

Nagovor predsednika Vlade RS Janeza Janše v okviru razprave o globalnih vprašanjih na 9. Vrh ASEM

- Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,
At the celebration of ten years of ASEM in 2006 we established that *"ASEM allows us to consult each other in an informal, open and free atmosphere, and to lay the foundation for further action. We also concluded that now more than ever our two regions need each other"*.
- British thinker Will Hutton correctly concluded in 2000 that *"the fight for security, prosperity and justice can no longer be won on any one's nation ground. It is international. It requires agreement on values ... It requires courage and leadership."*
- Unfortunately, despite a tremendous economic, political, legal and technological development, we are still faced with massive human tragedies such as Syria. Bloodshed there has been dragging on for many months. The mediation activities have failed. More than 310 000 refugees fled the country. Sadly, we have not succeeded to protect civilians and the prospects for improving their conditions are rather poor.
- Political philosopher Edmund Burke once stated: *"It is necessary only for the good man to do nothing for evil to triumph."* I believe that we have a chance to prove him wrong. It is our responsibility and duty to protect human lives. In order to prevent such tragedies we have to address the factors of instability: social, ethnical, religious and other tensions. Intercultural dialog and early warning mechanisms are needed. We have to bring up our

children in the spirit of tolerance and respect of other people regardless of their background.

- Dear friends,

No region is immune to conflicts and mass atrocities. In Europe, as well as in Asia, mass atrocities have occurred in the past. Only after the World War II several dozens of millions lives were lost. Of course, we cannot correct the mistakes of the past, but should avoid them in the future.

- "*Friends for Peace, Partners for Prosperity*" is therefore a well-chosen slogan not only for our meeting in Laos but also for our all-round future cooperation. In my view regions should be engines for securing future peace, security, justice and development. Regions possess shared historical experiences; understand ethnical and religious relations and customs. Europe and Asia both have diverse societies and many similar challenges. Sharing our best practices would be beneficial to global action.
- It is positive that the Chair's Statement of this ASEM Summit stresses the global efforts to safer world and that it underlines the need for full implementation of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. However, we should have been able to reaffirm (*in the Vientiane Declaration*) our mutual responsibility to protect populations from mass atrocities, ethnic cleansing and other crimes against humanity.

- Already in my statement at the opening of the 67th UN General Assembly session this September in New York I called for strengthening the preventive capacities of all; the UN, its member states and regional organizations. In my view ASEM partnership is an appropriate forum to openly discuss these issues on the basis of shared values. I believe we can all agree that human lives matter. I therefore invite you to work together. There is a room for improving modalities of collaboration between national, regional and international levels towards the world free from genocide and other mass atrocities. We should ensure that our planet will be more secure and just; for all of us and for the coming generations.
- Thank you.