

REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA  
DRŽAVNI ZBOR

A satellite-style image of the Earth from space, showing the continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. The Earth is set against a black background with white stars.

**COMMITTEE  
ON FOREIGN POLICY**

## **About the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia**

The National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia began its functions pursuant to the Slovenian Constitution after the second democratic elections in 1992.

The last parliamentary elections at which ninety deputies were elected to the National Assembly were held on 15 October 2000.

The deputies were elected by universal, equal, direct and secret voting.

The deputies are the representatives of all the people and are not bound by any instructions.

The term of a deputy lasts four years. Elections to the National Assembly are called by the President of the Republic.



*Borut Pahor, President  
of the National Assembly  
of the Republic of Slovenia*



## **Working bodies of the National Assembly**

The National Assembly sets up working bodies to examine individual areas, to prepare policy decisions in these areas, to formulate positions on particular issues, and to prepare, study and discuss draft laws and other acts of the National Assembly.

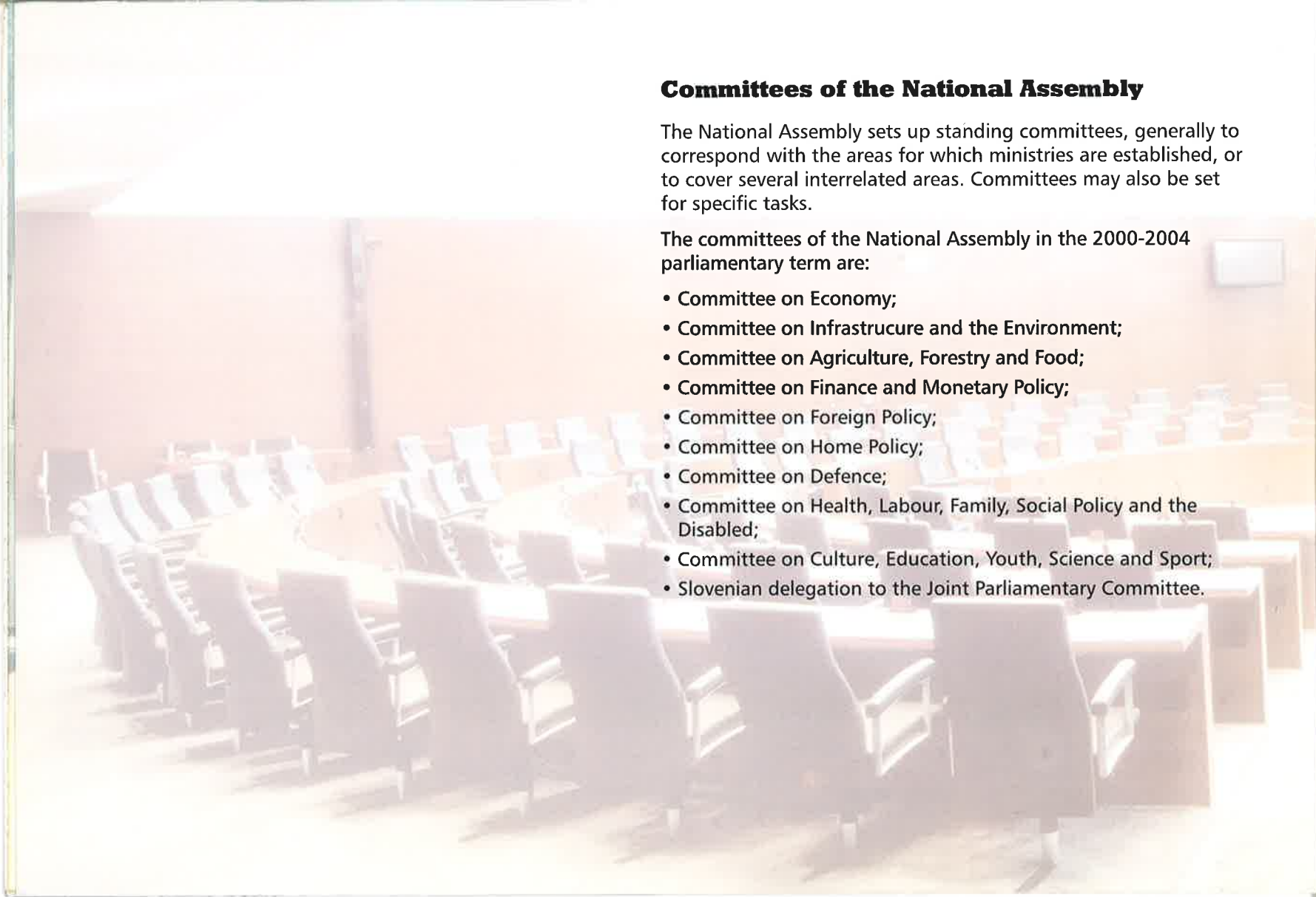


## **Committees of the National Assembly**

The National Assembly sets up standing committees, generally to correspond with the areas for which ministries are established, or to cover several interrelated areas. Committees may also be set for specific tasks.

