



President of the Republic of Slovenia

NATAŠA PIRC MUSAR

Ljubljana, 25 March 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great sadness that I have learned that Professor Hannes Tretter, my beloved mentor and friend, has passed away.

Professor Tretter had a great influence on my career. I met him about two decades ago in Montenegro, where together we helped the country, which had yet to establish a system for data protection and access to information. It was a privilege to work with him and see the result of our work: the creation of a new Montenegrin authority for data protection and access to information.

To say that I learned a lot from him during our work on the Montenegro project would be an understatement. But I was hungry for more. So I inquired with him about the relevance of the topic - data protection and access to information - for a PhD thesis. I was honoured when he offered me to join the doctoral programme at the Law Faculty of Vienna University. Thanks to his patience and persistent supervision, I was able to successfully defend my dissertation in 2015.

Since then, we have never lost contact. Whenever I was in Vienna, we met and discussed our common passion – the passion for respecting human rights as the foundation of our civilization. Austria has lost a great thinker and an honest man, a true advocate of democracy as a way of life.

I thank you, dear Hannes, for everything you have given to Austria, the world and to me personally. You will be missed.

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