boštjan Novak, which will adorn the Lipton Hall of the NYU School of Law.

The Slovenian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Samuel Žbogar, will also attend the Assembly, where he will participate in several multilateral sessions, including the transatlantic meeting with Secretary of State Clinton.

Slovenia has been active in the UN for over a decade; the country became a member of the organization, on May 22, 1992. Since being admitted as a member, and particularly when it functioned as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council during 1998 and 1999, Slovenia has actively endeavored to support the UN in its efforts to adapt to the new opportunities and challenges ushered in by the new millennium.

U.S. Economist Paul Krugman in Ljubljana on Global Economic

Ljubljana, September 17 - U.S. economist and Nobel Prize winner Paul Krugman said late on Wednesday at the event hosted by KD Banka and the Ljubljana Faculty of Economics at arts centre Cankarjev dom, that the latest data on production output could be a sign of recovery. He noted, however, that the way to full recovery would be long. He believes that unemployment rates will keep climbing after the economy overcomes the recession - even after 2011.

The Princeton economics professor stressed that the global extent of the crisis was very problematic. According to him, people believed that the 1930s recession or the 1990 Japan crisis could not happen again. Krugman noted that nobody expected this crisis to become global. The gap between the expected and the actual GDP trends was huge, he said, adding that a lot of resources had been lost. In the EU, the GDP is some eight percentage points below what was expected in 2007.

Among the reasons for the crisis, Krugman mentioned the so-called hot air balloons that had no real foundation in the market economy. Another problem is strong dependence on exports in Japan. Slovenia is facing the same problem.

Increased debts in the private sector is another reason for the crisis. The trend started already in 2004 and the situation was worsened by different non-banking institutions and also by a misunderstanding of the situation among economists themselves, according to Krugman.

Only a few experts actually realized how vulnerable the financial system really was, Krugman told the audience. He believes that the development of events would have been different if the Lehman Brothers bank had been saved last year. Its bankruptcy triggered a snowball effect, but there were no rules about who

should be saved and how important control was.

Krugman expressed concern regarding increasing budget deficits. He said, however, that it was good that states continue to provide the basic health care and social security.



Paul Krugman, Nobel Prize Winner in Economics in 2008

He noted that the EU was facing a unique problem, because there were imbalances in the members' balance of payments, so the balancing would be long and hard, due also to the common currency and low workforce mobility.

Krugman pointed out that Slovenia should be happy not to have followed all recommendations of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other international financial institutions.

Krugman believes that the right way out of the crisis is through aggressive support for the economy, the encouragement of consumption and investments in the private sector, and the revival of borrowing.



The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences decided to award The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2008 to Paul Krugman "for his analysis of trade patterns and location of economic activity". Krugman received his Ph.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1977. He has been a Professor of Economics and International Affairs at Princeton University, NJ, since 2000.

Opening of the Exhibition by Bogdan Grom, *Selected Works, 1947 – 2008*

On Friday, September 25, 2009, the Embassy of Slovenia will honor Slovenian–Italian artist, Bogdan Grom, with a retrospective of his extensive body of work from 1947 to 2008, the series “From Trieste Karst to South-West Canyons” and the “Winnetou Series”, an homage to Karl May, German author.

During the last six decades, Bogdan Grom, whose sculpture entitled “The Sentinel” (Straža) adorns the entrance of the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia, has created art in just about every medium one can imagine, including watercolor and oil paintings, sculpture, paper cutouts, drawings, and textiles. Already in his 90s, this sprightly Slovenian-Italian virtuoso says he is not yet ready to retire the tools of his trade—not even close.

Grom, whose life as an artist took him from his birthplace in Trieste, Italy, to residences throughout Europe, New York, and eventually New Jersey, has recently traveled to Slovenia for his retrospective exhibit in the City Art Gallery of Ljubljana (Mestna galerija).

Bogdan Grom continues to divide his reality and his dreams between the Trieste Karst and the Plaza Blanca canyon and Bandelier caves of New Mexico.

The exhibition at the Embassy of Slovenia includes his homage to the past and present Native inhabitants of the great Southwest. His art will be on view at the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, D.C., from September 25, 2009, through January 31, 2010.



Grom with his sculpture Sentinel (Stražar), 1968, donated to the Slovenian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

The opening of the exhibition on 25 September is at 6:30 pm. If you would like to attend, RSVP to 1 202 386 6613 or nina.aguilar@gov.si.

**You can watch an interview with Bogdan Grom on Slovenian National TV:
http://www.rtv slo.si/odprtikop/vecerni_gost/bogdan-grom/**

Embassy Hosted the WFPG Author Series Event

On **Monday, September 14**, Slovenian Embassy hosted the second Women’s Foreign Policy Group’s event. Dr. John R. Bowen, professor at Washington University in St. Louis, presented his latest book *Can Islam Be French?*

As described by the author John Bowen, his book *Can Islam Be French?* is an anthropological examination of how Muslims are responding to the conditions of life in France.

Following up on his book *Why the French Don’t Like Headscarves*, John Bowen turns his attention away from the perspectives of French non-Muslims to focus on those of the country’s Muslims themselves.

Bowen asks not the usual question—how well are Muslims integrating in France?—but, rather, how do French Muslims think about Islam? In particular, Bowen examines how French Muslims are fashioning new Islamic

institutions and developing new ways of reasoning and teaching.

He argues that the particular ways in which Muslims have settled in France and in which France governs religions, have created incentives for Muslims to develop new, pragmatic ways of thinking about religious issues in French society.

Professor John Bowen at the Slovenian Embassy, event hosted by WFPG.



