



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



ABOUT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

On the basis of the Slovenian Constitution, the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia began to function after the second democratic elections in 1992.

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

The most recent parliamentary elections, in which ninety deputies were elected to the National Assembly, were held on 3 October 2004.

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

Unless interrupted by early or special elections, deputies have a four-year term of office. Elections to the National Assembly are called by the President of the Republic.

The National Assembly conducts its proceedings in Slovene. The two deputies representing the Italian and Hungarian national communities have the right to speak, table motions, initiatives and questions and make other submissions in Italian or Hungarian, respectively. Such matters are then translated into Slovene.

The work of the National Assembly is open to the public unless otherwise determined by its Rules of Procedure.

The National Assembly meets in regular and extraordinary sessions. Regular sessions are called during the regular annual terms of the National Assembly: during the spring term between 10 January and 15 July, and during the autumn term between 1 September and 20 December.

*The Large Hall of the
National Assembly
before renovation*





COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

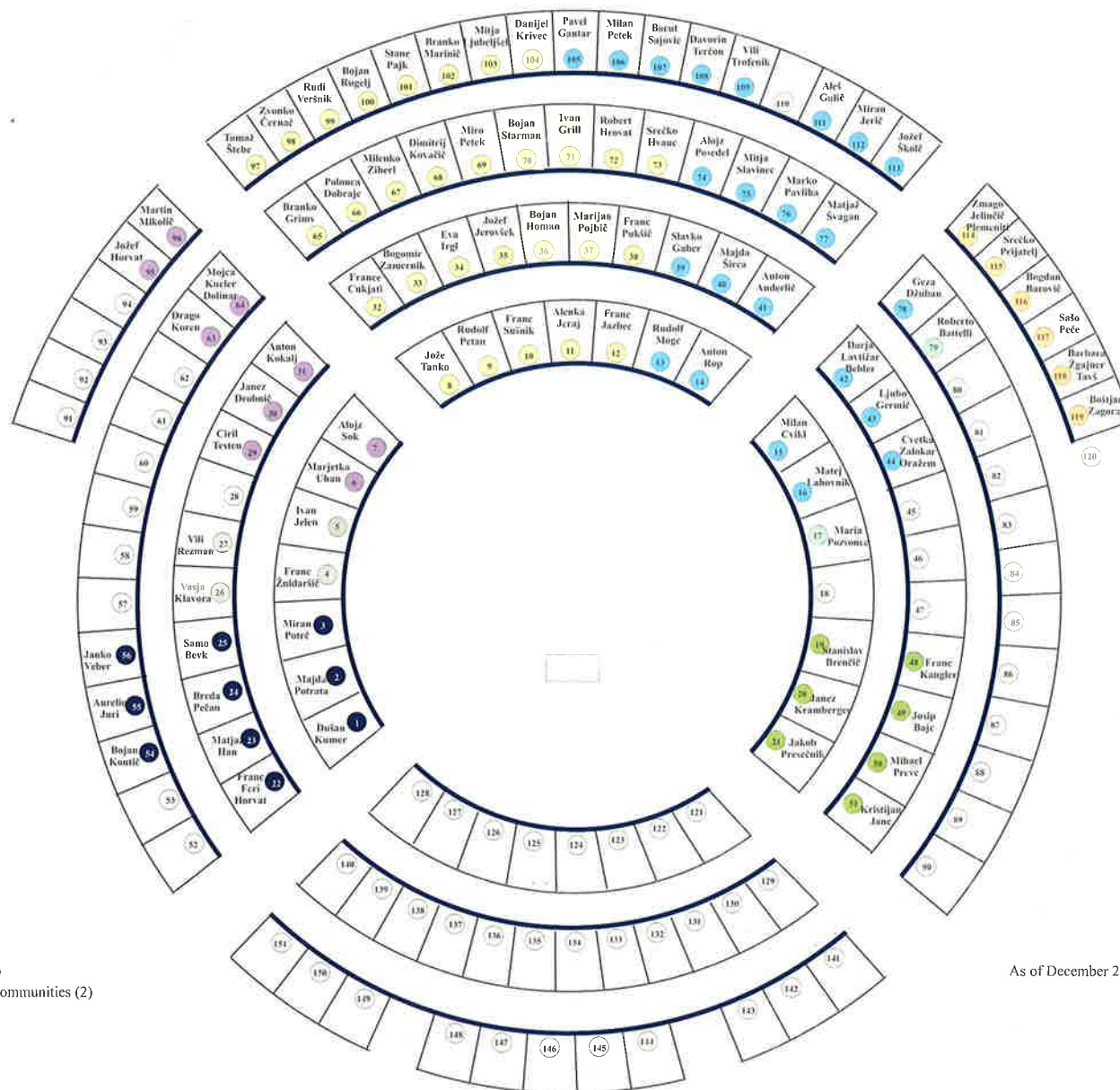
The National Assembly is composed of 90 deputies, including one representative of the Italian national community and one representative of the Hungarian national community.

