



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

Ljubljana, 17 June 2008

Dear Prime Minister,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the meeting of the European Council in Brussels on 19 and 20 June 2008. Following the Irish referendum result on the Lisbon Treaty, it is important for us to show that the EU will move forward and stay on the path of progress. This is how I plan to organise our discussions.

On Thursday at 17:00 hours we will first meet in a Council session in the formation of Heads of State and Government for a discussion on the accession of Slovakia to the euro-zone. We will be joined by the President of the European Central Bank Jean-Claude Trichet.

After the traditional family photo, we will begin at 17:45 hours with an exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament, Hans-Gert Pöttering.

The first working session of the European Council will start at 18:15 hours. Given that the last few months have been marked by the highest nominal prices of all major food commodities in nearly fifty years, it will be up to us to show the way forward. We will discuss the policy implications of soaring food and oil prices and decide on a number of short, medium and long term measures. The basis for our debate will be the two Commission communications, on food and on oil prices. It is vital that those issues are consistently considered against the background of the collective efforts required to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.



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Over dinner, starting at 20:15 hours, we will first ask our colleague Taoiseach Brian Cowen to explain the reasons for the rejection of the Lisbon Treaty in the referendum. Then we will together examine the ways on how to move forward.

At their dinner, the Foreign Ministers will review the situation in the Western Balkans.

On Friday we will start the working session at 10:00 hours and dedicate it to the finalization of the conclusions. We will first look at Justice and Home Affairs and then go over to economic, social and environmental issues. Then we will reaffirm our support for the European perspective of the Western Balkans and underline the need for further action. Against the background of the European Neighbourhood Policy, we will check upon the progress on the launching of the "Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean" and endorse the proposal on developing its eastern partnership within the ENP.

The Presidency will inform the candidates for accession on the outcome of the discussion.

Yours sincerely,

Janez Janša  
President of the European Council