



# Weekly Briefing

## **Slovenia political briefing:**

### **The Internal Affairs of the 15th Slovenian Government: Resignations or dismissals of key personnel and the protests against the government in March 2024**

**Gašper Pirc**


#### **China-CEE Institute**

Kiadó: Kína-KKE Intézet Nonprofit Kft.

Szerkesztésért felelős személy: Ju Weiwei

Kiadásért felelős személy: Feng Zhongping

 1052 Budapest Petőfi Sándor utca 11.

 +36 1 5858 690

 [office@china-cee.eu](mailto:office@china-cee.eu)

 [china-cee.eu](http://china-cee.eu)

# **The Internal Affairs of the 15th Slovenian Government: Resignations or dismissals of key personnel and the protests against the government in March 2024**

## **Summary**

*After a promising start in 2022, the year 2023 brought several challenges for the 15<sup>th</sup> Slovenian government. While there have been short periods of stabilization and recovery of support, the public support for the work of the government mostly steadily decreased or stagnated in low numbers in 2023.*

*While there have objective, external reasons for the lack of success of the government – at least regarding public recognition – many of the issues were a result of a lack of coherence, unity, or the problematic internal communication. There have been many personnel changes among the key members of the government, including four ministers that resigned or were dismissed in 2023, with one being dismissed in late 2022 and another resigned in 2024.*

*The volatile situation within the government may have emboldened the opposition who staged two significant protest rallies against the government in March 2023.*

## **Background: the election success and the challenges of the 15th government before 2024**

At the beginning of June 2022, the 15<sup>th</sup> Slovenian government led by the Freedom Movement in a (center-)Left coalition was inaugurated. The Freedom Movement was able to successfully form the government with their peers Social Democrats and the Left after the co-aligned parties gained a clear majority of votes in the election.<sup>1</sup> The success of the Freedom Movement, which was technically a political newcomer but was comprised of several experienced and recognizable politicians, was in many ways due to the controversies, unpopularity of the previous government in many circles, and the hostile political environment during the final stages of the term of the 14<sup>th</sup> Slovenian government; many considered the 2022

---

<sup>1</sup> Consult Anja Kralj, "Slovenija dobila 15. vlado: potrdili Golobovo ministrsko ekipo," 24ur.com, June 1, 2022, <https://www.24ur.com/novice/slovenija/dober-mesec-po-volitvah-bo-golobova-vlada-nastopila-svoj-mandat.html>; and »Volitve v Državni zbor 2022 – izidi glasovanja,« Državna volilna komisija, accessed April 23, 2024, <https://www.dvk-rs.si/arhivi/dz2022/#/rezultati>.

Slovenian parliamentary elections to be elections (for and) against the former Prime Minister Janez Janša who led the 14<sup>th</sup> Slovenian government.<sup>2</sup>

The election on April 24, 2022, came after two years of relative political instability, aggressive rhetoric in political circles, and increasing pressure put on the government on behalf of both domestic and foreign opponents of the right-wing 14<sup>th</sup> government.<sup>3</sup> Such conditions resulted in a clear victory for the winning left(-center) wing coalition in the elections, which was in many ways indebted to the extreme unpopularity of the previous government to achieve such a result. The coalition agenda showed clear differences to the politics of the previous government with its emphasis on the improvement of social conditions in Slovenia, and one of the first actions of the new government in 2022 was the attempt to eliminate the “harmful measures of the previous government.”<sup>4</sup>

The new government initially rode on high support based on the public expectations of stabilization in Slovene politics; however, the public support already dwindled toward the end of 2022 when the clash between Slovenian Prime Minister Robert Golob and the Minister of the Interior Tatjana Bobnar showcased possible cracks within the coalition and led to the resignation of the visible politician in interior minister which simultaneously revealed the confrontational side of the Prime Minister which would be questioned on further occasions.<sup>5</sup>