National Assembly deputies are organised into deputy groups. Deputies elected from the same list of candidates and deputies who are members of the same parliamentary party have the right to form only one deputy group. Two or more deputy groups may join to form one deputy group.

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

During the 2004-2008 parliamentary term the deputies have formed eight deputy groups:

- The Slovenian Democratic Party deputy group (**SDS** - 29 deputies; 3 female, 26 male)
- The Liberal Democracy of Slovenia deputy group (**LDS** - 23 deputies; 3 female, 20 male)
- The Social Democrats deputy group (**SD** - 10 deputies; 2 female, 8 male)
- The New Slovenia deputy group (**NSi** - 9 deputies; 2 female, 7 male)
- The Slovene People's Party deputy group (**SLS** - 7 male deputies)
- The Slovene National Party deputy group (**SNS** - 6 deputies; 1 female, 5 male)
- The Democratic Party of Pensioners of Slovenia deputy group (**DeSUS** - 4 male deputies)
- The deputy group of the Hungarian and Italian national communities (1 female deputy, 1 male deputy)



POWERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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

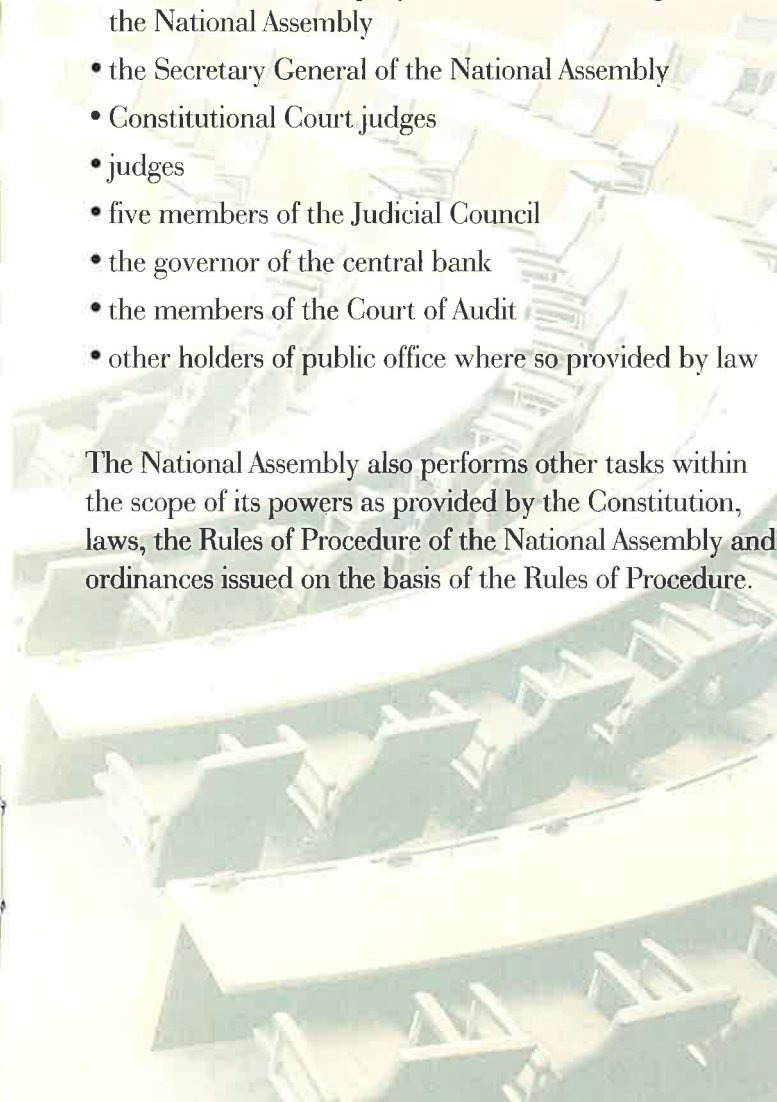
The National Assembly has the following powers:

