

TANJA FAJON OFFICE IN BRUSSELS

Member of the European Parliament

Brussels, 11 February 2019

Dear President,

I am writing you to express my deep concern over your public statements on February 10 in Basovizza (Trieste).

I very much regret that as President of the European Parliament you failed to address all sides of history. It would seem to me that during this commemorative event the historical facts have been grossly simplified to serve the cause of the Italian "patriotic" revival.

Given the one-sided statements that could be heard during this past Sunday's event, I would like to invite you to read the joint report of *the Slovene-Italian Historical and Cultural Commission On Slovene-Italian Relations 1880-1956* (available on the following link http://www.kozina.com/premik/poreng_enastran.htm). This joint report by Italian and Slovene historians was published in 2000, well before Slovenia entered the EU. Commissioned in 1993 by the Italian and Slovene foreign ministries, this report was an attempt to clear up some issues on which the two sides have different views, and improving bilateral relations.

The history in this part of the world did not start in 1945. The region around Trieste and the Istrian peninsula were occupied by the Italian fascist after the first World War and had been brutally "Italianised" by Mussolini's henchmen. Very close to the venue that you attended last Sunday in company of Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, is the anti-fascist monument for the "heroes of Bazovica", the Slovene victims of fascism during the interwar period.

I expect from you as President of an EU institution to consider the Second World War in a more differentiated way and not to maintain the myth of the Italians as victims while totally ignoring the victims of Italian Fascists.

Kind regards,
Tanja Fajon

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