

REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
DRŽAVNI ZBOR



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 National Assembly was constituted at its first session of 23 December 1992 after the confirmation of the deputies' mandates and the election of a President and two Vice-Presidents (the National Assembly later also elected a third Vice-President).

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

The deputies are elected by universal, equal, direct and secret voting. The deputies are the representatives of all the people and are not bound by any instructions.

Unless interrupted by early or extraordinary elections, the term of a deputy lasts four years. Elections are called by the President of the Republic.

The National Assembly conducts its business in Slovene. The two deputies representing the Italian and Hungarian national communities have the right to speak and submit written proposals, initiatives, questions and other submissions in Italian or Hungarian respectively. In this case their oral or written submissions are translated into Slovene.

The work of the National Assembly is conducted in public.

The National Assembly carries out its work at regular and extraordinary sessions. Regular sessions of the National Assembly are called during the regular annual terms of the National Assembly: during the spring term from 10 January to 30 July and during the autumn term from 10 September to 20 December.



The Large Hall prior to renovation.



Composition of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia

The National Assembly is composed of 90 deputies, including one representative of the Italian national community and one representative of the Hungarian national community.

In the National Assembly the deputies are organised in deputy groups. Deputies elected from a list of the same name and deputies from the same parliamentary party have the right to form only one deputy group. Two or more deputy groups may unite to form one deputy group.

The deputies representing the Italian and Hungarian national communities have the status of a deputy group.

During the current term the deputies have formed nine deputy groups:

Liberal Democracy of Slovenia deputy group (4 female deputies, 30 male deputies);

Social Democratic Party of Slovenia deputy group (14 male deputies);

United List of Social Democrats deputy group (3 female deputies, 8 male deputies);

SLS + SKD Slovene People's Party deputy group (9 male deputies);

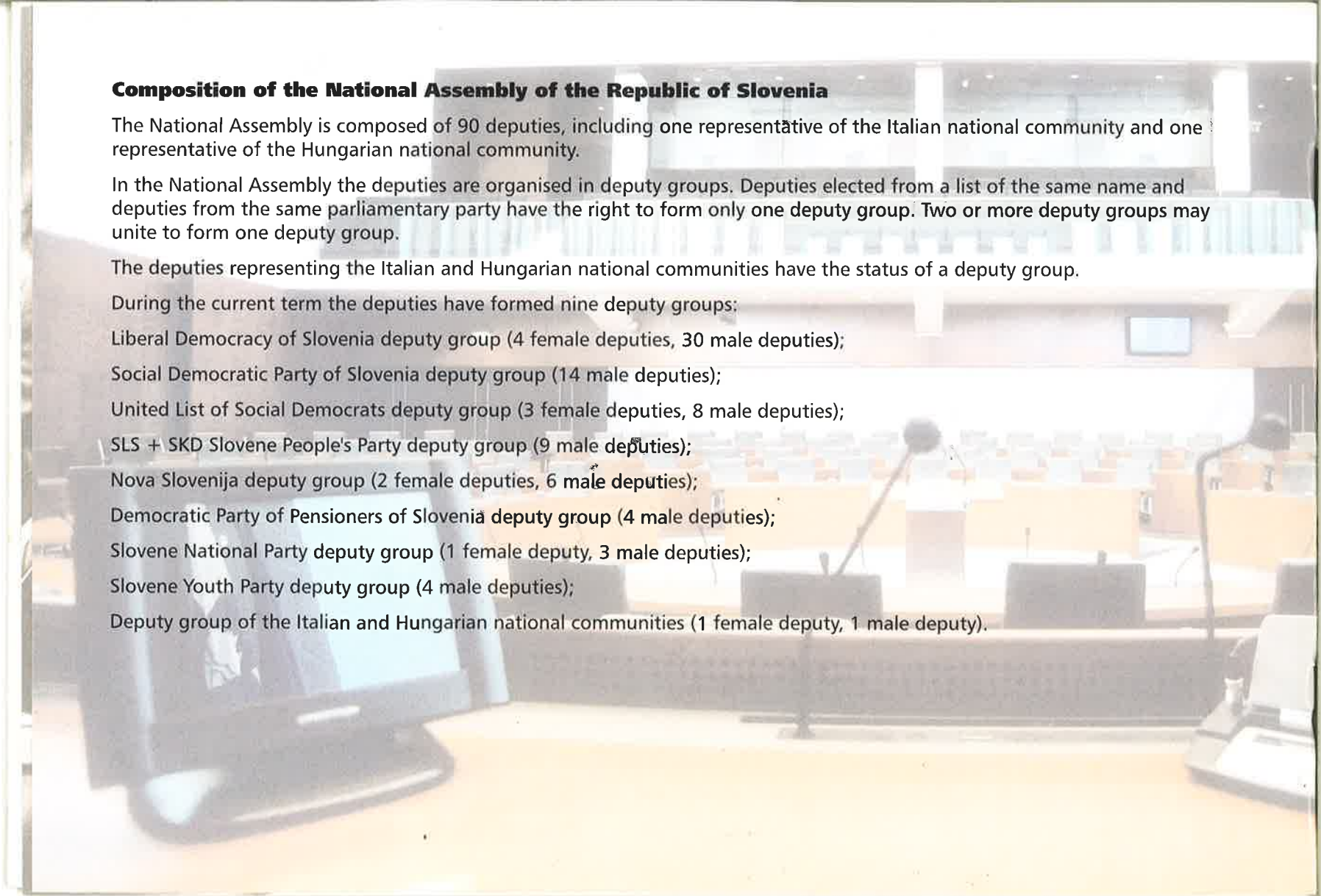
Nova Slovenija deputy group (2 female deputies, 6 male deputies);