- to decide on and proclaim amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia
- to adopt laws, the state budget, the supplemented state budget, amendments to the state budget and the annual financial statement on the state budget
- to adopt authentic interpretations of laws and official consolidated texts of laws
- to ratify treaties
- to adopt the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly
- to adopt the rules of procedure on parliamentary inquiry
- to adopt declarations, resolutions, ordinances, recommendations and decisions
- to order a parliamentary inquiry
- to call a referendum
- to pass a vote of confidence or no confidence in the Government
- to decide on the impeachment of the President of the Republic, the President of the Government or ministers before the Constitutional Court
- to decide on the immunity of deputies, Constitutional Court judges, judges, the Ombudsman for human rights and his substitute
- to decide on the proclamation of war or a state of emergency
- to discuss EU affairs, take positions on the amendments to the Treaties establishing the European Union, and take positions on the political guidelines for the functioning of Slovenia within EU institutions in accordance with the Constitution, the law and the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly

The National Assembly elects, appoints and dismisses:

- the President of the Government
- ministers
- the President and Vice-Presidents of the National Assembly
- the chairmen and deputy chairmen of working bodies of the National Assembly
- the Secretary General of the National Assembly
- Constitutional Court judges
- judges
- five members of the Judicial Council
- the governor of the central bank
- the members of the Court of Audit
- other holders of public office where so provided by law

The National Assembly also performs other tasks within the scope of its powers as provided by the Constitution, laws, the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly and ordinances issued on the basis of the Rules of Procedure.



THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



France Cukjati, M.D. (SDS)

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 President calls and conducts the sessions, signs laws and other acts adopted by the National Assembly, fosters relations with the National Council and cooperation with the President of the Republic, the Government, other state authorities, the representative bodies of other states, international parliamentary and other organisations, ensures the implementation of the Rules of Procedure, assigns issues for discussion in the working bodies of the National Assembly, rules on disputes over the jurisdiction between the working bodies, decides on deputies' official trips abroad where such decision is not within the competence of the working bodies, and performs other tasks in accordance with the Constitution, law and the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly.

VICE-PRESIDENTS OF



Dr. Marko Pawliha (LDS)

The National Assembly has a maximum of three Vice-Presidents (one of whom is a member of the largest opposition deputy group) who assist the President in his work. If the President is absent he appoints a Vice-President to act as his substitute.



Sašo Peče (SNS)



Vasa Klavara, M.D. (DeSUS)

The Secretary General heads the services of the National Assembly and performs other tasks provided by regulations, the Rules of Procedure and other acts of the National Assembly.

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



Mag. Lovro Lončar

BUREAU OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Bureau of the President is a consultative body of the President of the National Assembly. In cases provided by the Rules of Procedure, the Bureau is also competent for decision-making.

The Bureau consists of the President and Vice-Presidents of the National Assembly, the leaders of the deputy groups and the deputies of national communities.