Public support for the government continued to fall in the first half of 2023, both due to internal issues, especially in regard to the performance and controversies of the Minister of Health and Deputy Prime Minister Danijel Bešič Loredan who resigned later this year,<sup>6</sup> and the failure of the government to produce concrete results in accordance with the pre-governmental

---

<sup>2</sup> See e.g. Primož Cirman, Vesna Vuković, “To je bil referendum o Janezu Janši #analiza,” *Necenzurirano*, April 24, 2022, <https://necenzurirano.si/clanek/mnenja/to-je-bil-referendum-o-janezu-jansi-analiza-961789>; or “Večer: Slovenia to see historic change in government,” STA, accessed April 23, 2024, <https://english.sta.si/3042731/vecer-slovenia-to-see-historic-change-in-government>.

<sup>3</sup> Consult, for example, *ibid.*; or Valérie Gauriat, “Is freedom of the press at threat in Slovenia?” Euronews, June 11, 2021, <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2021/06/04/is-freedom-of-the-press-at-threat-in-slovenia>.

<sup>4</sup> Source: STA, “Predlog zakona proti škodljivim ukrepom prejšnje oblasti skozi drugo obravnavo,” *Delo*, July 12, 2022, <https://www.delo.si/novice/slovenija/predlog-zakona-proti-skodljivim-ukrepom-pretekle-oblasti-skozi-drugo-obravnavo/>.

<sup>5</sup> See e.g. “Premier Robert Golob bo sprejel odstop ministrice Tatjane Bobnar,” STA, accessed April 23, 2024, <https://www.sta.si/3114874/premier-robert-golob-bo-sprejel-odstop-ministrice-tatjane-bobnar>

<sup>6</sup> Source: M. Z., “Bešič Loredan podpisal odstopno izjavo. Golob: Razhajala sva se glede krepitve javnega zdravstva,” *MMC Radiotelevizije Slovenija*, July 7, 2023, <https://www.rtvlo.si/slovenija/besic-loredan-podpisal-odstopno-izjavo-golob-razhajala-sva-se-glede-krepitve-javnega-zdravstva/674418>.

promises.<sup>7</sup> In April 2023 more people opposed than supported the government which was a tremendous swing compared to just one year ago; there were as many as 18% fewer respondents that trusted the government than the ones that distrusted it.<sup>8</sup> Public support for the government would later slightly improve due to the signs of development of the reform front but would later fall again and remain low at the end of the year. In December 2023, an opinion poll showed that only 34,9% of the respondents still support the work of the government while 51.4% do not support it. The leading coalition party the Freedom Movement also lost many of its which amounted to over 34 at the 2022 elections; in December 2023, only 15,6% of voters would still vote for it. That number is almost 10% less than the number of those who support the largest opposition party Slovenian Democratic Party.<sup>9</sup>

It is safe to say that the government had a challenging year behind it which may in many ways – as I will expound upon in this paper – caused or at least affected (by) itself. The reasons for many of the issues cannot however be easily explained by its inability to successfully pass the critical reforms it promised to do and by the cracks within the coalition and the parties themselves but have also been due to external objective, systemic, and political factors including the weight of natural disaster in August’s flooding (to which the response may not be fully optimal), the inflation crisis around Europe, and aggressive opposition led by the Slovenian Democratic Party which has become even louder in the beginning of 2024 when it organized rallies against the government. In some ways, the political situation in Slovenia is not fully unlike what it was before the election in 2022; however, the current government retains outside support from the EU and still has the potential to reverse the problematic political situation.

---

<sup>7</sup> See e.g. Gregor Cerar, “Slovenija v letu 2023: Poplave, ministrske menjave in strm padec podpore vladi,” *MMC Radiotelevizije Slovenija*, December 27, 2023, <https://www.rtvlo.si/slovenija/slovenija-v-letu-2023-poplave-ministrske-menjave-in-strm-padec-podpore-vladi/692633>.

<sup>8</sup> Compare G. K., “Raziskava: Nov padec podpore Golobovi vladi,” *MMC Radiotelevizije Slovenija*, April 7, 2023, <https://www.rtvlo.si/slovenija/raziskava-nov-padec-podpore-golobovi-vladi/664150>.