Slovenian Embassy at the Maryland International Trade Conference

Slovenia will be featured at the *Maryland International Trade and Embassy Conference* which will be held on **September 25, 2009** at the North Bethesda Marriott Conference Center. The tradeshow will focus on three specific industries: advanced technologies, health care (life sciences) and global education. The event is hosted

by the Maryland Economic Development Office, World Trade Center Institute and the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development. More information and registration details at <https://www.wtci.org/events/mitec09/home.php>

Slovenia at EURO NIGHT 2009 – Discover European Tradition

Slovenian Embassy, along with other European Union embassies in Washington, D.C., is delighted to invite you to the second annual “Euro Night” on Friday, September 18, from 6:30pm to 10:30pm. Take a cultural tour around Europe and feast on national dishes without ever leaving DC!

You will not miss Slovenian table if you look for its youthful logo



and adorable national costumes!

This year’s Euro Night will feature Swedish hip-hop artist Adam Tensta, who will rock the “House of France” throughout the evening. Don’t miss this opportunity to discover European traditions!

WHAT: Euro Night 2009 (details below and at www.EuroNight.org)

WHEN: Friday, September 18, 2009 from 6:30pm to 10:30pm

WHERE: Embassy of France, 4101 Reservoir Rd, NW

ADMISSION: General: \$25; Benefactor: \$50 (\$25 tax-deductible)

Admission includes all food and drinks!

TICKETS: www.InstantSeats.com

Proceeds from this event will help support the numerous and varied cultural activities at the participating European embassies.

Interview Series: Mr. Bogdan Pavlič, president and CEO of Telargo, Inc.

TELARGO

Mr. Bogdan Pavlič is president and CEO of Telargo Inc. and one of the founders two Slovenia's leading high-tech companies. Telargo Inc. is Jersey City-based mobile asset management services provider established in 2005 as a joint venture between Ultra and NTT DoCoMo.

Can you explain who are the users of mobile asset management services and what do they entail?

Any company having a fleet of vehicles might find such services a great contribution to its efficiency, service level, and similar. However, a company having a larger fleet would be a typical user as it finds managing its fleet and mobile workforce a challenge.

Is there a collaboration or relationship of Telargo that you are especially proud of?

We partner with UPS Logistics technologies, AT&T Govt. Division and similar high-profile companies, but Wheels Inc. from Chicago choosing us as their telematic provider makes us really proud as they were essentially the beginners of leasing business 60 years ago and remain one of the industry leaders to this day.

Telargo is a global company, your

solutions are green and high-tech, R&D must be essential part of Telargo operations. Where do you find the talent?

We have a somewhat unusual model where we maintain a relatively small but experienced and very focused core R&D team, which is then complemented by specialized partner companies providing specific solution components to our product suite. This model could be compared to the one Boeing has been employing recently, though on a much larger scale.

How are Telargo and the industry weathering this crisis?

Telematics industry is generally experiencing solid demand due to vastly increased number of fleet operators seeking ways to minimize costs and keep their operations tight. However, pressure is being put on suppliers, and we are no exception to that.

What would be your word of advice to Slovenian companies entering the US market?

Be prepared for the long run and reward shall come.

EuroBasket 2009: There is Serious Talk About a Medal!



Goran Dragič on Slovenian national basketball team

After persuasive wins over England, Serbia, Lithuania, Poland, and a tight defeat by Spain, the Slovenian national basketball team has already reached the quarterfinals of the European championship. The atmosphere in the team seems to be relaxed and the players are very optimistic. »So far, we presented good basketball. If we continue with our defense and do what the coach tells us, we can make it very far,« explained Phoenix Suns's Goran Dragič.

As the intensity grows, more and more Slovenian fans are gathering in the host country, Poland, to support their »white and green« team. They are aware that Slovenia has a good chance to make its best placement ever in EuroBasket championships, some are even talking about a medal. One of the fans said: »You see, we have a lot of very good individuals who manage to play together, as a team. And if they play as they have, then we already have a medal!«

VERUS Wines Present Also on American Market

In 2007, three young Slovene winemakers pooled their knowledge and started to produce wines under the brand name VERUS. The wines are produced in Ormož, northeastern Slovenia, one of the world's best areas for white wine production. Outside Europe, they can be bought in Canada and five U.S. states: California, New York, Massachusetts, Indiana, and Colorado.

In their range of wines, one can find elegant, dry wines as šipon (furmint), sauvignon, chardonnay, renski rizling (rhine riesling) and sivi pinot (pinot gris).



In the range of half-dry wines, one can choose between rumeni muškat (muscat ottonel) and an excellent late harvested welschriesling.

Where to buy VERUS wines?

- **California** - Epic Wines (epic-wines.com)
- **Massachusetts - Cape Cod** Wholesale wine & spirits, Inc. (www.ccwvs.com)
- **New York** - The Sloan Wine Group, LLC
- **Colorado** – Vinoterra Importers
- **Indiana** – Wine importers & wholesalers (vinolefebvre.com)

Slovenian Women's Union of America Accepting New Applications

Slovenian Women's Union of America (SWUA) / Slovenska Ženska Zveza v Ameriki, an organization with a long tradition of preserving and promoting the legacy of our Slovenian –American heritage, is inviting all interested in applying for a membership. As a

member, you will receive the publication ZARJA – The Dawn, along with other benefits. For information on application process, and for a membership form, please visit the Web site of SWUA www.swua.org

CORRECTION *The calendar of skiing vacation, Sloven-Ski Program for Winter 2010, published in the Newsletter from September 11, 2009, included wrong information for the skiing trip to Colorado – the trip is planned for March 21 to 27 and not February 21 to 27. Please, contact Mr. Ivan Kamin for further information, jfkamin@verizon.net or Tel: 718 424 2711*

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Your online connection to everything Slovenian all around the world.