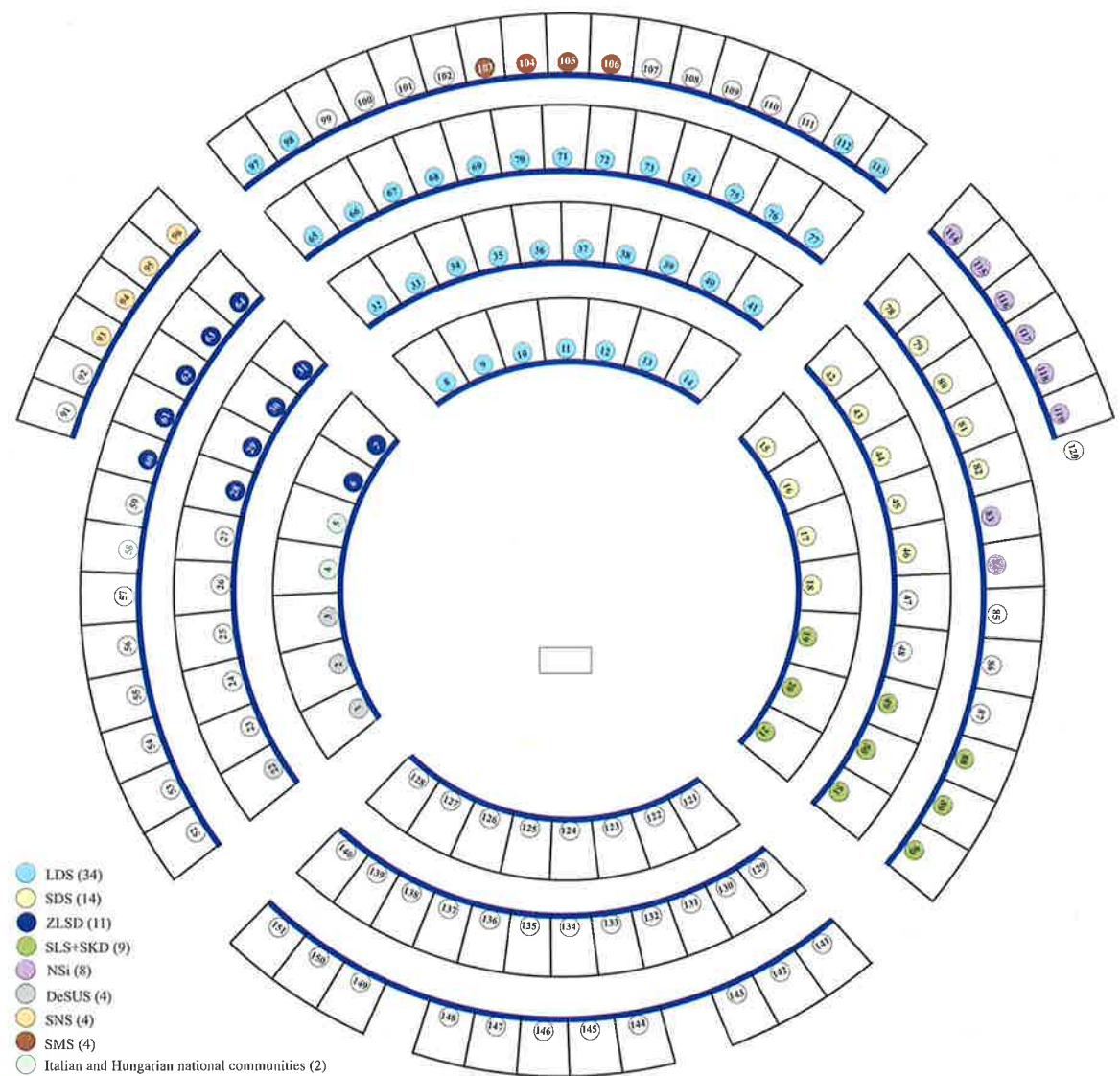
Democratic Party of Pensioners of Slovenia deputy group (4 male deputies);

Slovene National Party deputy group (1 female deputy, 3 male deputies);

Slovene Youth Party deputy group (4 male deputies);

Deputy group of the Italian and Hungarian national communities (1 female deputy, 1 male deputy).







