



The 5th Latin America and Caribbean Days 2023 (LAC Days)

Ljubljana, 22 and 23 November 2023

(Draft Programme, 16 November 2023)

The LAC Days program will be held in English.

Please note that all panels' discussions will take place in a hybrid format.

Wednesday, 22 November 2023

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Prešernova ulica 25, Ljubljana

- 17.15 **Welcome address by Ambassador Sanja Štiglic, State Secretary**, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MFEA), Boris Pahor Meeting room
- 17.20 **Slovenia in the UNSC** – priorities for the 2024-2025 membership of the UNSC, Mr Matej Marn, Head of the UN Security Council Task Force, MFEA
- 17.30–
18.45 **I. Panel discussion on climate change – on the path to COP28**
with
Ambassador André Aranha Corrêa do Lago, Secretary for Climate, Energy and Environment (virtual participation), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Federal Republic of Brazil
Ms Tina Kobilšek, Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy of Slovenia, Lead COP Negotiator
Dr Griša Močnik, Head of Centre for Atmospheric Research and Dean of School of Environmental Sciences, University of Nova Gorica, Slovenia
Dr Tomaž Rodič, Director SPACE-Si, Slovenia (virtual participation) and Ms Ana Urbas, Researcher at SPACE-Si, Slovenia
Dr Primož Simončič, The Slovenian Forestry Institute, Slovenia
Representatives from Chile, Colombia, Ecuador (TBC)
Moderated by Ambassador Smiljana Knez, Ambassador-at-Large for the Climate diplomacy

At the end of November, COP28 will convene in Dubai. The expectations are high, as the world needs the strongest possible commitments in order to achieve Paris goals.

The panel will focus on forests, water and air as corner stones of successful climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Increased concentrations of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere are a cause of changes of climate. Air pollution, in particular with the black carbon, is a challenge faced Alps and Andes mountain ranges among others.

Climate change has exacerbated water related challenges across the globe, creating potential for increasing competition over limited water resources. Improved management of water resources is required in order to reduce water related disasters and strengthen resilience to climate change impacts on water. Forests are essential for a well-being of humankind, its economy and social life. They are a natural ally in climate change adaptation and mitigation, in particular for carbon storage and sequestration, reduction of the effects of air pollution and halting/reversing biodiversity loss.

Slovenia and individual LAC countries have established cooperation in forestry and water management, sharing knowledge, technology and expertise.

The panel will aim to follow up on previous discussion on these topics, and define potentials and avenues for even closer (political, business and R&D) collaboration in the future.

Thursday, 23 November 2023

8.50 [Chamber of Commerce](#), Dimičeva ulica 13, Ljubljana

Welcome coffee/tea and Registration

9.00 **Welcome address by Mag Marjana Majerič, Exective Director**, Chamber of Commerce

9.05 **Opening address by Dr Slobodan Šešum, Director General** for Economic and Public Diplomacy, MFEA Slovenia

9.10–
9.30 **Presentation of Slovenian business environment** ([SPIRIT Agency](#))
Ms Andreja Mulec Bohinc, International Promotion Departement, SPIRIT public agency for the promotion of entrepreneurship, internationalization, foreign investments and technology, including Q/A

9.30–
10.30 Short **presentation of companies and associations**, engaged in the areas of **Digitalization, AI, Smart cities** ([ZITex](#), [AI4SI](#), [SRIP Smart Cities](#))
– part I, including Q&A
Mr Vasko Berden, President of ZITex -ICT Association of Slovenia
Mr Ernest Žejn, ZITex's Representative for South America
Ms Andreja Lampe, Vice-president of the AI4SI, Initiative AI for Slovenia
Dr Nevenka Cukjati, Director General, Strategic Research and Development Partnership (SRIP) Smart Cities & Communities, Institute Jožef Stefan

Coffee break & Networking

10.45 Short **presentation of participating companies and associations** - part II
11.30 **Circular economy, Renewables** (Strategic Research and Development Partnership – Networks for the transition into a circular economy - [SRIP Circular economy, BISOL](#)), including Q/A
Ms Nina Meglič, SRIP Coordinator, SRIP Circular Economy
Ms Ladeja Godina Košir, Circular Change Institute
Mr Dag Kralj, Member of the Board, BISOL Group, Board

11.45 Departure to the Biotechnical Faculty (organized transfer)

12.00 **Biotechnical Faculty, Jamnikarjeva 101, Ljubljana**

12.00 **Introductory remarks by Dr Tomaž Boh, Director General, Ministry for Higher Education, Science and Innovation**

Welcome addresses by
12.05 **Dr Marina Pintar, Dean of the [Biotechnical Faculty](#)**

12.10 **Dr Nike Krajnc, Director of the [Slovenian Forestry Institute](#),**

Presentations and Q/A

- 12.15- Prof Dr Andrej Ficko with project leaders:
Sustainable forest management: continuous cover forestry practices
Empowering small-scale forest owners and local communities for sustainable forest management
Wildlife monitoring and population management
Biosciences and project cooperation
- 13.00- *doc. dr. Rozalija Cvejić*: Decision support system for irrigation,
- 13.15- Dr Nike Krajnc: Research and development in the field of monitoring and mitigating climate change in forestry
- 13.35- Dr. Aleš Poljanec: Pilot project on sustainable forest management
13.50 in Guyana
- 14.00–15.00 *Standing buffet lunch*
- 15.00 Departure to [Centre of Excellence in Finance](#), Cankarjeva ulica 18, Ljubljana (organized transfer)

Please note that all panels' discussions will take place in a hybrid format.
The LAC Days program will be held in English.

