



PROGRAMME

57th INTERNATIONAL WRITERS' FOR PEACE COMMITTEE MEETING

The meeting will be held under the honorary patronage of her Excellency Mrs Urška Klakočar Zupančič, President of the Parliament of Republic of Slovenia.

MONDAY, 7th April 2025

Ljubljana – Cankarjev dom, Klub

19.00 – 20.00 Tasmania - literary evening with Italian novelist Paolo Giordano, Slovenian translation of his novel Tasmania – moderated by Breda Biščak (English with simultaneous translation into Slovenian), event sponsored by Mladinska knjiga publishing.

TUESDAY, 8th April 2025

Bled Hotel Park, Hall Prešeren

General Assembly of PEN International Writers for Peace Committee chaired by Germán Rojas
(English, no simultaneous translation, internal meeting)

- 9:00 – Housekeeping notes – Sara Katarina Engelsberger, coordinator/editor of WfPC.
- 9:03 – Welcome address by Tanja Tuma – President of PEN Slovenia /Vice Chair of the Board of PEN International.
- 9:08 – Empty chair #1 Amanuel Asrat (Eritrea).
- 9:10 – Introductory words by the Chair, Germán Rojas.
- 9:20 – Keynote address #1 by: Paolo Giordano, Italian writer.
- 9:40 – Information on the election of the Chair of the Writers for Peace Committee of PEN International. Presented by Tanja Tuma.
- 9:45 – Report of activities of WfPC and suggestions for the future. Presented by Germán Rojas and followed by debate.
- 10:10 – Keynote address #2 by: Miquel Àngel Llauger (PEN Català).
- 10:30 – Judyth Hill – Mutual collaboration between the WfPC and the WWC Committee. Short presentation by Germán Rojas and intervention by Judyth Hill, Chair the PEN International Women's Writers Committee, followed by debate.

10.45 coffee break



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- 11:15 – Mutual collaboration between the WfPC and the Young Writers Committee (YWC). Short presentation by Germán Rojas and intervention by Ayi Renaud Dossavi (Chair ad interim of the YWC).
- 11:30 Centres' updates (all regions).
Presentations by the Head of Regions and Centres that would like to intervene.
- 12:30 Debate on the situation in Ukraine. Presentation of the topic by Iryna Starovoyt (PEN Ukraine/member of the WfPC Advisory Board).

13:00–14:00 – Lunch break

- 14:00 – Empty Chair #2 Maykel Osorbo (Cuba).
- 14:05 – Debate on the situation in the Near East. Presentation of the topic by Algerian novelist Said Khatibi (PEN Slovenia), by Iranian journalist Ahmed Ainehvand (ICORN Ljubljana), Syrian writer Monaem Mohamad Abdul (PEN Slovenia).
- 14:40 – Presentation of a draft Declaration of the WfPC on the *“Present International disorder and threats to peace. The role of writers”*.

15.00 coffee break

- 15.30 – Debate on the draft Resolution.
- 16.30 – Any Other Business.
- 16:45 – 17.00 – Open discussion and closure of the day.

Concurrent Alpe-Adria meeting in PEN Premium Hall, 4th floor

- 10.00 – 12.00 Alpe – Adria Network for Peace, moderated by dr. Helena Jaklitsch.

19:00 Opening ceremony

Blaž Kumerdej Public Library Bled, Ulica Jule Vovk Molnar, Bled

Welcome by:

- Her Excellency Urška Klakočar Zupančič, President of the Parliament of the Republic of Slovenia.
- Anton Mežan, Mayor of Bled.
- Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the first Bled Congress of PEN International at Bled - Artistic presentation of the poem “A Wanderer in the Atom Age” written by Slovenian poet Matej Bor; performance by members of Young PEN Slovenia Pino Pograjc, Špela Setničar, and duo TwoRoundRobins and musician Margarita Ulokina – in English and in Slovenian.
- Opening of the exhibition Matej Bor, spouses Lavrin, and “A Wanderer in the Atom Age”; curated by Jure Sinobad, A. T. Linhart Library, Radovljica.
- Reception offered by Anton Mežan, Mayor of Bled.

WEDNESDAY, 9th April 2025

(train Bled - Gorica, Nova Gorica, simultaneous translation in English, Slovenian, and Italian, public event)

- 8.45 – departure from Hotel Park to train station Bled Jezero by bus.



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- 9.15 – on the train to Nova Gorica; Neda Rusjan Bric about GO!2025, Nova Gorica and Gorica – one European Capital of Culture under the slogan GO Borderless; literary readings of the participants – part of the 12th festival Faces of Peace.
- 11.00 arrival at Nova Gorica, welcome by historian dr. Kaja Širok, representative of European Capital of Culture GO!2025, Europa Square – history of the border, transfer to Kulturni dom Gorica, via Italico Brass 10, Gorizia.
- **11.30 Round table Climate change, migrations, wars – end of peace**
- 11.30 Empty chair #3 Ilham Tohti (Uyghur).
- 11.35 Miquel Àngel Llauger, Catalan PEN: Introductory note.
- 11.55 Conversation moderated by Miquel Àngel Llauger, Catalan PEN. Panellists: Angela Christofidou (PEN Cyprus), Judyth Hill (PEN San Miguel), Teresa Cadete (PEN Portugal).
- 12.30 Discussion of the participants.
- *13.30 lunch break*
- **14.30 Round table Water**
- 14.30 Empty chair #4 Viktoriya Roshchyna (Ukraine).
- 14.35 Welcome by the Mayor of Nova Gorica, Mr. Samo Turel.
- 14.40 dr. Danilo Türk, former President of Slovenia, Geneva Water Hub: Centre of competence on Water for Peace, introductory note.
- 15.00 Conversation moderated by Aljaž Koprivnikar. panellists: Andrea Lešić (PEN Bosnia and Herzegovina), dr. Danilo Türk (Geneva Water Hub), Jasmina Jerant (activist, Case Anhovo).
- 15.40 Discussion of the participants.
- 16.45 Glas/Voice: premiere of short film about the Slovenian WWC Mira Award;
- 17.00 Closure of the round tables.
- *17.10 dinner at the restaurant Madonca offered by the Mayor of Nova Gorica, Samo Turel*
- 19.30 walk to Nova Gorica train station (400 m).
- 20.03 train to Bled Jezero, arrival 21.45, transfer to Hotel Park Bled. On the train readings of literary contributions as part of the festival Faces of Peace.

THURSDAY, 10th April 2025

- Morning free – participants are encouraged to set up individual meetings.
- 10.00 – 12.00 PEN Balkan Literary Circle, led by Hakan Yaman, online meeting, room PEN Premium (participants should bring their computers or other devices).
- *13.00 lunch at the hotel.*
- 16.00 bus for Ljubljana from the Hotel Park Bled
- 17.00 – Welcome by the team of Vodnikova domačija and Ljubljana UNESCO City of Literature, brief historical tour.
- 18.00 Empty chair #5 Mustafa Sheta (Palestine).
- **18.05 Round table of Young PEN: The Path to Publication: From Aspiring to Published Author**, conversation moderated by Urška Bračko, panellists Ayi Renaud Dossavi (PEN



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Togo, Chair ad interim of Young Writers Committee), Marcel Baranja (Romani poet, Rromski akademski klub), Selma Skenderović (Chair of Young PEN Slovenia).

- **19.00 Dinner at the restaurant Štalca pri Vodniku offered by the Mayor of Ljubljana, Mr Zoran Janković**
- 21.00 – return to Bled by bus.

Concurrent literary event:

- 19.00 literary evening in Trzin, dvorana Marjance Ručigaj, Tone Peršak with guests.



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