Competencies of the National Assembly

The National Assembly is the highest representative and legislative body in the country.

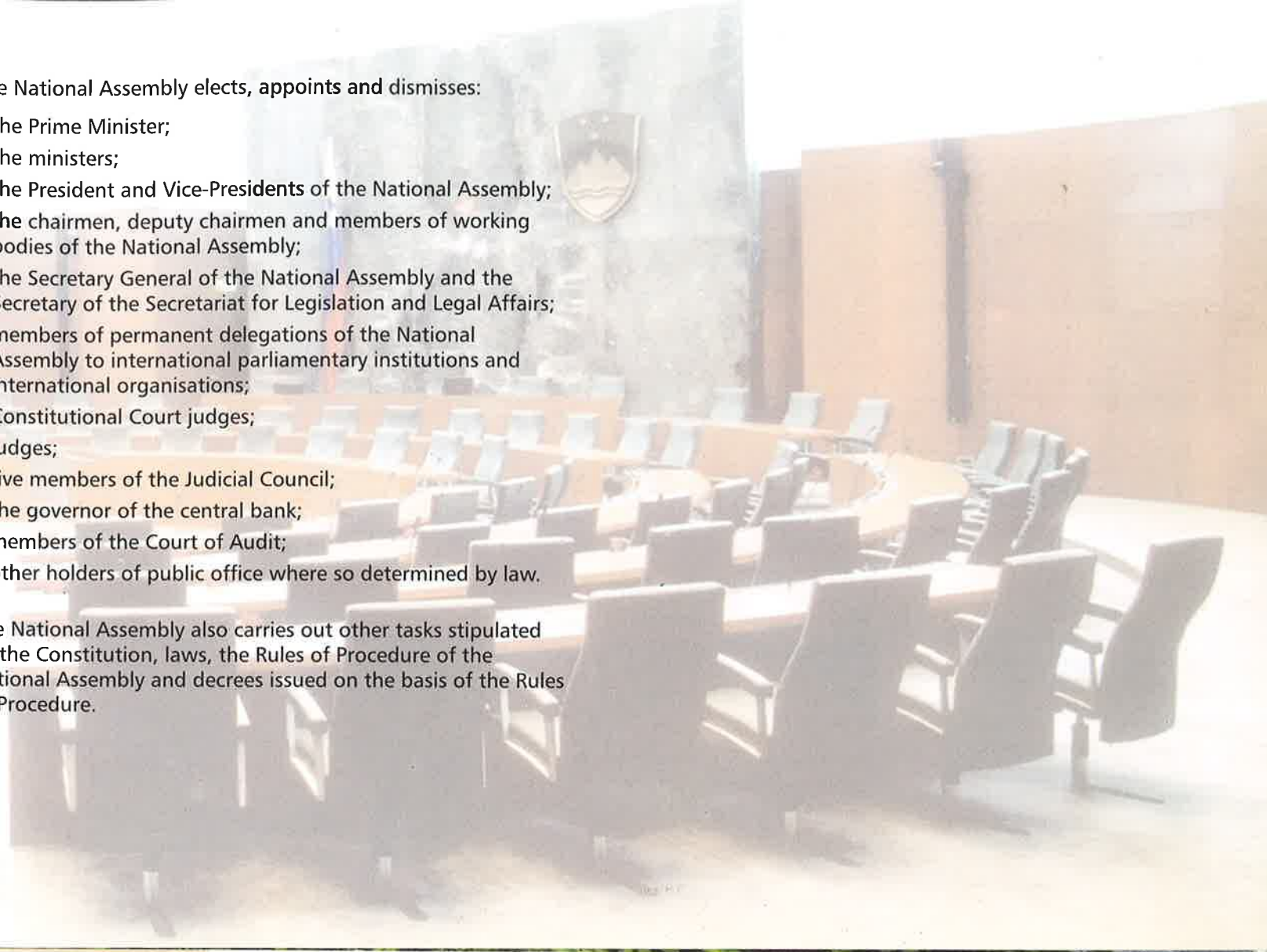
It has the following competencies:

- to decide on and proclaim amendments to the Constitution;
- to pass laws, the national budget and the final account of the national budget;
- to ratify treaties;
- to adopt the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly;
- to adopt national programmes, declarations, resolutions, recommendations, positions and decisions;
- to commission a parliamentary inquiry;
- to call a referendum;
- to pass a vote of confidence or no confidence in the government;
- to decide to bring charges before the Constitutional Court against the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister or a government minister;
- to decide on the granting of immunity to deputies;
- to decide on the granting of immunity to Constitutional Court judges;
- to decide on the granting of immunity to judges;
- to decide on the proclamation of a state of war or a state of emergency.