Centre of Excellence in Finance, Cankarjeva ulica 18, Ljubljana
Registration

- 16.00– **II. Panel discussion: Digitalisation and AI**
17.15 with
Mr John Shawe-Taylor, Director, International Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence under the auspices of UNESCO (IRCAI)
Mr Samo Zorc, Ministry of Digital Transformation of the Republic of Slovenia,
Mr Joao Pinto, IRCAI, AI for SDG's & projects with Brazil
Ambassador Yavel Francis Lanuza, Embassy of Panama to Slovenia and Mission of Panama to the EU
Ambassador Gloria Navarrete Pinto, Mission of Chile to the EU
- Moderated by Ambassador Veronika Stabej, Ambassador for Science Diplomacy, MFEA

Artificial intelligence is now present in every aspect of our lives, it has become an area of strategic importance; there is no area of human activity that can escape it. This development raises many questions, reflections, and awareness over the risks within the international context. We have to debate and set priorities for international norms and standards on AI in line with applicable legislation, acknowledging the importance of an ethical, human-centered approach. In this context, the EU and the LAC region are ideally placed to strengthen the dialogue and cooperation. The panel will address the exchange of best practices from both theoretical and practical angles, sharing experiences and lessons learnt to other countries.

Coffee break



17.30–
17.55 Brief cultural intermezzo: presentation of Slovenian women explorers and scientists related to LAC region Dr Branislava Sušnik and Alma Karlin

18.00 – **III. Panel discussion: Feminist Foreign Policy**
19.15 **Introductory video statement by Minister Tanja Fajon, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia**
with:
Ms Leire Pajin Iraola, President of the EU-LAC International Foundation,
Ms Diana María Parra Romero, Advisor for Gender and Feminist Foreign Policy, MFA Colombia (virtual participation)
Ms Mabel Bianco, President of Foundation for Studies and Research on Women (virtual participation)
Ambassador Marita Perceval, Special Representative for Feminist Policy, MFA Argentina (virtual participation)
Ambassador Carla Serazzi, Head of Multilateral Policy Division, MFA Chile (TBC)
Ambassador Gesa Bräutigam, Special envoy for Feminist Foreign Policy, MFA Germany (TBC)
Ambassador Peter-Derrek Hof, Ambassador for Women's Rights and Gender equality, MFA Netherlands (TBC)

Moderated by Dr Sabina Lange, Senior Lecturer at EIPA and Associate Professor in International Relations at the University of Ljubljana.

Feminist foreign policy (FFP) has gathered momentum in recent years, gaining presence in a rising number of countries that stress the importance of including women in all spheres of international relations. Given that pioneers and front-runners in feminist foreign policy come from the Latin America and the Caribbean, their perspective and lessons-learnt on gender equality and human rights development are key to further development of FFP as a global trend.

The main objectives of the panel are:

- to examine the main motivation and challenges while shaping national FFP's;
- to look into similarities and differences in principles and approaches of FFP's;
- to identify best practices and explore possible synergies in the future.

19.20 *Closing remarks (TBC)*

19.30 – Standing Buffet Dinner
20.30 & Presentation of Bled Water Forum & Water Sommelier

Latin American and Caribbean Days (LAC Days)

Since 2018, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia has regularly organised **Latin American and Caribbean Days (LAC Days)**, an international conference dedicated to enhancing relations and cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean, held under the auspices of the Bled Strategic Forum.

LAC Days bring together **government officials and representatives from NGOs, the Academia, and the business sector**, with a forward-looking and positive agenda that promotes the **strengthening of bilateral and bi-regional cooperation between Slovenia and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean**. Over the last five years, LAC Days have proved to be an excellent platform for deepening the dialogue and promoting cooperation, serving as a forum for **exchanging knowledge and best practices**, and for unlocking the potential of Slovenia's partnership with the region.

The 5th edition of the LAC Days in 2023 is planned as a series of events spanning the year. It pursues bilateral and bi-regional synergies, with a specific focus on environmental concerns, water resources, biodiversity, digitalization and AI, as well as in science, research and culture.

The November event will centre around **environmental issues, including in the context of the upcoming COP28**, along with panel discussions on **digitalization, artificial intelligence (AI) and feminist foreign policy**. The event will also feature selected Slovenian institutions and companies engaged in the areas of circular economy and renewables, including sustainable forestry, water and agriculture.

In addition to **intensifying water and climate diplomacy**, Slovenia has also paid particular attention to **digital transition and AI** in recent years. The topics of circular economy, social cohesion and digitalisation were also highlighted in the bi-regional cooperation during Slovenia's EU Council Presidency in 2021 and addressed in the past editions of the LAC Days. In December 2021, the Digital for Development Hub – LAC branch (D4D LAC) was launched and today, it is instrumental in advancing the digital agenda. Slovenia remains ready to enhance the cooperation in AI within the D4D Hub LAC.

The July EU-CELAC Summit in Brussels renewed the commitment to strengthen the relations between the two regions, including by launching the EU-LAC Digital Alliance as one of the shared priorities as reflected also in the EU-CELAC Summit 2023 Declaration. The alliance will further boost EU's partnership with Latin America and the Caribbean and foster development AI.

The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia would be honoured to welcome the Ambassadors of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, or their deputies, from Ljubljana, Vienna, Brussels and Rome at the 5th LAC Days event in November in Ljubljana.

More about #LACDays at [www. bledstrategicforum.org/lac-days](http://www.bledstrategicforum.org/lac-days)



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

