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*Courtesy translation!*

## TRANSCRIPT

### OF THE STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA JANEZ JANŠA AFTER THE MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UN BAN KI-MOON (Brdo pri Kranju, 25 January 2008)

**PRIME MINISTER JANEZ JANŠA:** Good evening, I would like to welcome you all. We are very honoured and pleased to have amongst us today a friend of Slovenia, Secretary General of the United Nations Mr Ban Ki-moon, who has visited Slovenia many times before during his previous offices – as the ambassador of his country and also as the foreign minister. Today he is here for the first time in his capacity of the Secretary General of the United Nations. We are particularly pleased also because during this period, when he was away from Slovenia, he was very much involved in providing for the stability of the Western Balkans. Mr Ban Ki-moon is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Centre for the European Perspective which concentrates on Western Balkan's countries aspiring to join the EU.

During the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU there are a lot of common tasks and priorities between the EU and the UN. The EU is an important part of the UN. Let me just underline that 27 EU members provide almost 40% of the funding for the peacekeeping operations of the UN. The EU is very much involved in many priorities of this international organization, as it provides various contributions to the UN. These common priorities were the main topic of our talk so far which will continue over dinner.

At least three such topics will be in focus of our attention and close cooperation in the future months. One of them is climate change. The UN is the only framework within which the world can effectively face this challenge. The environmental-energy package which was two days ago presented by the European Commission represents the concrete contribution of the EU against climate change. This package involves solutions which will be applied within the EU and at the same time offered to our partners in global dialogue when discussing the post-Kyoto period.

The intercultural dialogue is the next priority, not only of the Slovenian presidency but also of the future priorities. There are many activities going on in this framework

Another priority are some of the challenges in the Western Balkans - at the moment especially the status of Kosovo. This was also one of the topics discussed. In addition to the principal solution to be agreed upon, there are a lot of concrete issues regarding the deployment of the ESDP mission to be sent to Kosovo. There is the issue of the transfer of certain competences and most importantly a common interest to provide peace, security and stable future for the population of Kosovo and the Western Balkans in general.

We also discussed certain peacekeeping operations in which the EU and of course Slovenia are involved and will see their continuation in the next days and weeks with certain decisions to be made. I have primarily in mind Africa and situation in Sudan and Chad.

Once again, Secretary General, we are pleased you came to Slovenia. The timing is just right. I believe we will be able to define a lot of issues in order to be more efficient and quicker in responding to common challenges.