

Welcoming Association of Slovenian Peacekeepers (ASP) to the Regional Network for Peace

ASP co-hosts high-level event in Maribor, Slovenia, 30-31 May 2014

It was a great honour for the Association of Austrian Peacekeepers (AAP) to be hosted by the newly-formed Association of Slovenian Peacekeepers (ASP) and the Slovenian Ministry of Defence at its first Round Table, which honoured a decade of Slovenia's peacekeeping involvement in Afghanistan 2004-2014, as part of the NATO/ISAF operation. Titled "What Does Afghanistan Mean to Slovenia", the event also marked the official launch of the ASP, as well as the International Day of UN Peacekeepers 29 May.



The Round Table was moderated by Ambassador (ret) Mirko Cigler, Vice President ASP and focused on geopolitical, strategic, organizational, security and media aspects, via presentations on the practical aspects of Slovenian and multi-lateral forces (MLF) operations in Afghanistan, as well as lessons learned. Panelists included Dr. Ljubica Jelusic, member of parliament and former Defence Minister; General Ignazio Gamba of Italy; senior officials from the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; media, civil society, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

General (ret) Günther Greindl, President of AAP, welcomed the establishment of the ASP and welcomed it to the regional peacekeeping network initiated by the United Nations Information Service (UNIS) Vienna and AAP in 2007. He emphasized the important role of such an association nationally and regionally in building public support for peacekeeping operations and being an important interface with civil society.

ASP, registered in Ljubljana in November 2013 with 35 founding members, now has about 80, consisting mainly of active, reserve, retired and civilian persons with a peacekeeping background. The President of ASP is Brigadier (ret) Anton Turk.