<sup>9</sup> See A. S., “Anketa: Podpora vladi zrasla prvič po štirih mesecih padanja,” April 24, 2023, *MMC Radiotelevizije Slovenija*, <https://www.rtvlo.si/slovenija/preberite-tudi/anketa-podpora-vladi-zrasla-prvic-po-stirih-mesecih-padanja/665928>; and STA, “Nova anketa: se je padanje podpore vladi ustavilo? SDS medtem z rekordom,” *N1*, December 26, 2023, <https://n1info.si/novice/slovenija/nova-anketa-se-je-padanje-podpore-vladi-ustavilo-sds-medtem-z-rekordom/>.

## **The dismissals or resignations of the key members of the 15th government during the its term**

The first large internal dispute within the coalition, the conflict between Prime Minister Robert Golob (the Freedom Movement) and Tatjana Bobnar (Social Democrats) was the first indication that there may have been internal issues within the coalition that are set to become difficult to avoid and may present additional significant challenges in the already heavily workload of the current government.

The conflict between Golob and Bobnar unraveled after the failure of the Minister of the Interior Tatjana Bobnar to finalize the attempt to appoint the then-acting director-general of the police Boštjan Lindav as the director-general of the police with a full mandate. After the arguments with the Prime Minister, Bobnar offered her resignation;<sup>10</sup> however, there were some rumors about political pressure on the selection. The public seemed to react with surprise and dissatisfaction with the demeanor of the Prime Minister during the confrontation with Bobnar which led to the first significant drop of support for the government a bit more than six months into the term. Ever since the incident happened, Bobnar maintained that there was undue political pressure on the work and especially selections in the police.<sup>11</sup>

The internal issues between representatives of the coalition partners and within the coalition parties themselves continued in 2023. Partly due to suboptimal internal communication and partly to the prolonged issues in preparation of the comprehensive fiscal reform and corresponding need to sift the blame to particular figures in March 2023 Tilen Božič resigned as a state secretary at the Ministry of Finance.<sup>12</sup>

After months of accumulated communication mishaps, outside pressures, controversies necessitating taking on the objective blame (such as the Celje hospital incident where two

---

<sup>10</sup> See e.g. "Premier Robert Golob bo sprejel odstop ministrice Tatjane Bobnar," STA, accessed April 23, 2024, <https://www.sta.si/3114874/premier-robert-golob-bo-sprejel-odstop-ministrice-tatjane-bobnar>; or M. V., "Zakaj je odstopila Tatjana Bobnar? Ministrica poslancem pojasnila razloge," *N1*, December 14, 2022, <https://n1info.si/novice/slovenija/zakaj-je-odstopila-tatjana-bobnar-ministrica-poslancem-pojasnjuje-razloge/>.

<sup>11</sup> Consult e.g. Gregor Cerar, "Slovenija v letu 2023: Poplave, ministrske menjave in strm padec podpore vladi," *MMC Radiotelevizije Slovenija*, December 27, 2023, <https://www.rtvsllo.si/slovenija/slovenija-v-letu-2023-poplave-ministrske-menjave-in-strm-padec-podpore-vladi/692633>; and mg, "Tatjana Bobnar o vmešavanju politike v policijo: Verjela sem, da je prišel drugačen čas," *Dnevnik*, October 23, 2023, <https://www.dnevnik.si/1043035080>.