The National Assembly elects, appoints and dismisses:

- the Prime Minister;
- the ministers;
- the President and Vice-Presidents of the National Assembly;
- the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of working bodies of the National Assembly;
- the Secretary General of the National Assembly and the Secretary of the Secretariat for Legislation and Legal Affairs;
- members of permanent delegations of the National Assembly to international parliamentary institutions and international organisations;
- Constitutional Court judges;
- judges;
- five members of the Judicial Council;
- the governor of the central bank;
- members of the Court of Audit;
- other holders of public office where so determined by law.

The National Assembly also carries out other tasks stipulated by the Constitution, laws, the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly and decrees issued on the basis of the Rules of Procedure.



President of the National Assembly



Borut Pahor (ZLSD)

The National Assembly has a President elected by majority vote of all deputies.

The President represents the National Assembly and presides over its work. The tasks of the President are to convene and preside over sessions of the National

Assembly; to sign laws and other acts passed by the National Assembly; to ensure cooperation between the National Assembly and the National Council, the President of the Republic, the Government and other state authorities, with representative bodies of other states and with international parliamentary and other organisations; to assign matters to be dealt with by working bodies of the National Assembly; to decide in disputes concerning competencies between working bodies; and other tasks in accordance with the Constitution, laws and the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly.

The President of the National Assembly is accountable to the National Assembly for his work.

Vice-Presidents of the National Assembly

The National Assembly has a maximum of three Vice-Presidents (by unwritten agreement one is from the opposition) who are elected by the deputies and who assist the President in his work. If the President is absent he is replaced by a Vice-President appointed by him.



Dr. Miha Brejc (SDS)

Secretary General of the National Assembly



Irma Pavlinič Krebs (LDS)



Anton Delak (DeSUS)

The Secretary General heads the offices of the National Assembly, assists the President of the National Assembly in the preparation and conduct of the sessions, ensures that laws and other acts passed by the National Assembly are published, and takes charge of other matters stipulated by regulations and the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly.

The Secretary General is appointed by the National Assembly and is accountable to the National Assembly for her work.



Jožica Velišček

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.

Matters falling within the same field are generally dealt with by only one working body, known as the parent working body. The President of the National Assembly determines the "parental status" of a working body.

Committees of the National Assembly

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

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

Committee on the 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 Affairs;

Committee on Defence;

Committee on Health, Labour, the 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 for Supervision of the Work of the Security and Intelligence Services;

Commission for Budgetary and other Public Finance Control;

Commission for Petitions;

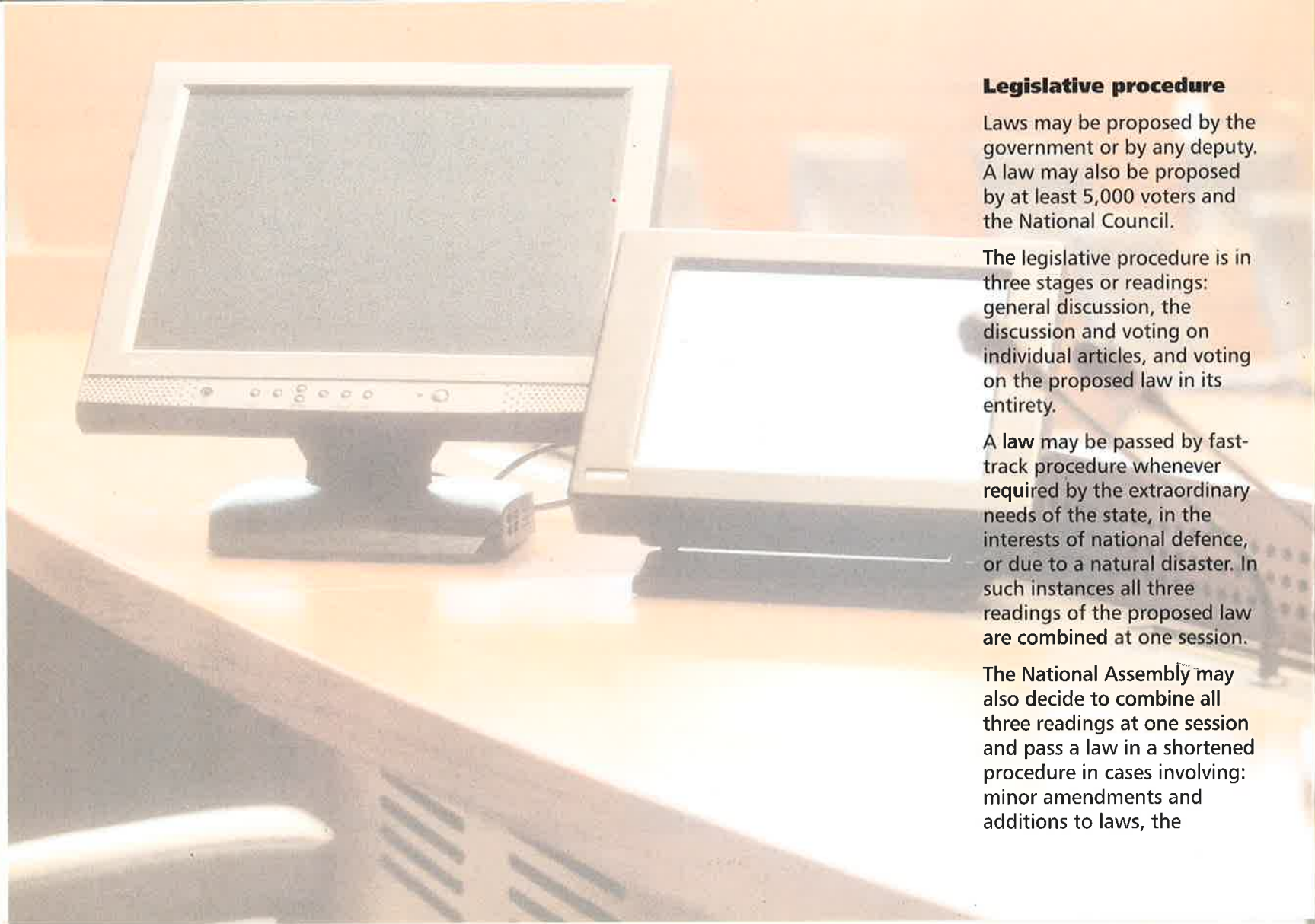
Commission for Relations with Slovenes in Neighbouring and Other Countries;