The Bureau decides on:

- proposals to adopt a draft law by means of the urgent procedure, unless the President of the Government ties the issue of confidence to the adoption of the law
- proposals to discuss a draft law by means of the shortened procedure
- proposals to hold a preliminary discussion on a draft law
- the duration of sessions of the National Assembly and the time allocated for the discussion of individual items on

the agenda as well as on the allocation of speaking time to the participants at the session

- the number of seats in working bodies to be filled by individual deputy groups, and which deputy group shall hold the chairmanship and deputy chairmanship of individual working bodies
- the composition of delegations to international parliamentary institutions, organisations and bodies
- the period within which the National Council must deliver its opinion on issues discussed at extraordinary sessions of the National Assembly, on items placed on the extended agenda of a session and on draft laws proposed by means of the urgent procedure
- other issues where so provided by the Rules of Procedure

The Bureau adopts the annual work programme of the National Assembly as well as a time schedule for a minimum of two months.

WORKING BODIES

The National Assembly establishes working bodies to monitor the state of affairs in individual areas, to prepare policy decisions in such areas, to formulate positions on particular issues and to discuss draft laws and other acts of the National Assembly.

Matters within the same field of work are generally dealt with by only one working body, known as the responsible working body. The President of the National Assembly determines which working body is responsible for a particular issue.

COMMITTEES

The National Assembly establishes standing committees, generally corresponding to the areas for which individual ministries are competent, or which cover several inter-related areas. Committees may also be established for specific tasks.

The National Assembly has the following committees in the 2004-2008 parliamentary term:

- The Committee on the Economy
- The Committee on Transport
- The Committee on the Environment and Spatial Planning
- The Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Food
- The Committee on Finance and Monetary Policy
- The Committee on Foreign Policy
- The Committee on Domestic Policy, Public Administration and Justice
- The Committee on Local Self-Government and Regional Development
- The Committee on Defence
- The Committee on Health
- The Committee on Labour, the Family, Social Policy and the Disabled
- The Committee on Culture, Education and Sport
- The Committee on Higher Education, Science and Technological Development
- The Committee on EU Affairs



COMMISSIONS

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

The National Assembly has the following standing commissions:

- The Commission for Mandates and Elections
- The Commission for the Rules of Procedure
- The Commission for National Communities
- The Commission for Budgetary and Other Public Finance Control
- The Commission for Supervision of the Security and Intelligence Services

The following commissions are also operating in the current term:

- The Constitutional Commission
- The Commission for Petitions, Human Rights and Equal Opportunities
- The Commission for Relations with Slovenes in Neighbouring and Other Countries
- The Commission under the Prevention of Corruption Act
- Commission of Inquiry to determine and assess the actual state of affairs which may serve as a basis for deciding on the political responsibility of the holders of public offices within the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the State Prosecutor General of the Republic of Slovenia concerning the exercise of control pursuant to the State Prosecutor Act (Official Gazette of the republic of Slovenia, No. 110/02 - official consolidated text) in relation to legislative amendments and other decisions made in accordance with the constitutional powers of the National Assembly
- Commission of Inquiry to determine the political responsibility of holders of public functions with regard to the alleged damaged suffered by state property through the sale of shares of Kapitalska družba d.d. and Slovenska odškodninska družba d.d. in companies, involving all sales that are disputable in terms of compliance with laws and other regulations and in terms of transparency and economy



LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

Laws may be proposed by the Government, by any deputy, by the National Council or by at least 5,000 voters.

A draft law contains the title of the law, an introduction, the text of all articles and an explanation.

The introduction includes an evaluation of the state of affairs and reasons for adopting the law; the goals, principles and main solutions of the draft law; an estimation of the financial implications of the draft law for the state budget and other public finance resources; a statement that the resources for the implementation of the law are provided in the state budget if the draft law envisages the use of budgetary resources within a period for which the state budget has already been adopted; a presentation of similar regulation in other legal systems and of the harmonisation of the proposed

regulation with the *acquis communautaire* (in at least three legal systems in EU Member States); and other consequences the adoption of the law might have.