<sup>12</sup> See Anže Lebinger, "Golobove kritike odnesle državnega sekretarja," *Dnevnik*, March 29, 2023, <https://www.dnevnik.si/1043020116>; and Barbara Eržen, "Po Golobovih kritikah Tilen Božič ni več državni sekretar," *Delo*, March 29, 2023, <https://www.delo.si/novice/slovenija/po-golobovih-kritikah-tilen-bozic-ni-vec-drzavni-sekretar/>.

patients were mixed up), and unsuccessful attempts at managing the issue of long waiting lines for appointments via the so-called “intervention acts” on July 7, 2024, the Minister of Health and Deputy Prime Minister Danijel Bešič Loredan, one of the most recognizable and outspoken members of the 15<sup>th</sup> Slovenian government, resigned. Such an act was seemingly expected by the public for some time due to many issues concerning the health sector and an increasing lack of trust in Bešič Loredan’s standing and abilities – at least in the current situation – to improve the situation and finalize the long-awaited comprehensive health sector reform.<sup>13</sup> Unlike Bobnar, Bešič Loredan was a member of the Freedom Movement, and much like the actions of the former candidate for the president of the Republic of Slovenia Marta Kos who stepped down as a vice-president of the Freedom Movement in September 2022 after a speculated lack of trust within the party,<sup>14</sup> his resignation came as a clear indicator that not everything is as it should be in the leading coalition party.

While Bešič Loredan was seen as a problematic figure in the government before his resignation, the situation in the health sector in Slovenia still has not improved and his successor remains in a pat position with the strike of the syndicate of the medical doctors and dentists remaining active as of the end of March 2024.

The next members of the government to resign were the coalition-leading party the Freedom Movement members Uroš Brežan (who stepped down as a Minister of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning), Irena Šinko (who was dismissed as a Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food),<sup>15</sup> and Sanja Ajanović Hojnik (who resigned from the role of the Minister of Public Administration). While for the former two, the main culprit for the resignation was the lack of trust of the governmental leadership due to factors outside of direct control of the government and inadequate response to challenges deriving from the – i.e., their supposed

---

<sup>13</sup> Among others, see D. P., “Prva izjava ministra po odstopu: Nisem več pripravljen opravljati te funkcije,” *N1*, July 7, 2023, <https://n1info.si/novice/slovenija/prva-izjava-ministra-po-odstopu-nisem-vec-pripravljen-opravljati-te-funkcije/>; or M. Z., “Bešič Loredan podpisal odstopno izjavo. Golob: Razhajala sva se glede krepitve javnega zdravstva,” *MMC Radiotelevizije Slovenija*, July 7, 2023, <https://www.rtv slo.si/slovenija/besic-loredan-podpisal-odstopno-izjavo-golob-razhajala-sva-se-glede-krepitve-javnega-zdravstva/674418>; Anže Lebinger, Tomaž Klipšteter, “Premier Golob odstavil ministra, ki ga je (pre)dolgo zagovarjal,” *Dnevnik*, July 7, 2023, <https://www.dnevnik.si/1043027721/Slovenija/danijel-besic-loredan-podal-odstopno-izjavo>.

<sup>14</sup> See Anže Lebinger, Anja Hreščak, “Marta Kos ne želi biti več niti podpredsednica stranke Gibanje Svoboda,” *Dnevnik*, September 13, 2022, <https://www.dnevnik.si/1042996803>.

<sup>15</sup> Source: Al. Ma., La. Da., G. K., “Golob: Ministrica Šinko in minister Brežan odhajata zaradi neustreznega ukrepanja,” *MMC Radiotelevizije Slovenija*, October 4, 2023, <https://www.rtv slo.si/slovenija/golob-ministrice-sinko-in-minister-brezan-odhajata-zaradi-neustreznega-ukrepanja/683616>; and S. N., STA, “Irena Šinko ni več ministrica za kmetijstvo: državni zbor jo je razrešil,” *N1*, October 13, 2023, <https://n1info.si/novice/slovenija/poslanci-o-odhodu-sinko-so-razlog-pesticidi-ali-osebne-povezave-premierja/>.

inability to cope with the effects of high food prices and inflation and food safety issues (Šinko) and the reorganization after the devastating flood (Brežan) –<sup>16</sup> for Ajanović Hovnik, the resignation did not come as a consequence of the fall of trust in her leadership but after the public outcry after the affair with the overly high cost of a business trip to New York and the issues regarding the supposedly non-transparent call for the funding of the non-governmental organizations. While it is believed that she still enjoyed the support of Robert Golob, she stated that she resigned in the face of public and political pressure, and it is believed that she also managed to avoid even more scrupulous scrutiny.<sup>17</sup>

