

Ministerial Conference
Promoting multilingualism: a shared commitment
15 February 2008

Chairmanship: European Commission and Slovenian Presidency
Place: European Commission, “Berlaymont” building,
Rooms Jean Monnet and Robert Schuman
Rue de la Loi 200, 1040 Brussels

PROGRAMME

8:30-9:30 Registration

MORNING SESSION 9:30-12:30 CHAIR: Commissioner Leonard Orban

9:30-9:40 Official welcome by Commissioner Leonard Orban and Milan Zver, Minister of Education, Slovenia

9:40-9:45 Address of MEP Katerina Batzeli, Chairwoman of the Education and Culture Committee

9:45-10:00 *Why and where do languages matter? Towards a comprehensive strategy for multilingualism.* Introductory speech by Commissioner Leonard Orban

10:00-10:15 *Languages mean business.* Keynote speech by Viscount Etienne Davignon, chairman of the Business Forum

10:15-10:30 *Languages in the dialogue of cultures.* Keynote speech by Amin Maalouf, chairman of the Group of Intellectuals for Intercultural Dialogue

10:30-12:30 Open discussion on tapping the potential of linguistic diversity in Europe

12:30-14:00 Lunch hosted by the European Commission

14:00-14:20 Group photo of participating ministers

AFTERNOON SESSION 14:00-17:00 CHAIR: Milan Zver, Minister of Education, Slovenia

14:20-14:40 *Living in a country with many tongues:* Keynote speech by Dr. Marko Stabej, Professor of Linguistics at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

14:40-15:00 *Taking stock of current policy developments and the expectations of citizens*

15:00-16:30 *The way forward.* Open discussion on common objectives and further actions to promote multilingualism in Europe

16:30-17:00 Conclusions by Commissioner Leonard Orban and Milan Zver, Minister of Education, Slovenia