



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

Informal Meeting of Agriculture Ministers / Meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture

*25 – 27 May 2008
(Maribor, Brdo)*

TOURIST ELEMENT OF THE PROGRAMME

Agriculture Ministers

On Sunday, the ministers will visit the **'Countryside in the City'** event prepared in cooperation with the Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia and featuring presentations of wine producers and farms from Slovenian regions and Slovenians living in neighbouring countries. The event will include folk songs and dances performed by the Academic Folklore Group Študent Maribor, vocal group Srake and the Brass Band of Styria. Guests will be able to taste rustic delicacies and Slovenian wines from all three wine-growing regions. In the evening, they will attend the **cultural programme featuring the band Terrafolk and Symbolic Orchestra** in the hall of the Slovenian National Theatre Maribor.

On Monday morning the ministers will go **rafting on the Drava River**, where they will experience the rafting baptism and enjoy the rafters' lunch (home-baked bread, lard spread, onion, meat conserved in pork fat). The right atmosphere on the raft will be provided by the ethno-folk band 'Pepi Krulet'.

One of the prides of Slovenia is the **oldest vine in the world** growing in Maribor. In front of the Old Vine house, the ministers will be received by its master, the mayor of the municipality of Maribor, Franc Kangler, and by the Wine Queen of Slovenia, Svetlana Šilec. Mrs Fischel Boel and the ministers will receive a scion (grafting) of the Old Vine, a bottle of wine made from it and the relevant certificate. Entertainment will be provided by tenor Timo Ribič.

In the afternoon, the ministers will set out for the rolling hills of Slovenske Gorice and will visit **Protner Tourist Farm** famous for its integrated production of fruit and grapes and for its quality wines. After lunch, they will visit the **Vinag wine cellar** and taste its wines to the musical accompaniment of the Maribor Nonet. In the evening, the ministers and delegates will attend the **formal dinner** hosted by the Slovenian Minister Iztok Jarc and his wife.

On Tuesday, the ministers will depart for Brdo Congress Centre to visit the **'Lipizzaner Ballet'** show before the formal meeting.

Ministers, delegates and partners will taste traditional Slovenian food every day. On the first day, the menu will feature **food and wine typical of Prekmurje and Styria cuisine**, on the second day the selection of food will cover the **whole of Slovenia** while, on the third day, they will be served culinary delicacies from the **Mediterranean Region**.

In addition, delegates and partners will visit the Maribor Fruit Growing Centre in **Gačnik**, the Leber–Vračko animal stock and wine-growing farm and the Dreisiebnar wine-growing farm. Guests will enjoy the music of folk musicians and singers from Svečina and the dancing of the folklore group of the Svečina Culture and Arts Society. During the ministerial meeting, they will visit **Bled**, go to Bled Lake Island by boat and see the local castle.

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The participants at the Special Committee for Agriculture meeting will join the ministers at the **‘Countryside in the City’** event featuring the presentations of wine producers and farms from Slovenian regions and Slovenians living in neighbouring countries, folk songs and dances and tasting of rustic delicacies and wines from all three wine-growing regions, as well as attend the **cultural programme with the band Terrafolk and Symbolic Orchestra** in the hall of the Slovenian National Theatre Maribor. They will visit the **‘Delicacies of Slovenian Farms’ event in Ptuj** where they will be received by Štefan Čelan, the mayor of Ptuj. While the ministerial conference is taking place, they will be hosted by the **municipality of Kranj** and its mayor, Damijan Perne.