The committees of the National Assembly in the 2000-2004 parliamentary term are:

- **Committee on Economy;**
- **Committee on Infrastructure and the Environment;**
- **Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Food;**
- **Committee on Finance and Monetary Policy;**
- **Committee on Foreign Policy;**
- **Committee on Home Policy;**
- **Committee on Defence;**
- **Committee on Health, Labour, Family, Social Policy and the Disabled;**
- **Committee on Culture, Education, Youth, Science and Sport;**
- **Slovenian delegation to the Joint Parliamentary Committee.**



## **Commissions of the National Assembly**

The National Assembly sets up commissions to examine specific common issues or to examine individual matters.

The National Assembly has the following **standing commissions**:

- Commission for Elections, Appointments and Administrative Affairs;
- Mandate and Immunity Commission;
- Commission for the Rules of Procedure;
- Commission for National Communities.

Pursuant to a particular law, the Commission under the **Incompatibility of Holding Public Office with Gainful Activity Act** was set up.

The following commissions are also operating in the current term:

- Commission Monitoring the Work of the Security and Intelligence Services;
- Commission for Budgetary and Other Public Finances Control;
- Commission for Petitions;
- Commission for Relations with Slovenes Across the Border and Around the World;
- Commission for European Affairs;
- Constitutional Commission.

During the current term the National Assembly has also set up a Commission of inquiry to determine responsibility with respect to the purchase and sale of electricity suspected of having caused economic damage to the Slovenian power industry.





## **Priorities of Slovenia's Foreign Policy**

- Improvement of bilateral relations, in particular with the neighbouring countries;
- Slovenia's membership in the EU;
- Slovenia's membership in NATO.



## **Committee on Foreign Policy**

The Committee on Foreign Policy was set up with an ordinance adopted by the National Assembly at its session of 21 November 2000.

The competences of the committee are determined pursuant to the Foreign Affairs Act and the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly. The Committee on Foreign Policy:

- discusses draft laws, other acts and issues relating to the scope of work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- discusses issues regarding the bilateral and multilateral parliamentary co-operation;
- assumes and delivers positions on issues placed on agendas of international parliamentary bodies, institutions and organisations, and brings such issues to the attention of the President of the National Assembly and chairmen of the working bodies;
- approves the initiatives to conclude treaties and, in the event of new elements in negotiations, the new positions for the work of negotiating delegations;
- discusses the proposals to open or close the missions of the Republic of Slovenia abroad and to appoint the heads of missions;
- draws up the proposals for the Commission for Elections, Appointments and Administrative Affairs regarding the composition of National Assembly's delegations in bilateral and multilateral parliamentary co-operation;
- discusses the reports by the National Assembly's delegations regarding co-operation and concrete issues of such co-operation.

## Composition of the committee



*Jelko Kacin, chairman - LDS*



*Janez Podobnik, deputy chairman - SLS+SKD Slovene People's Party*



*Zmago Jelinčič Plemeniti, deputy chairman - SNS*



*Anton Anderlič - LDS*



*Jože Avšič - LDS*



*Roman Jakič - LDS*



*Ciril Pucko - LDS*



*Andrej Gerenčer - LDS*



*Zoran Gračner - LDS*



*Jožef Kavtičnik - LDS*



*Jaša Zlobec Lukič - LDS*



*Davorin Terčon - LDS*





*dr. Mihael Brejc - SDS*



*Janez Janša - SDS*



*Jožef Jerovšek - SDS*



*Samo Bevk - ZLSD*



*Aurelio Juri - ZLSD*



*Janez Kramberger -  
SLS+SKD Slovene  
People's Party*

**Legend:**

**LDS** - Liberal Democracy of Slovenia, **SDS** - Social Democratic Party, **ZLSD** - United List of Social Democrats, **NSi** - Nova Slovenija, **DeSUS** - Democratic Party of Pensioners of Slovenia, **SNS** - Slovene National Party, **SMS** - Slovene Youth Party



*Alojz Peterle - NSi*



*dr. Jožef Bernik - NSi*



*Ivan Kebrič - DeSUS*



*Igor Štemberger - SMS*



*Roberto Battelli –  
Italian national  
community*



*Mária Pozsonec –  
Hungarian national  
community*



## **European Union**

On 3 July 1997, the representatives of seven parliamentary parties and the two representatives of the Italian and Hungarian national communities signed the Agreement on Co-operation in the Accession of Slovenia to the European Union. On the basis of such agreement, the Slovenian Constitution was amended and the Europe Agreement was ratified.

The Committee on Foreign Policy gives particular attention to Slovenia's adjustment to the European Union. It is the only parliamentary committee of the candidate countries to discuss and approve, as the primary working body, the Slovenian negotiating positions for all individual areas. The defining of Slovenia's negotiating positions represents the first stage of the two-stage procedure for the adoption of an international agreement. Once the Committee on Foreign Policy has approved all 31 negotiating positions, the initiative to conclude the treaty will be formally approved and will represent an important step forward towards the signing of the association agreement. Members of the committee are thus regularly informed about the course of negotiations between Slovenia and the European Union.

## **International activity**

The international activity by the Foreign Affairs Committee is rich and complex. The committee maintains and strengthens the relations with foreign policy committees in other countries and gives particular attention to the neighbouring countries as well as to the EU and NATO Member States and the countries of Southeast Europe. The committee members actively participate to various multilateral meetings, such as the meetings of the chairmen of the committees on foreign policy of EU Member States, the European Parliament and the associated countries, the conferences of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and other international conferences.





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