



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

ADDRESS

**BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL JANEZ JANŠA
AT THE CEREMONY TO CELEBRATE THE ADOPTION OF THE EURO
IN THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS**

Nicosia, 18 January 2008

*Mr President,
Mr President of the European Commission,
Mr President of the European Central Bank,
Madam Vice-President of the European Parliament,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Excellencies,*

I am delighted and proud to be with you today. It is my honour to share in the pride and energy that you feel now at this historic moment.

The adoption of the euro is a great and demanding project for every country. You have been successful in reducing public debt and achieving a smooth changeover to the common currency. Mr President, may I extend my sincere congratulations to you and your Government and to the citizens of Cyprus.

The euro is a stable and respected currency. It has a beneficial effect promoting economic cooperation and thus contributes to creating jobs. It brings many advantages to the economy and to citizens. Participating in this union entails great responsibility and commitment to the shared goals of political and economic stability. I believe that we will succeed in bringing together the best we have to offer for the benefit of current and future generations. We will succeed in the same way as previous generations, whom we thank today for their courage and belief, because they were capable of listening to the voice of reason and opening their minds to the wisdom of the heart. I wish that the number of countries in the euro zone will increase further in 2009.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

May our single currency bring you a great deal of good! And may the euro give an additional boost to the already successful economic development of Cyprus. Mr. President Tassos Papadopoulos, to you and your government I wish sound public finance and to the citizens of Cyprus I wish wallets filled with as many euros as possible. My sincere congratulations to Cyprus! Welcome to the euro zone!

Thank you.