



In the spirit of the traditionally friendly relations with the Republic of Slovenia, and ahead of the joint session between the two Governments, scheduled for October 2016, consular consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia were held in Belgrade, on 21 September. The Serbian delegation was headed by Assistant Minister for Consular Affairs at the MFA of the Republic of Serbia Ambassador Dragan Momcilovic, while the Slovenian delegation was headed by Ambassador Stanislav Vidovič, Secretary-General of the MFA of the Republic of Slovenia.

In the consultations, views were exchanged regarding bilateral cooperation, contractual status in the area of consular affairs and other topical issues, especially when it comes to the protection of interests of Serbian nationals in Slovenia and the Slovenian nationals in Serbia. Further cooperation and regular exchange of experience have been agreed on, concerning the issue of irregular migration and mutual provision of consular protection to the two countries' citizens in crisis and emergency situations in the world. Slovenia will continue to be engaged in lending support in the area of consular affairs during Serbia's accession negotiations with the EU, via Twinning projects and other cooperation mechanisms.

Bilateral cooperation between the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Slovenia, including the domain of consular relations, has been positively assessed. Mutual readiness for further development of relations between the two countries was noted, not only within the framework of cooperation between the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs, but also in the area of enhancing economic, cultural and other forms of cooperation. The holding of the next consular consultations in Ljubljana has been agreed in principle for the period between late 2017 and early 2018.