



Photo: Daniel Novakovič/STA

Born 25 August 1963

LLD, Professor of Law

Dr Miro Cerar was elected Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia by the National Assembly on 25 August 2014. Until then, he had not been a member of any political party and had not been actively engaged in politics. In 2013, he turned down a public offer from the majority parliamentary coalition to assume, through its support, the office of Prime Minister, because he believed that the former parliamentary parties did not provide the necessary conditions to overcome the social crisis. Approximately a year later, he decided to form, together with a group of his supporters, a completely new political party in order to participate in the early parliamentary elections. The Party of Miro Cerar (SMC) was founded on 2 June 2014 and on 13 July 2014, led by Miro Cerar, the SMC achieved a historic victory, winning 36 deputy seats (out of 90), which is the largest number of seats taken by any political party to-date. At its first congress on 7 March 2015, the party was renamed the Modern Centre Party (SMC).

Before entering politics, dr Miro Cerar was a Full Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana, where he lectured on the theory and philosophy of law, comparative law and the ethics of the legal profession. In 1990 and 1991, he took part in drafting the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia and other constitutional independence acts, being the youngest of the participating legal experts. Subsequently, he was a legal advisor on constitutional and other legal matters to the National Assembly for over twenty years, and occasionally also to the ministries, private law offices, institutes, chambers and other institutions. In 2008, as a Fulbright Scholar, he taught comparative constitutional law at the Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco, and underwent professional development training at the University of California School of Law in Berkeley. After holding the office of Vice-President of the Judicial Council of the Republic of Slovenia for a year and a half, he became its President during the period from December 2010 to June 2012. In the period 2000-2014, he was selected as one of the ten most influential Slovenian legal experts thirteen times, and in the period 2011-2014, he was also named the Slovenian legal expert with the greatest reputation four times.

Dr Cerar has authored and co-authored numerous Slovenian and foreign expert books and scientific papers. With his popular columns and numerous public appearances, he has established himself as a public opinion leader in Slovenia. Particularly in the recent years of crisis, he has become an authoritative critical public thinker, highlighting the importance of the neglected social values, the culture of tolerance and dialogue, and the need to raise the political and legal culture. His books for a general audience, which include *Pravnikov mozaik* ('Lawyer's Mosaic', 2007), *Pamet v krizi* ('Common Sense in Danger', 2010), and *Slovenci na popravnem izpitu* ('Slovenes Retaking Exams', 2013), are collections of essays on ethics, politics, law, education, spirituality, and other current social and civic issues. In 2010, he

received a special award for the best original educational text for youth for his book *Kako sem otrokom razložil demokracijo* ('How I Explained Democracy to Children').

On dr Miro Cerar's proposal, the National Assembly confirmed his ministerial list on 18 September 2014, and on that same day the 12th Slovenian Government assumed its tasks and duties. Upon the formation of the Government, dr Cerar emphasised: "We are aware that Slovenia needs political stability, economic development, the regulation of public finances and a great deal of social awareness. We will do everything we can to lead Slovenia out of the crisis and provide our citizens with opportunities for a normal life."