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.





Legislative procedure

Laws may be proposed by the government or by any deputy. A law may also be proposed by at least 5,000 voters and the National Council.

The legislative procedure is in three stages or readings: general discussion, the discussion and voting on individual articles, and voting on the proposed law in its entirety.

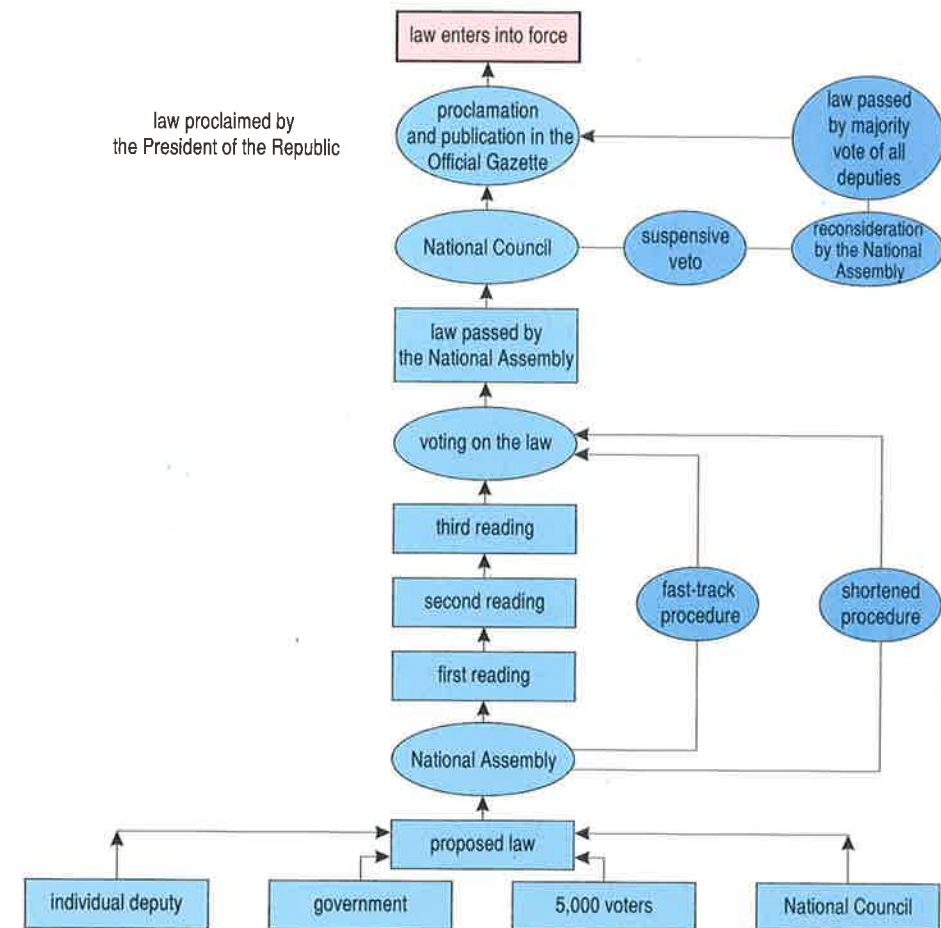
A law may be passed by fast-track procedure whenever required by the extraordinary needs of the state, in the interests of national defence, or due to a natural disaster. In such instances all three readings of the proposed law are combined at one session.

