



Predsednica Republike Slovenije

NATAŠA PIRC MUSAR

**Address by the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Nataša Pirc Musar,
on the occasion of her visit to the Italian minority at the Gravisi-Buttorai Palace**

Koper, Thursday, 11 September 2025 at 12:30

President of the Republic of Italy, Sergio Mattarella,
Mrs Laura Mattarella,
High representatives of the Italian national community in Slovenia,
President Scheriani, President Tremul, Deputy Ziza,
Distinguished guests,

Good afternoon, everyone.

Buon giorno e un caro saluto a tutti i presenti.

I am honoured to be here today, once again among you, esteemed members of the Italian national community.

Today is an important day for all of us who believe in the power of education. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere belief that minority educational institutions are not an expense, but a value and a treasure. They are the living roots of the community that made a decisive contribution to the history, culture and identity of our coastal towns.

The towns of Slovenian Istria are a European example of successful coexistence, language pluralism and cultural openness, an example of a mature and inclusive democracy.

Several important steps have been taken to maintain good neighbourly relations and to acknowledge the mutual painful events of the previous century. We must continue this journey, step by step. I would like, together with President Mattarella, to further strengthen this excellent cooperation, which is and must be in the interest of both countries and both nations, which history has several times seen on opposing sides. It is also thanks to the bridge –building minorities – both the Slovenian in Italy and the Italian in Slovenia – that today people in the border region enjoy a very positive atmosphere.

Thank you very much for your contribution.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I have great respect for the way you, as members of the Italian national community, have preserved your culture, language and identity. Slovenia supports you in this. I also expect that the Slovenian national community in Italy will always be able to do so without hindrance.

Members of the Italian national community can always expect my support and attention. As the President of the Republic of Slovenia, I have a symbolic and moral obligation, and am also bound by the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, to represent all citizens, including members of national minorities. It is also thanks to you that Slovenia has a beautiful soul.

My door will always be open to you.

I am delighted that President Mattarella and I can be with you today on this friendly visit, which demonstrates how important respect for both minorities is for the entire border region. They are an essential cultural bridge between our two countries.

President Mattarella, you and I represent the political bond, and it is our task to ensure that we remain good neighbours – and become even better ones. We are on the right path.

I now give the floor to you, President Mattarella.