



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

Ljubljana, 7 March 2008

Dear Prime Minister,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the Spring European Council, which will take place in Brussels on 13 and 14 March 2008.

European economic reforms have been greatly facilitated by the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs. Especially after its renewal in 2005 it has become quite evident that the Strategy works. However, we should not be lulled into a false sense of security. The challenges of globalisation and the current uncertainty of the world economy do not allow us to let up our efforts. With the launching of the next three year cycle of the strategy the European Council has an opportunity to step up the momentum achieved and adapt the current four pillar structure to new challenges. This should provide further impetus for structural reforms, while we continue with our efforts to deepen the functioning of the internal market. Let us make full use of best practices and take a significant step forward.

Our efforts in the economic and social fields can only achieve their full potential in synergy with a sustainable and healthy environment. The Bali Climate Conference of December marked an important step forward in international negotiations on the reduction of greenhouse gases. On our table we now have an ambitious and coherent package proposal prepared by the Commission. It is our responsibility to start delivering on the commitments made last year. We need progress towards a common agreement which will enable us to maintain global leadership on climate change. The European Union also needs to enjoy sustainable and secure supplies of energy; an effective internal energy market will help bring this about.



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In view of developments over the past few months, it is clear that we must find appropriate ways for Europe to cope with unpredictable financial situations on the global scale. The financial stability framework needs to be strengthened through relevant measures of supervision and financial crisis measures.

The order of proceedings for our meeting will be as follows:

Discussions will start at 17:30 with an exchange of views with President of the European Parliament, Hans-Gert Pöttering.

The first working session will take place from 18:15 after the traditional family photo. It will be devoted to the Lisbon Strategy in general, with a particular focus on energy and climate change. I have asked President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, to give us his views on the launch of the new Lisbon cycle and to open the discussion with a few words on the Commission's energy and climate package proposal and, more specifically, on how he sees the next steps on this dossier. I have also asked the Secretary General/High Representative of the Council of the European Union, Javier Solana, to briefly present the report on the security implications of the climate change which he has prepared together with the Commission.

The Heads of State or Government will continue talks over dinner, which is to start at 20:15. This will be an opportunity to discuss other aspects of energy policy and in particular the external aspects of energy security. We should also find time to have a short discussion on financial stability. Finally, we will have the opportunity of being informed about the proposal for the Union for the Mediterranean.



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At their dinner, the Foreign Ministers will discuss the situation in Afghanistan and further EU engagement in the country. Finance Ministers will address the macroeconomic dimension of human capital formation.

The working session on Friday, starting at 10:00, will be dedicated to finalising the conclusions of the European Council. There will be a press conference immediately afterwards.

The Presidency will inform the Candidate Countries of the outcome of the discussions.

Yours sincerely,

Janez Janša  
President of the European Council