



Paolo Trichilo

Njegova ekszellenca Paolo Trichilo je novoimenovani italijanski veleposlanik v Sloveniji. Z njim smo se pogovarjali o prvih vtisih bivanja v naši prestolnici, o njegovih nalogah in načrtih, kako še tesneje povezati Italijo in Slovenijo ter še globlje utrditi njun medsebojni oziroma medsosedski odnos.

His Excellency Paolo Trichilo is the newly appointed Italian Ambassador to Slovenia. With him, we talked about his first impressions of staying in our capital city, his tasks and plans on how to even further connect both countries and strengthen their neighborly relations.

Kakšen je vaš prvi vtis o Ljubljani?

Moj prvi vtis o mestu v mojih prvih treh mesecih bivanja tukaj je bil zelo pozitiven, saj je kakovost življenja zelo visoka, mesto pa turistom prijazno in dobrodošlo. Preureditev mestnega središča v veliko območje, namenjeno samo pešcem, je velik napredek, ki je Ljubljano napravil zelo prijetno. V Mestnem muzeju sem videl fotografije mesta, še preden so bile te spremembe uvedene in razlika je osupljiva. Tam, kjer so bila nekoč parkirišča, se zdaj lahko svobodno gibljemo, hodimo in to je dober zgled vsem evropskim mestom. Tudi nagrada "zelena prestolnica Evrope 2016" je zelo zaslužna, saj je Ljubljana, na primer, evropska prestolnica z najvišjo stopnjo recikliranja. To pa pomeni, da so strukturne spremembe uvedene v veliko korist prebivalstva.

” Všeč mi je zgodovinsko središče z lepimi izkušnjami sprehoda ob Ljubljani in gradu, vendar cenim tudi druge predele mesta, kot je Metelkova. ”

Kateri del mesta vam je najbolj všeč? Ste že odkrili svojo najljubšo restavracijo in jed?

Očiten odgovor na prvo vprašanje je zgodovinsko središče z lepimi izkušnjami sprehoda ob Ljubljani in gradu, vendar cenim tudi druge predele mesta, kot je Metelkova, kjer so muzeji in kulturna središča nadomestili nekdanje vojašnice. Prav tako uživam na kolesarskih in tekaških stezah v mestu in njegovi okolici, ki nam omogočajo dobrobit zelenega okolja, kot tudi v parku Tivoli in na Rožniku, kjer se počutim, kot če bi bil na gorskem trekingu v nekem daljnem kraju. Kar pa zadeva drugo

vprašanje, kot vegetarijanec cenim, da obstaja vedno večja izbira vegetarijanskih in veganskih jedi za ljudi, ki želijo slediti svojim prehranskim ali moralnim željam.

Ali vam je že uspelo obiskati tudi druge predele Slovenije? Kateri vam je najljubši? Kako bi opisali Ljubljano (in Slovenijo) svojim prijateljem?

Doslej sem obiskal prikupno primorsko regijo z dvojezičnimi občinami, kot so Koper, Izola, Piran in Ankaran, in tudi druge kraje ob meji z Italijo, in sicer Novo Gorico, Kobarid in Tolmin, ki je prejel naziv "alpsko mesto leta 2016". Obiskal sem tudi druge lepe kraje s čudovito kulturno dediščino, kot so Novo mesto, Radovljica, Slovenske Konjice. A to je še le začetek. V preteklosti sem lahko obiskal skoraj vse kraje države,

velike kot Indija, in ne dvomim, da ne bi tudi tokrat obiskal celotne Slovenije, še preden jo zapustim. Svoje prijatelje sem že povabil, da pridejo in obišejo to lepo, zeleno, inovativno državo, ki je tako bogata s kulturno raznolikostjo in dediščino.

Katere so osnovne naloge na začetku vašega mandata?