Much like Ajanović Hovnik and unlike the predecessors who resigned, the latest person to resign from her governmental post, the Minister of Justice Dominika Švarc Pipan, did so despite still theoretically possessing the support the Prime Minister. Her resignation was a direct consequence of the highly publicized “Litjska 51 affair” which drew national attention after several financial and practical irregularities were found with traces of possible corruption at buying the Litjska 51 commercial building for the purposes of hosting the offices of the Ministry, which was found to be in poor state and possibly overpriced. While the minister claimed that she was misled regarding the details of transaction, she had to take on the objective blame. While it is believed Golob still supported her at the time of her resignation, her party the Social Democrats blamed her for the situation and Due to the supposed complicity in the affair the main secretary of the SD party Klemen Žibert also stepped down from his position, and there was sharp drop of support for the second largest coalition party. The affair may have further consequences for the party’s leadership including the president of SD and the Minister of the Foreign and European Affairs Tanja Fajon.<sup>18</sup>

---

<sup>16</sup> Those are the official reasons for their resignation; however, it is speculated that there may be other, more direct reasons for a dramatic decrease in trust on behalf of Prime Minister Golob that led to their resignation which may indicate a tenuous atmosphere in the government. See Al. Ma., La. Da., G. K., “Golob: Ministrice Šinko in minister Brežan odhajata zaradi neustreznega ukrepanja,” *MMC Radiotelevizije Slovenija*, October 4, 2023, <https://www.rtvsl.si/slovenija/golob-ministrice-sinko-in-minister-brezan-odhajata-zaradi-neustreznega-ukrepanja/683616>; and S. N., STA, “Irena Šinko ni več ministrice za kmetijstvo: državni zbor jo je razrešil,” *N1*, October 13, 2023, <https://n1info.si/novice/slovenija/poslanci-o-odhodu-sinko-so-razlog-pesticidi-ali-osebne-povezave-premierja/>.

<sup>17</sup> See K. T., La. Da., “Sanja Ajanović Hovnik odstopila. Kdo bi lahko prevzel vodenje ministrstva za javno upravo?,” *MMC Radiotelevizije Slovenija*, October 6, 2023, <https://www.rtvsl.si/slovenija/sanja-ajanovic-hovnik-odstopila-kdo-bi-lahko-prevzel-vodenje-ministrstva-za-javno-upravo/683968>.

<sup>18</sup> Consult Miha Plementaš, Anže Lebinger, “Afera Litjska 51: Po Žibertu odhaja tudi Švarc Pipan,” *Dnevnik*, February 6, 2024, <https://www.dnevnik.si/1043043093>; and “Ekskluzivno: Litjska 51 je na novo izmerjena!,” *Preiskovalno.si*, accessed March 23, 2024, <https://preiskovalno.si/clanek/ekskluzivno-litjska-51-je-na-novo-izmerjena-1262392>.



So while confrontational style of Golob surfaced on several occasions when dealing with the internal issues of the government; at times, he came surprisingly close to actions of the preceding government he set to improve upon –<sup>19</sup> which generally led to a sharp momentary drop in ratings for him and the Freedom Movement – the example Švarc Pipan shows that the internal issues of the current coalition may go beyond the issues on the Prime Minister – government line or between the parties. There have been internal disagreements and disharmony within individual parties themselves: alongside the above-mentioned resignation of some of the leaders and the resignations of the key ministers of the Freedom Party, the Social Democrats are also beset with challenges after the politically problematic affair which concerned some of the party's key staff and may result in change in leadership. In February 2024, its president Tanja Fajon admitted that the SD party is in the most difficult situation since she took over the party leadership.<sup>20</sup>

Even before them, the smallest coalition party the Left went through significant turmoil after the clash of cultures between the apparently more radical and principal division, and the more pragmatic and governmentally constructive partition that led to the resignation of the leader of the party, the Minister of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and Deputy Prime Minister Luka Mesec. Mesec was replaced by the current Minister of Culture Asta Vrečko who defeated Miha Kordiš, a key figure of internal opposition.<sup>21</sup> In the beginning of 2024, several MPs of the Left accused Kordiš of political pressure and inappropriate political actions as several member of the Kordiš-aligned fraction officially left the Left party. However, this may have been a necessity given the specific situation of the smallest coalitional party and as of now, their further cooperation in the government should not be questioned.