The National Assembly may also decide to combine all three readings at one session and pass a law in a shortened procedure in cases involving: minor amendments and additions to laws, the

abrogation of individual laws or individual provisions thereof, minor harmonisations with other laws, and amendments to laws connected with Constitutional Court orders.

The National Council may require the National Assembly to reconsider the law within seven days of its adoption and prior to its proclamation (suspensive veto). A law proclaimed by the President of the Republic within eight days of its adoption enters into force upon its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia.

Legislative procedure





Parliament building

Construction of the parliament building, designed by the architect Vinko Glanz, began in 1954 and was completed in 1959. It houses the National Assembly and the National Council. The four-storey building has a floor space of 2,200 square metres. Construction of the building followed the principle of using local materials, including marble, stone and wood. The entire building is tiled with karstic marble from Kopriva, while the areas under the windows on the facade are filled with green granite from Oplotnica.

In 1991 a number of accesses were created to join the parliament building with the adjacent building on Tomšičeva ulica which abuts it. The latter building, constructed in 1879 for the Kranjska hranilnica savings bank, now serves as offices for deputy groups, working

bodies and various
parliamentary services.

Pressure on space partly
brought about by changes to
work methods and the

different competencies of the
parliament mean that both
buildings are constantly
undergoing renovation.



*Banisters in the
building on
Tomšičeva street.*



The portal

The main facade accent is on the portal. It rises to half way up the first floor, where its top serves as a balcony. The portal is supported on five pillars tiled with granite from Pohorje. In front of the architecture of the entrance the academy sculptors Karel Putrih and Zdenko Kalin mounted symbolic sculptural compositions.

The entire terminal part of the portal is adorned with sculptures by Putrih depicting education, family happiness, mining, electrification, justice, the textile industry, mechanical engineering, fruitgrowing, agriculture, forestry, shipbuilding and fishing. To the far right and left are male and female figures with arms aloft.





Zdenko Kalin provided the sculpture for the pillars. The sculptures depict a safe path into the future, happiness, prosperity and peace. Above are two cherubs with a wreath, symbolically bestowing glory and honour on all those who strive to create a more beautiful and fulfilling life. Kalin devoted the left and right pillars to the arts. Images of children in the middle spaces represent children's games; the outermost pillars carry sculptures of men and women armed for resistance.



Slovenian marble, stone and wood

The oak portal door leads to the entrance area of the parliament building, which is tiled with stone from the Bela Krajina region. The stairway walls and the walls on the second floor are covered with light stone from Hotavlje, while on the first floor the walls are covered with red

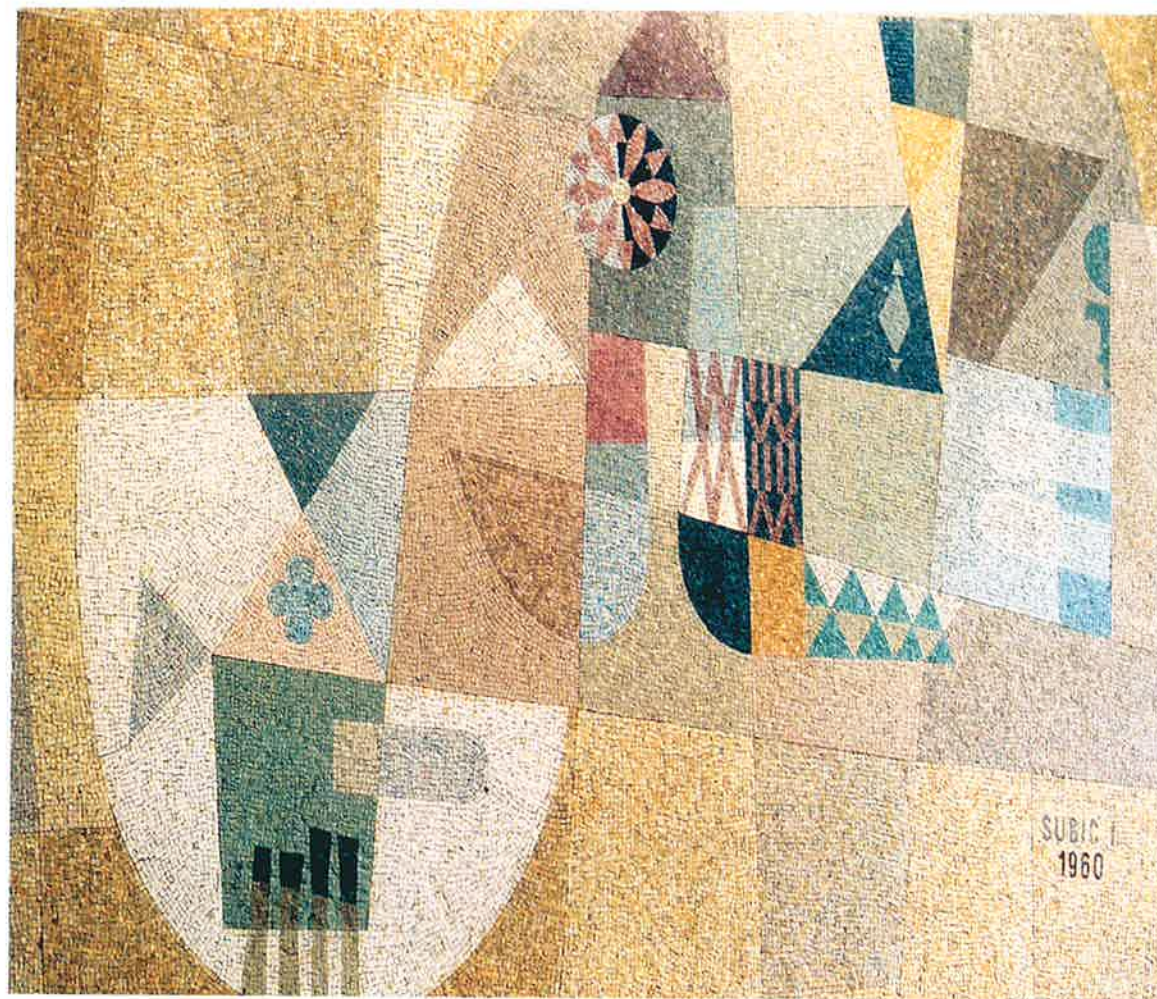
stone from the same location. The paving is of green and grey granite from Pohorje.