Moja glavna naloga je še bolj utrditi odlične dvostranske odnose med Italijo in Slovenijo na vseh ravneh. Italija je druga trgovinska partnerica Slovenije in četrta vlagateljica kot tudi prva partnerica pri turističnih prilivih. Na kulturni ravni je Slovenija

dvajseta država na svetu z absolutnim številom študentov italijanskega jezika (1/140 prebivalcev). Poleg tega je, po podatkih Eurobarometra, italijansko govorečih približno 8 odstotkov Slovencev. Kar se tiče akademskega sodelovanja, je med Italijo in Slovenijo sklenjenih približno 50 meduniverzitetnih sporazumov. Tudi prisotnost avtohtone italijanske skupnosti v Sloveniji in avtohtone slovenske skupnosti v Italiji je bogastvo za obe državi in pomemben dejavnik za krepitev našega prijateljstva.

Na katerih področjih bi lahko Italija in Slovenija še tesneje sodelovali?

Menim, da bi bil napredek lahko narajen predvsem v infrastrukturnem in prometnem sektorju. Medtem ko so cestne in avtocestne povezave najsodobnejše, so železniške povezave nezadostne. Tudi sodelovanje med severnojadranskimi pristanišči, zlasti med Koprrom in Trstom, je treba nadgraditi, če želimo prestreči trgovske tokove iz Azije in ustvariti takšen položaj, ki bi koristil obema, še posebno v luči razširitve Sueškega prekopa. Če ti dve pristanišči ne bosta vzpostavili dobre železniške povezave in enotnega pristopa do azijskih podjetij, se bojim, da ne bomo mogli biti konkurenčni v odnosu do pristanišč severne Evrope.

What is your first impression of Ljubljana?

My first impression of the city during my first three months here has been extremely positive, since the quality of life is very high and the city is very welcoming and tourist-friendly. The transformation of the city centre into a large pedestrian zone is a great progress that has rendered Ljubljana

very enjoyable. In the City Museum of Ljubljana I have seen photographs of the city before these alterations and the difference is striking; where you once had parking lots you can now walk freely and this sets an example for all European cities. The Green European Capital award for 2016 was also well deserved, since, for instance, Ljubljana ranks the highest among European capitals in terms of recycling. The structural changes introduced have greatly benefited the Ljubljana residents.

“The part of the city that I like the most is the historical city centre, which provides one with the pleasant experience of strolling along the river Ljubljanica, and the Ljubljana Castle. However, I also appreciate other places, such as Metelkova.”

Which part of the city do you like the most? Have you discovered your favorite restaurant and food yet?

The obvious response to the first question is the historical city centre, which provides one with the pleasant experience of strolling along the river Ljubljanica, and the Ljubljana Castle. However, I also appreciate other places, such as Metelkova, where museums and cultural centres have replaced the former military barracks. I enjoy the bike and jogging trails in the city and its surroundings with its green environment, as well as the Tivoli City Park and Roznik Hill where you feel as if you were on a mountain trek in some faraway place. As to the second question, as a vegetarian, I appreciate that there is an ever wider choice of vegetarian and vegan food for people that wish to follow their dietary or moral preferences.

Have you managed to visit other parts of Slovenia? Which one is your favorite? How would you describe Ljubljana (and Slovenia) to your friends?

So far I have visited the lovely Primorsko region with its bilingual municipalities of Koper, Izola, Piran and Ankaran, as well as other towns located along the border with Italy, namely Nova Gorica, Kobarid and Tolmin; the latter received the title of the Alpine Town of 2016. I have also visited other beautiful places rich in



Italian language (1/140 inhabitants). In addition, Italian is spoken by about 8% of Slovenians according to Eurobarometer. As for the academic collaboration, there are almost 50 inter-university agreements between Italy and Slovenia. The presence of the autochthonous Italian community in Slovenia and of the autochthonous Slovenian community in Italy represents great enrichment for both countries and is an important means of strengthening our friendship.

Which areas of cooperation between Italy and Slovenia could be improved even further?

I believe progress could be made in the infrastructure and transport sectors. While the road and highway connections are state of the art, the railway links are insufficient. The cooperation between the North Adriatic ports, in particular between Koper and Trieste, should also be upgraded if we want to intercept the trade flows from Asia in a win-win situation, especially in the light of the widening of the Suez Canal. If the two ports do not establish good railway connections topped with a unified approach towards the Asian companies, I am afraid they will not be able to compete vis-à-vis the North European ports.