



Statement made by H. E. Ambassador Peter Lizák, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the OSCE on the upcoming Slovak Chairmanship of the Council of Europe (Permanent Council, 8 November 2007)

Mr Chairman,

Allow me to inform you and colleagues that next Monday Slovakia is for coming half year assuming Chairmanship of Council of Europe, chairing the Committee of Ministers. We consider the Council of Europe, as I hope all of us, a significant partner of OSCE. Therefore I would like to inform you that Slovakia will focus during the six months chairmanship on following 3 priorities:

- Promotion of Core Values: human rights, rule of law and democracy,
- Promoting a Europe of citizens,
- Enhancing transparent and efficient functioning of Council of Europe.

In this context, allow me to highlight some particular activities which are in the pipeline of the Slovak Chairmanship:

1. One of the first events is the Parliamentary assembly meeting of the Council of Europe that will take place in two weeks in Bratislava on November 22 and 23,
2. In April next year, we will organise a conference on local and regional democracy, an issue to which the Council of Europe pays special attention.
3. Mechanism created by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms will be considered at a meeting of governments' agents before the European Court of Human Rights. The meeting will take place in Bratislava in spring 2008.
4. During its Chairmanship, the Slovak Republic will organise on 8-9 April 2008 an international conference focusing on education of Roma children and youth, where OSCE and the EU will be also involved.

Finally, I would like to underline, that the co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE has a clear basis in the joint declaration on cooperation of 18 April 2005. An objective of the Slovak Chairmanship will be to enhance the mutual exchange of information between the two organisations, as well as to coordinate activities in areas of common interest. In this context I would like to inform you that Slovak minister of Foreign Affairs, Ján Kubiš intends to address PC in his capacity of Council of Europe's Chairman of the Committee of Ministers in the first quarter 2008.

We are looking forward to cooperate with the present and incoming Chairmanship of the OSCE.

Thank you Mr. Chairman