Before submitting a draft law, the proposer of the law may propose that a preliminary reading be held regarding the basic issues and social relations that need to be regulated by such law. The preliminary reading is held in the working body appointed by the President of the National Assembly.

The (regular) legislative procedure comprises three stages, referred to as the first, the second and the third readings.

The first reading of a draft law begins when the draft law is forwarded to the deputies. Exceptionally, where so requested by at least ten deputies, the National Assembly holds a general debate at a plenary session to discuss the reasons proposed for adopting

the law and the principles, goals and basic solutions of the draft law.

The second reading of a draft law is first held within the working body responsible and then, pursuant to the decisions of the responsible working body, at a session of the National Assembly. The working body responsible discusses and votes on amendments and individual articles of the draft law and prepares a report containing a supplemented draft law; the National Assembly discusses the individual articles of the supplemented draft law to which amendments have been tabled and votes on individual amendments.

The third reading is held at a session of the National Assembly; the National Assembly discusses and votes on the amendments tabled and then on the draft law in its entirety. A law relating to the exercise of constitutionally provided rights and the

status of national communities may be adopted only with the consent of the deputies of the national communities.

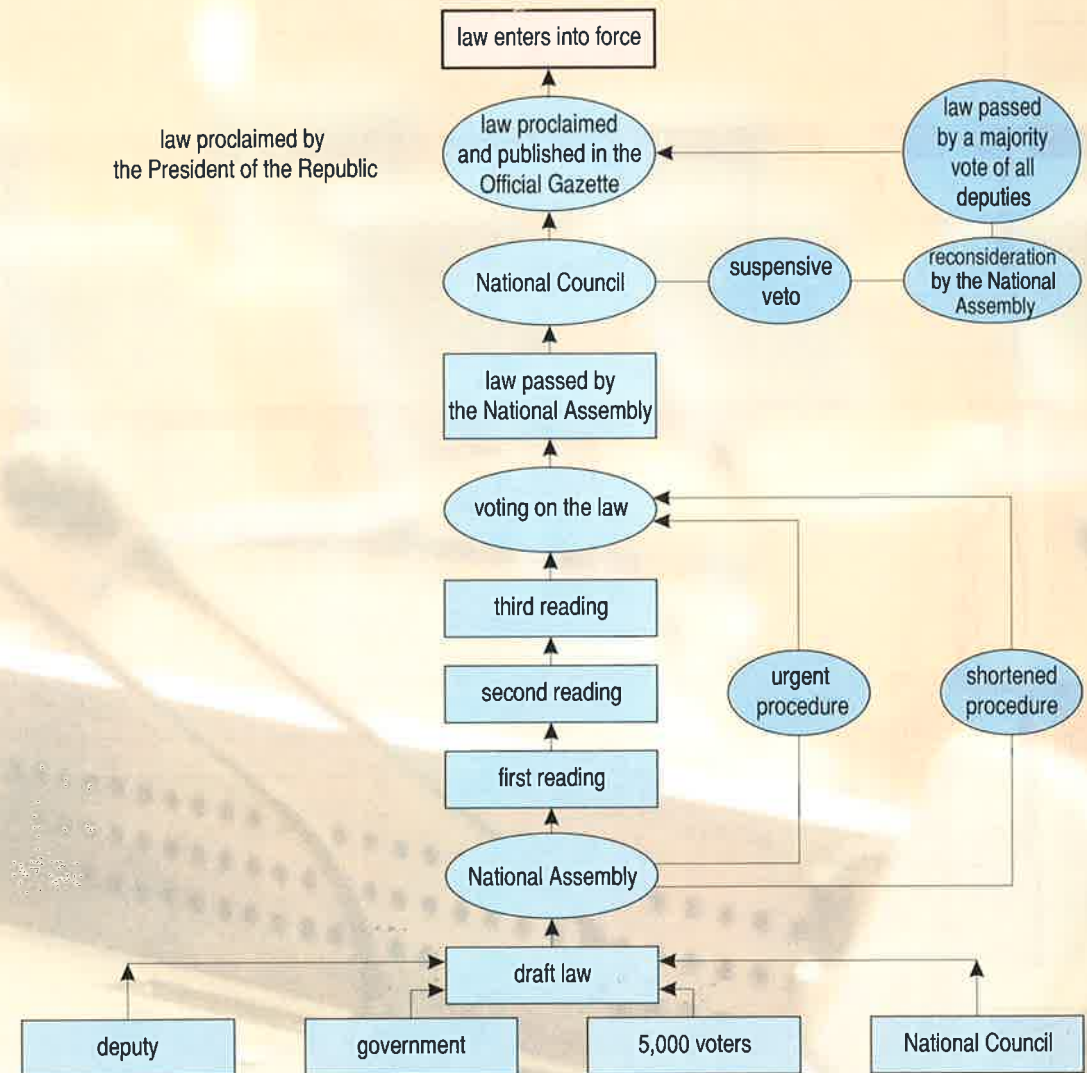
In the case of less demanding amendments to a law, the cessation of the validity of an individual law or individual provisions thereof, the less demanding harmonisation of a law with other laws or with the *acquis communautaire*, amendments to laws related to proceedings before or decisions of the Constitutional Court, the proposer of a law may propose that the law be adopted in a shortened procedure. In the shortened procedure no general debate is held and the second and third readings are held at the same session.