Nevertheless, the government is likely to still have a problematic term ahead of it, especially given current low public support for its work. Given the staff turnover rates in 2022, the lack of consistency and familiarity may also become a problem, even if some familiar staff

---

<sup>19</sup> See also Golob's unsupportive comments regarding the work of his coalition at Barbara Eržen, "Neznosna lahkotnost potez Roberta Goloba," *Delo*, March 30, 2023, <https://www.delo.si/novice/slovenija/neznosna-lahkotnost-potez-roberta-goloba/>. Here, confusion regarding Golob's media performance

<sup>20</sup> Source: "Tanja Fajon po hudih pritiskih na SD: `Nisem nekdo, ki, ko se barka potaplja, vzame rešilni jopič in skoči z nje`," *Metropolitan*, accessed March 23, 2024, <https://www.metropolitan.si/novice/slovenija/tanja-fajon-sd-afeta-sodna-palaca-kritike-vodstvo/>.

<sup>21</sup> See D. P., M. R., "Prepričljiva zmaga Aste Vrečko, Luka Mesec ostaja podpredsednik vlade," *N1*, September 2, 2024, <https://n1info.si/novice/slovenija/po-glasovanju-v-levici-kaj-bo-povedala-nova-koordinatorka/>.



that resigned from their previous roles returned.<sup>22</sup> But to stay in power, the government will need to start producing better results, especially now that the opposition feels emboldened and stronger than any other time during this term.

### **The low support for the government and protests rallies organized by opposition in March 2024**

According to the opinion poll of newspaper Delo for March 2024, the public support for the government continues to be alarmingly low as less than 14% of respondents consider the work of the government as adequate while more than 55% see it negatively;<sup>23</sup> the respondents gave the government an average score of 2.23 which is not only the lowest score given to the executive branch in this mandate, but also the lowest including the preceding term of the 14th government. The Freedom Movement is firmly behind the leading opposition party the Slovenian Democratic Party in popularity.<sup>24</sup>

Those are record-breaking low numbers regarding support for the government that already experienced a dramatic decrease in popularity and general support in 2023.<sup>25</sup> With opposition becoming ever stronger, it seems that there will be more and more pressure on the government to start producing results and greater political instability which may already started to somewhat resemble the time of the previous government with its loud opposition; however, I do not believe we are there just yet.

Nevertheless, almost two years since the election on which the current coalition leaders the Freedom Party won a decisive victory, the opposition organized a protest rally against the work of the government in the center of Ljubljana under the auspices of the leaders of the 14th government, SDS. On the rally, the opposition leader Janez Janša stated among others that the current government fails to enjoy the support of the people, is inconsistent in its actions, criticized the government for a series of misguided policies, including in the fields of economy

---

<sup>22</sup> Consider e.g. the return of Brežan in a different role: “Minister, ki mu Golob ni več zaupal, se vrača na politični parket,” N1, accessed March 23, 2024, <https://n1info.si/novice/slovenija/namesto-nove-ministrice-za-kmetijstvo-bo-poslanec-uros-brezan/>.

<sup>23</sup> Source: Barbara Hočvar, “Padanje SD se je ustavilo, ocene dela vlade pa ne,” *Delo*, March 11, 2024, <https://www.delo.si/novice/slovenija/padanje-sd-se-je-ustavilo-ocene-dela-vlade-pa-ne/>.

