

INVITATION

The Hungarian Embassy together with the Liszt Institute Ljubljana and Otto von Habsburg Foundation Budapest cordially invite you to the opening of the exhibition

OTTO VON HABSBURG – LIFE AND HERITAGE

on Friday, 20 October 2023, at 17:00 at the Liszt Institute Ljubljana, Barvarska steza 8.

The exhibition will open with the greetings of H. E. Andor F. Dávid, Ambassador of Hungary to Slovenia, and the keynote speech of Alojz Peterle, former Prime Minister of Slovenia and former Member of the European Parliament.

A panel discussion will follow featuring:

- Petra Svoltjšak, Head of the ZRC SAZU Milko Kos Historical Institute (Moderator)
- Gergely Pröhle, Director of the Otto von Habsburg Foundation
- Helmut Wohnout, Director General of the Austrian State Archives
- Andrej Rahten, University of Maribor and ZRC SAZU Milko Kos Historical Institute

The panel will be held in English.

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Otto von Habsburg campaigned for a free, united and social Europe from the early years of his career, and from 1979, as a member of the European Parliament, he formally was a shaper of the continent's future. In the subsequent decade, the son of the last monarch of the Austro-Hungarian Empire actively followed the country's secession from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and, as a member of the European Parliament, he was a vocal advocate of Slovenia's plans for independence, expressing his opinion firmly in his speeches and writings: „It is in the interest of all of us to take into account the aspirations of small nations that have their own histories, national identities, and remarkable cultures and which can fulfil a beneficial role in the European Community.” – As he stated in one of his manifestos.



He visited the country on several occasions, first in 1991, at the official invitation of the National Assembly of Slovenia, then in the same year, as the head of the delegation of the European Parliament, he spent his time shuttling between the war-torn areas of the former Federation and the European decision-making centres to relay news and promote the international recognition of the country. In 2006 he spoke at a meeting of the Pan-European Union in the capital. Upon this final visit, the dedicated advocate of European integration was able to see for himself how the Republic of Slovenia, now a member of the European Union, is fulfilling his vision of a united continent.