Where so required in the interest of state security or defence, or in order to rectify the consequences of natural disasters, or to prevent more serious threats to the functioning of the state,

the Government may propose that a law be adopted in an urgent procedure. A decision thereon is taken by the Bureau. In the urgent procedure no general debate is held and the second and third readings are held at the same session.

The National Council may require the National Assembly to reconsider a law within seven days of its adoption and prior to its proclamation. In the event of such, a majority vote of all deputies is required for the adoption of the law, unless a larger majority is required by the Constitution for the adoption of the law. The new decision by the National Assembly is final.

Adopted laws are proclaimed by the President of the Republic within eight days following their adoption and enter into force upon publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia.



THE 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 and 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





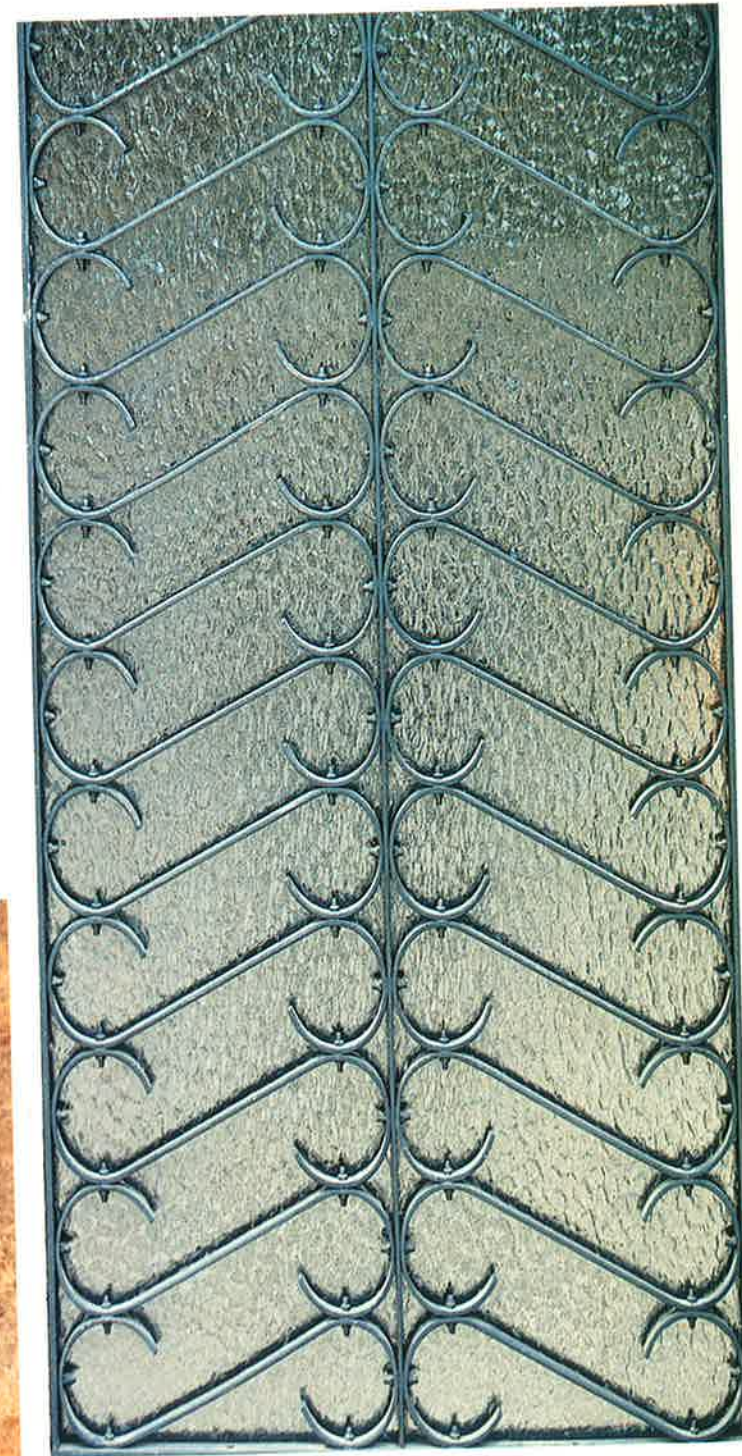
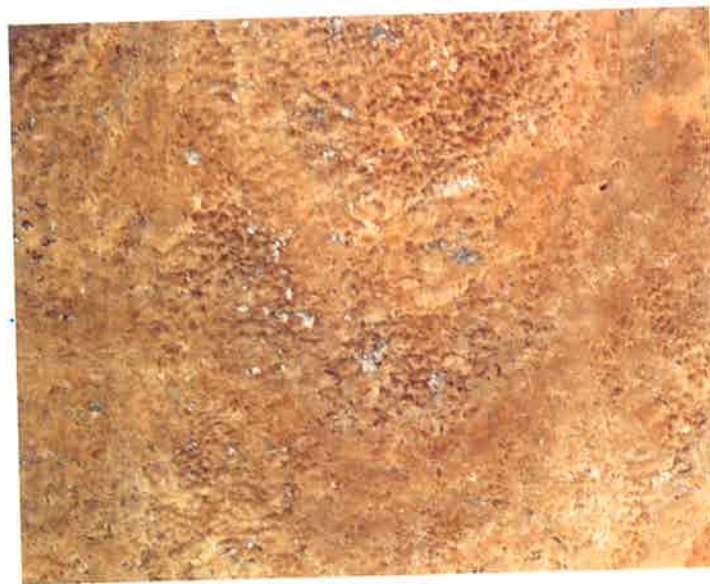
a wreath, symbolically bestowing glory and honour on all those who strive to create a more beautiful and fulfilling life. Kalin devoted the left and right pillars to the arts. Images of children in the middle spaces represent children's games; the outermost pillars carry sculptures of men and women armed 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.

