



Slovensko predsedstvo EU 2008
Slovenian Presidency of the EU 2008
La Présidence slovène de l'UE 2008

Informal Meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Ministers

Brdo pri Kranju, 24 – 26 January 2008

Ljubljana, 9th January 2008

Dear Colleagues, participants of the Informal Meeting,

With European policies in the area of freedom, security and justice in full development we are constantly faced with new challenges. The Slovenian Presidency is organising an Informal Meeting of Justice and Home Affairs Ministers between 24th and 26th January 2008 to give us a chance to discuss some of these challenges in a relaxed atmosphere.

During the first discussion of Home Affairs ministers, the Presidency will present an interim report on the work of the High-Level Advisory Group on the Future of European Home Affairs Policies ("Future Group"). The participants will have an opportunity to present their views of the future of our policies and thus contribute to the group's future work.

The second discussion will be dedicated to practical cooperation in the area of asylum. Based to the Commission Green Paper presented last year, we shall have an exchange of views on our future cooperation in this field.

The Ministers of Home Affairs will close the official programme with a working lunch, during which they will touch on two topics. After the successful enlargement of the Schengen area to nine new Member States the situation as regards the development of SIS II needs to be reviewed and the political commitment of ministers to the project reaffirmed. The other topic will involve an exchange of opinions on the Commission's proposal on the use of the passenger name record for law enforcement purposes.

The Ministers of Justice will begin their programme with a working lunch during which they will review the work done by the Future Group on Justice. The Ministers will have a chance to voice their opinions and suggestions for future steps of the Group.

In the afternoon the discussion will focus on judicial cooperation in the field of family law. The purpose of the discussion is to facilitate progress in the adoption of family law measures to ensure enhanced legal certainty and facilitated cross-border procedures for maintenance obligations and divorce matters.

The first topic on Saturday will be the promotion of judicial cooperation in criminal matters with an emphasis on seeking a balance between the principle of mutual recognition of judgments and the protection of individual rights in case of trial in absentia.

The meeting will be concluded with a discussion on e-justice, particularly solutions as regards the development of an e-justice portal and other accompanying activities, including the question of the need for increased funding by the EU.

In the coming days the Presidency will disseminate documents and questions to serve as a basis for our discussions. We have again enclosed the agenda of the meeting as well as the Slovenian Presidency Programme in the field of Justice and Home Affairs.

Allow us to again invite you to the Informal Meeting, which will also be an opportunity for us to show you some of our country's sights.

We very much look forward to welcoming you in Slovenia.

Yours sincerely,

*Prof. Dr. Lovro Šturm
Minister of Justice*

*Dragutin Mate
Minister of the Interior*