The ground floor corridor is tiled with dark stone from Podpeč, while the third floor corridor is tiled with karstic limestone of a wonderful light brown colour, which was used for this purpose as a construction material for the first time in this building.



Works of art in the National Assembly

The mosaics and frescos that adorn and enrich the interior of the National Assembly are the works of recognised Slovene artists: Jože Ciuha, Ivo Šubic, Marij Pregelj and Ivan Seljak-Čopič. The salons and other areas feature the works of well-known Slovene painters: Rihard Jakopič, Matija Jama, Matej Sternen, Božidar Jakac, France Slana, Ivan Grohar, Ivana Kobilca, Gojmir A. Kos, Nikolaj Omersa, Veno Pilon and Riko Debenjak, and recently also the works of contemporary Slovene painters: Jože Spacal, Andrej Jemec, Janez Boljka, Karel Zelenko, Vladimir Makuc, and Marjan Pogačnik.



The Large Hall

The Large Hall, where the National Assembly meets, was renovated in 2000 according to a plan by the architects Sonja Miculinić, Albina Kindlhofer and Darja Valič. The hall is circular, representing the period in Slovene history when village leaders would meet in a circle under a linden tree to debate and take decisions. The circle, the centre of which is emphasised by stone paving, is also a symbol of completeness, denoting the centre of legislative power and the seat of the highest democratic institution.

The guiding theme for the architects was the high-quality and Slovene origin of the materials used (cherry veneer, grey granite from Pohorje, marble from Hotavlje – as used by the original architect Glanz) and their symbolic value in Slovene tradition.





Although the Large Hall of the National Assembly has been completely renovated and fitted with the latest electronic equipment, it still adheres to the design principles of the architect Vinko Glanz, who in 1954 planned the parliament building in what would become the modernist style of the fifties. And with the deliberate use of Slovene stone the new hall indeed pays something of a compliment to the original architect.

The Large Hall has a floor space of 422 square metres and 150 seats. The seats are arranged in circular pattern and slope, as in an amphitheatre, down towards an inner circle of grey Pohorje granite, where there is a partially revolving speaker's podium.

The deputies' desks are equipped with a microphone, a voting device, a headphone



socket, an identity card reader, a loudspeaker and an electricity socket for a portable computer. The deputies' seats revolve and can be moved and adjusted for height. They are covered with dark grey leather.

Opposite the main entrance to the hall is the President's desk and the government seats. The position of the President of the National Assembly is additionally equipped with a central voting device and screen. On a marble wall behind the President's desk is a bronze relief of the Slovene coat-of-arms by academy sculptor Marko Pogačnik, made to mark Slovenia's achievement of independence in 1991.

Across the corridor from the Large Hall is the National Assembly's press centre and a large salon and a small salon intended principally for official receptions.



The vestibule of the Large Hall

The vestibule of the Large Hall was refurbished in 2000. Its spaciousness is now emphasised by tonalite paving stone from Pohorje. The most important wall in the vestibule, which contains the entrance into the Large Hall, is harmonised with the redesign of the hall: the doors are lined with grey leather, and between the doors the wall is covered with large tiles of Hotavlje marble.