<sup>24</sup> See Al. Ma., “Anketa Dela: Delo vlade kot pozitivno ocenjuje manj kot 14 odstotkov vprašanih,” *MMC Radiotelevizije Slovenija*, March 11, 2024, <https://www.rtvsllo.si/slovenija/preberite-tudi/anketa-dela-delo-vlade-kot-pozitivno-ocenjuje-manj-kot-14-odstotkov-vprasanih/701207>.

<sup>25</sup> See Gregor Cerar, “Slovenija v letu 2023: Poplave, ministrske menjave in strm padec podpore vladi,” *MMC Radiotelevizije Slovenija*, December 27, 2023, <https://www.rtvsllo.si/slovenija/slovenija-v-letu-2023-poplave-ministrske-menjave-in-strm-padec-podpore-vladi/692633>.

and agriculture, and accused Golob and his team of multiplying the problem of illegal border crossings.<sup>26</sup> Janša seems to be of belief that the current low level of support indicates lack of legitimacy of its rule which could be questioned in the public referendum, though the jurists seems to disregard such option.<sup>27</sup>

At the same time as the larger rally organized by the SDS was unfolding, another anti-governmental event was taking place in Ljubljana. The second-largest (parliamentary) opposition party organized a so-called “Assembly for the Future on which many visible affiliates of the party discussed the current political situation in Slovenia. They seemed to have come to belief that the current government must be changed since it is harmful to Slovenia which does however sounds suspiciously similar to what the current government believe(d) about predecessors.

Apart from the growing discontent regarding the work of the current government, there may be further reasons for a steep increase in public rallies and promotions as we are approaching the start of the campaign for the European elections. Regardless of the intentions, however, it is clear that government needs to stop losing time in improving the conditions for greater economic and social stability; it has just avoided losing another original member in Minister of digital transformation Emilija Stojmenov Duh who was recently interpellated due to the controversial purchases of computers. She managed to successfully pass a vote of no confidence which also showcases that there is still some unity within the coalition; however, the votes may indicate a potential gap in the future.<sup>28</sup>

The current government still has enough potential for change for the better to continue its term, but it will become increasingly more challenging for it if the results including at least some of the many announced reforms continue to be undelivered. The European elections may be a large indicator in just how much of public trust the government’s parties actually managed to retain.

---

<sup>26</sup> See STA, M. S., “Janša: Doleteli sta nas dve katastrofi: ujma in Golobova vlada,” *24ur.com*, March 21, 2024, <https://www.24ur.com/novice/slovenija/v-ljubljani-protestni-shod-opozicijske-sds-proti-golobovi-vladi.html>.

<sup>27</sup> See e.g. Al. Ma., “Janša: Večino problemov, ki jih ima ta vlada, si je skuhal sama,” *MMC Radiotelevizije Slovenija*, March 21, 2024, <https://www.rtvsllo.si/slovenija/jansa-vecino-problemov-ki-jih-ima-ta-vlada-si-je-skuhala-sama/702436>; and “Janša: Imamo vladavino nesposobnih, čas je za predčasne volitve,” STA, accessed March 21, 2024,

<sup>28</sup> Source: T. K. B., M. Z., Al. Ma., “Stojmenova Duh ostaja ministrica. Za njen odhod glasovalo 31 poslancev, 42 jih je bilo proti,” *MMC Radiotelevizije Slovenija*, March 28, 2024, <https://www.rtvsllo.si/slovenija/stojmenova-duh-ostaja-ministrica-za-njen-odhod-glasovalo-31-poslancev-42-jih-je-bilo-proti/703116>.

## **Conclusion**

As I already wrote in my previous briefings, the year 2023 was challenging for the current government due to both external – which they were many, including high inflation crisis and the catastrophic floods in August – and the more avoidable internal issues which I discussed in more detail in this briefing.

The memory of the challenging final part of the term of the previous government is still alive in many people and despite low support numbers, one might believe that the current government still has the capacity to finish the term and produce at least some of its many announced well-intended reforms as we are seemingly entering an era where prospects of both domestic and foreign future affair appear to be quite uncertain.