



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA

KABINET PREDSEDNIKA VLADE

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IZJAVE PREDSEDNIKA VLADE REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE JANEZA JANŠE PO SREČANJU GENERALNIM SEKRETARJEM OECD ANGELOM GURRIO

(Pariz, 17. december 2007)

GENERALNI SEKRETAR ANGEL GURRIA: I had the privilege, the honour of the visit of the Prime Minister. We have been discussing the process of accession of Slovenia to the OECD which has been as you know formally launched now. Of course, a very common question is: How long, how much time is going to take? And I always say this is too important to be urgent. Therefore we should not put deadlines in the process and we should not corner ourselves. The most important is that we have a high quality process. But I also told the Prime Minister, more in private, that I am Mexican and when Mexico joined the OECD we took about two years once we started. Also Korea took about two years, but neither Korea nor Mexico was as well prepared as Slovenia. Maybe that suggests we should not take so long. I also reviewed with the Prime Minister some of the present situation and the rather positive, very, very good economic behavior and all the indicators and parameters. Even in a difficult market, in a difficult moment, growth continues at a very strong pace. So we are really looking forward and this house, the OECD, personally and all our colleagues are very honoured, very privileged to have this visit.

PREDSEDNIK VLADE JANEZ JANŠA: Z veseljem sem gospodu generalnemu sekretarju predstavil trenutno ekonomsko stanje v Sloveniji in povedal, da v Sloveniji obstaja močna politična volja, da pogajanja za članstvo v OECD zaključimo čim prej; s tem, da sva se oba strinjala, da je prioriteta kvaliteta tega procesa. Slovenija bo morala v svojem pravnem redu spremeniti več kot 100 predpisov. V glavnem gre za implementacijo standardov, ki so napredni – glede na to, da jih uporabljajo najbolj razvite države na svetu – in, ki so v posameznih primerih predvsem nadstandardi tudi EU.

OECD je klub tridesetih najbolj razvitih držav. Za Slovenijo je to eden izmed zadnjih ciljev v smislu članstva v razvitih organizacijah, kamor se želimo včlaniti. Vlada je za vodenje tega procesa zadolžila ministra za razvoj, gospoda Žiga Turka in v naslednjih tednih bo storjeno veliko operativnih korakov s katerimi bomo vzpostavili vse tisto, kar je potrebno zato, da bo proces približevanja čim hitrejši. Izrazili smo tudi pripravljenost, da Slovenija svoje pozitivne izkušnje – kasneje, ko bo že članica – deli s tistimi državami ali v tistih državah, ki so bodisi deležne pomoči OECD, bodisi si želijo kdaj v prihodnosti enako članstvo v tej organizaciji.

PETRA MIKLAVC (STA): What are the greatest challenges for Slovenia on this road it just started?

GENERALNI SEKRETAR ANGEL GURRIA: First of all, you have to understand that the reforms are not done in any country because they are useful to join the OECD or any other organization. The reforms are undertaken, like they were undertaken in Slovenia, because they are good for Slovenia and because there was a political desire and a consensus that this was convenient for the country and for the society. It is the same here, in the sense that joining the OECD is a way of strengthening the reform policies. Joining the OECD is a way of sharing the best information about the best practices in economic policies. It is also - through our committees - a way in which proposals are made for policies to be applied through membership and the increasing number of non-members.

So the challenges of Slovenia are the same challenges that any country is facing in terms of keeping steady fiscal position, keeping the growth, preparing for contingencies that happen outside of their borders, looking at things like the flexibility of the labour market, looking at the flexibility of the product market, looking at the quality of the education system, looking at the health system. We all face the problem of ageing and we all face the problem of keeping up with the quality of the medical care and of course the fiscal impact of the pensions. In those issues Slovenia has been making very important changes. You had the social partners involved in those discussions. Sometimes is not easy, sometimes there is tension in the process. But there has been political courage and a good investment. Now of course the results of those investments that looked difficult in the short-term, are now coming home to roost, as they say. You are now seeing the good results. For us this is important not just because it is good for Slovenia, but also it is going to allow us to show this is an example to many other countries, that reforms pay if you are patient and perseverant. So, we are looking forward, Prime Minister, to the process and eventually to the membership. Thank you very much.