

Press Release

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Co-operation the Council of Europe and the European Union

The Slovene EU Presidency outlines its priorities

Strasbourg, 30.01.2008 – In the framework of dialogue and cooperation between the Council of Europe and the European Union (*), Dimitrij Rupel, the Foreign Minister of Slovenia, was in Strasbourg today to present to the Ministers' Deputies the main themes of Slovenia's EU presidency.

Mr Rupel drew attention to:

- the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty, which will allow the EU to become a signatory to the Council of Europe European Convention on Human Rights;
- the European future for the Western Balkans, for which the Council of Europe has made an important contribution, especially in Kosovo;
- the dialogue between cultures, religions and traditions, underlining the major importance of the White Book on inter-cultural dialogue currently being prepared by the Council of Europe.

"It is clear that the Council of Europe and the European Union are good partners. The Slovenian Presidency will work hard on the enhancement of the co-operation between the two institutions, in line with our Presidency's slogan « Si.nergy for Europe », " Dimitrij Rupel concluded.

The Deputies noted with satisfaction the concrete intentions for cooperation with the Council of Europe and specific areas in which it could develop.

Minister Rupel had earlier met with Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis.

(*) A Memorandum of Understanding was agreed in Spring 2007 between the Council of Europe and the European Union, with the aim of promoting dialogue and cooperation between the two organisations.

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