



*Press conference of Monday, March 30th, 11AM, Trieste*

Press release

**Official meeting and active contacts between the Movements  
Free Trieste, Süd-Tiroler Freiheit and Free Trieste - Austria**

Saturday March 28th and Sunday, March 29th, 2015 the headquarter of piazza della borsa 7 hosted the official meeting of the delegates of movements Süd-Tiroler Freiheit and Free Trieste - Austria, who discussed the contacts and problems of Trieste, Southern Tyrol and Austria as for the respect of international treaties, the right to self-determination and the defense of the international Free Port of Trieste in regard to the Austrian and Central European economy.

The Southern Tyrolean delegation consisted in the representatives of Süd-Tiroler Freiheit in the autonomous Provincial Council of Südtirol Sven Knoll and Bernhard Zimmerhofer, City Councillor of Brixen Hartmuth Staffler, the press speaker and communication executive Cristian Kollmann and the spokesman to the *Burggravshaft* (burgravship) Dietmar Weithaler. Free Trieste – Austria was represented by Claudio Schiesl (Vienna) and Gianni Kriscak (Graz), and the Free Trieste Movement was represented by President Roberto Giurastante and by Paolo G. Parovel and Silvia Verdolia, who are in charge of foreign contacts.

During the discussions, the delegations shared their political views and the legal evaluations that are summarized as follows:

1. the people of Südtirol, Trieste and Austria share more than half a millennium of brotherly ties made of friendship and union through the willing connection with the House of Austria - respectively in 1362 and 1382, until 1918. Even during the First World War, Triestines, Southern Tyroleans and *Trentini* defended together and bravely the sovra-national, common fatherland, Austria-Hungary.
2. along with these brotherly ties, that must be preserved and renewed, the people of Trieste, of Südtirol and Austria share the same rights and interests as for freedom, democracy, multiculturality and as for the economic development of their territories and of the whole Central Europe, also by defending and using the international Free Port of Trieste at its best.
3. the right to self-determination is a binding, indispensable and irrepressible norm of international law, consolidated: by the *Charter of the United Nations*, Article 1, subparagraph 2 (1945, ratified by Italy - U.N. member since 1955 - with Law No. 848 of August 17th 1957); by the *Declaration on Principles of International Law*

*concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (UN General Assembly, A/RES/2625 (XXV) of 1970); of the Conference for the safety and Cooperation in Europe, Helsinki final act, point VIII (1975); by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966, ratified by Italy with Law No. 881/1977). Therefore, the norm is binding also to the Italian legal system by the Constitution of the Republic of Italy, Article 10, sub-paragraph 1 and Article 117, sub-paragraph 1.*

4. the right of Südtirol to be willingly restituted to Austria, and of Austria to have Südtirol back as her people want is an essential part of the exercise of the right to self-determination in Europe.

5. the right of Southern Tyroleans who speak German, Ladin and Italian to demand and obtain the restitution of Austrian citizenship and electoral rights is, therefore and nevertheless, a fundamental right connected with the exercise of the right of self-determination.

6. Italy cannot oppose to this right, as she does already, unilaterally exercise it towards other Central European States (Slovenia and Croatia) with Law No. 124 of March 8th, 2006.

7. the inhabitants of Trieste, once Immediate City of the Empire, who descend from Austrian citizens, have right to a form of recognition of their original Austrian citizenship.

8. the citizens of the Free Territory of Trieste, established as a sovereign State and international Free Port since September 15th, 1947 under the Treaty of Peace of Paris of February 10th, 1947, which did also assign the role of guarantor to the Security Council of the United Nations, have the right to the complete and actual recognition of this status as for the relations with Italy and with the whole International Community.

9. Austria and all the other States to which the Treaty of Peace grants the free use and control of the international Free Port of the Free Territory of Trieste have the right to exercise, freely and without obstacles of limits said economic and commercial rights according to all the provisions established by the Treaty of Peace for that special free zone. The elimination of the Northern Free Port of Trieste, planned by the Italian Government, would be a serious violation of both these rights and of the Treaty of Peace.

10. Austria does also, under the same Treaty of Peace, have the right to use Trieste as port for its commercial vessels flying the Austrian flag, as well as to have its own naval register.

**11. Austria and all other States of the International Community** have therefore the right to demand that the Italian Government and the Republic of Italy cease all the violations of the above mentioned rights of Südtirol, of the Free Territory of Trieste and of Austria itself and, to archive that, to address and draw the attention of the Security Council and of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

**12. The serious violations - obvious or hidden - of said rights that the Italian Government and the bodies of the Republic of Italy are committing** can no longer be justified with the - by now ended - needs of the Cold War and, in the current Europe. said violations constitute factors of destabilization that can be removed only by restoring there rights violated.

**13. The movements Free Trieste, Süd-Tiroler Freiheit and Free Trieste – Austria** want, for all those reasons, cooperate in complete autonomy but with common goals and suitable contacts for the restoration of all the violated rights of the people of Trieste, of Südtirol and of Austria, as well as of the brother folks with which they shared centuries of common history and sovra-national fidelity until 1918.