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NEW CORONAVIRUS: MEASURES IN PLACE AFFECTING FOREIGN CITIZENS AND TRAVEL TO AND FROM SLOVENIA

MFA briefing, Ljubljana, 3 March 2020

1. State of play on 3 March 2020

There are no confirmed coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) cases in Slovenia. The National Institute for Public Health (NIJZ) provides detailed information on the state of play, which is updated on an hourly basis at the website: https://www.nijz.si/sl/koronavirus-2019-ncov.

2. Measures in place affecting travel to/from Slovenia

There are no changes in the general regime governing entry into Slovenia.

<u>Health protocols</u>, established by NIJZ, have been set up for different points of entry into Slovenia (<u>ports</u>, <u>airports</u>, <u>international road travel</u>). Separate protocols are in place for all staff working in points of entry into Slovenia. All protocols are publicly available at the website: https://www.nijz.si/sl/koronavirus-2019-ncov. The protocols trigger upon detecting suspected symptoms of COVID-19. There are currently no protocols or measures in place specifically directed at passengers from areas most affected by the virus, and there is no general screening.

3. Measures in place to prevent the spread of the virus in Slovenia

The awareness-raising information campaign is in place and is led by the NIJZ and supported by Government's Communication Office. There is an Intra-ministerial Coordination Group set up, led by the Ministry of Health, and tasked for all matters relating to COVID-19. The Coordination Group is fully operational, acts as a national crisis centre, and is preparing for all possible scenarios. The MFA has activated a Consular Crisis Cell, operationally led by Head of Consular Department, Andrej Šter.

At <u>EU level</u>, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control on Monday raised the risk of infection in the European Union from "moderate" to "high", due to the increase in the number of cases during the last days. The Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) arrangements have been escalated from information sharing mode to full activation mode on 2 March 2020. A new website has been set up: https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response_en

4. Contacts

INDIVIDUALS IN SLOVENIA: The contact number for all foreign citizens in Slovenia who have concerns over their health is the emergency first aid service number: 112. Individuals at border crossings should inform the staff, who are familiar with the protocols in place.

EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES:

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