The area in front of the Large Hall contains a mural by academy painter Slavko Pengov depicting the history of the Slovene nation from the Slav colonisation to the start of postwar renewal. The images start with the time of the migration of nations that accompanied the collapse of the Roman empire and the settlement of Slovenes. The mural shows a group of men, women and children



emerging from the dark background of the Slovenes' ancient homeland. A man of strong build hammers posts into the ground, a symbol of their desire to settle this land. In the shelter of the settlement, wise men meet in council under a linden tree.

The next scene shows the ducal stone in the centre and a depiction of the Carantanian people electing their duke at the castle of Krn. This custom, which was preserved far into the Middle Ages, long after Carantania had lost its independence, represents a unique political and administrative contract in European history. American president Thomas Jefferson used this famous ritual in drawing up the American Declaration of Independence. He searched all over the world for examples of democracy for his declaration and was inspired by the democratic

enthroning of the Carantanian dukes.

The suppression of a rebellion against Bavarian rule led by Ljudevit Posavski, who was joined by the Slovenes, had fatal consequences for the Carantanian Slovenes: Carantania became an ordinary county of the Frankish state.

In the 10th century the Slovene land was invaded by Magyars, who occupied a

large portion of it. Trouble then followed when a new enemy, the Turks, appeared at the Slovene borders. By 1508 the Turks had killed or enslaved around 200,000 people from the Slovene lands.

Turkish invasions, inadequate defence and new feudal burdens led to resistance among the peasants. The mural depicts a major

Croatian and Slovene peasant revolt in 1573.

The 16th century saw the growth of Slovene towns and the flourishing of crafts, trade, culture and the arts. Primož Trubar (1508-1586) represents the country's cultural progress. He is holding his *Spelling Book* (Tübingen, 1550), the first printed book in Slovene, which laid the foundations for the development of spelling and grammar, the Slovene literary language and literature. Alongside Trubar is Janez Vajkard Valvasor (1641-1693), historian, geographer, ethnographer, topographer, soldier and commander, who travelled throughout the Slovene lands researching his celebrated *Glory of the Duchy of Carniola* (Nuremburg, 1689).

The next group on the mural shows representatives of the Enlightenment, the "Zois circle": Baron Žiga Zois, Anton



Tomaž Linhart (who later became a dramatist and historian), Valentin Vodnik (a poet who enthusiastically welcomed the creation of the Illyrian Provinces) and Matevž Langus (painter and portrait artist), who adopted French Enlightenment ideas.

This is followed by the "Prešeren circle": in the centre stands the imposing figure of France Prešeren (1800-1849). By his side are the Slavacist

and Prešeren's mentor Matija Čop (1797-1835) and the patron of the arts and collector of ethnographical material Andrej Smole (1800-1840).

The revolutionary year of 1848 is represented in the mural by the Austrian coat-of-arms and the Vienna parliament. Progressive elements among Slovenes at the time drafted a Programme for a United

Slovenia, designed to accelerate the social and national development of the Slovene people. Images from the end of the 19th century depict workers' movements, and the start of the 20th century is represented by the writer Ivan Cankar (1876-1918), the First World War and the creation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

The last part of the mural is dedicated to the Second World War and the national liberation struggle, right up until liberation in 1945 and then a period of enthusiasm and desire for national renewal.

In the vestibule of the Large Hall is a sculpture of Wrestling Boys by France Kralj from 1942.



The gallery

The gallery is intended for journalists and the public, and during protocol events is also used by the diplomatic corps and invited guests. It was renovated in 2000. It has 106 dark grey leather seats arranged in three rows. The gallery has four booths for interpreters that are also used by radio and television reporters during live broadcasts from the National Assembly.

The vestibule of the gallery was also renovated, with the outstanding feature being the marble tiling on the pillars, floor and walls.



The Small Hall

The Small Hall, which measures 262 square metres and has 120 seats, is where the National Council meets. It is also used for public presentations of opinions, for judges taking the oath, seminars, colloquiums and other events. The hall slopes down towards the presiding officer's desk as in an amphitheatre. There are galleries on either side of the hall for the press and public. The hall is panelled with bleached ashwood. A characteristic of the walls in the Small Hall is the avoidance of sharp corners, giving the architecture a moulded appearance.



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
DRŽAVNI ZBOR



National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia
Subičeva 4
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Tel: +386 1 478 9400
Fax: +386 1 478 9844

Internet: www.dz-rs.si

Information Department
Tel: +386 1 478 9717
Fax: +386 1 478 9656

International Relations Department
Tel. : +386 1 478 94 83, 478 94 84
Fax.: +386 1 478 98 59

Commission for European Affairs
Tel. : +386 1 478 95 05
Fax.: +386 1 478 98 58



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