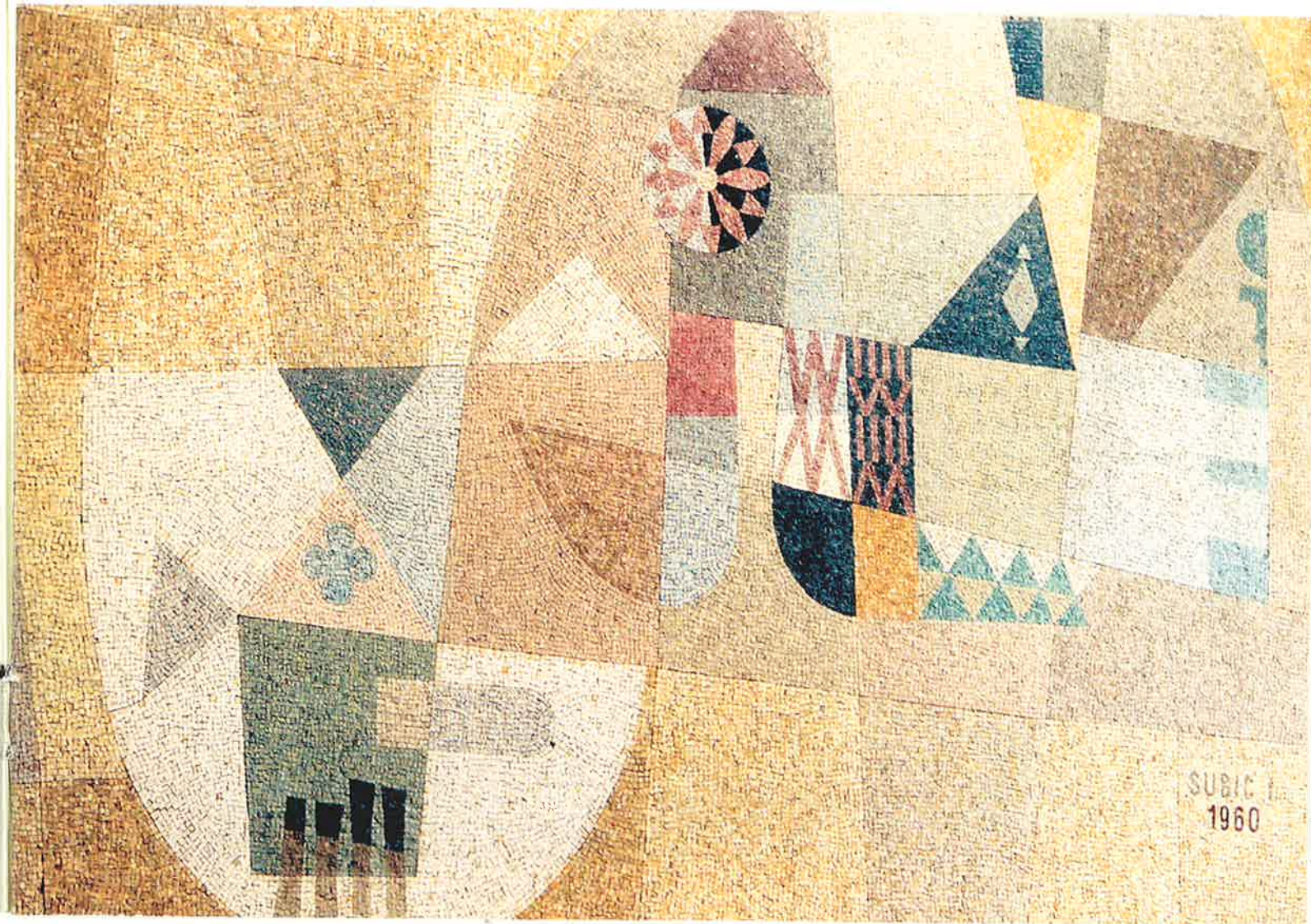
The ground floor corridor is tiled with dark stone from Podpeč, while the third floor corridor is tiled with karstic limestone of a wonderful light brown colour, which was used for this purpose as a construction material for the first time in this building.



WORKS OF ART

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, Alibina 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

Refurbished in 2000, the vestibule of the Large Hall is used for receptions, protocol events and for judges taking the oath. Its spaciousness is now empha-

sised 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 post-war 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 in-





dependence, 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 Independ-

ence. 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 Val-



vasor (1641-1693), historian, geographer, ethnographer, topographer, soldier and commander, who travelled throughout the Slovene lands researching his celebrated Glory of the Duchy of Carniola (Nuremberg, 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 Slavicist 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, 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 ash-wood. A characteristic of the walls in the Small Hall is the avoidance of sharp corners, giving the architecture a moulded appearance.



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



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Open Doors days: every second Saturday of the month at 9, 10 and 11 a.m.

