

2006

January

11 January

Jean Lemierre, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development begins a two-day official visit to Slovenia.

12 January

At a regular session, Government decides that Slovenia will send four soldiers to Iraq as part of the NATO mission to assist with the training of Iraqi security forces.

19 January

Government approves the 2006 Provisional Work Programme, and relieves Mateja Tamara Fajs of her post as Government Secretary-General. On 20 January, Božo Predalič, previously Deputy Government Secretary-General, is appointed acting Government Secretary-General.

24 January

The city of Ljubljana hosts the first ministerial conference on the future of the motorways of the sea, attended by EU ministers of transport, European Commissioner for Transport Jacques Barrot, Prime Minister Janez Janša and Slovenian Transport Minister Janez Božič.

February

2 February

During his visit to Ljubljana, Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, Björn von Sydow, meets President of the Slovenian National Assembly, France Cukjati, and Prime Minister Janez Janša.

9 February

Taormina, Italy, hosts an informal meeting of NATO defence ministers with Slovenian Defence Minister Karl Erjavec taking part.

European Commissioner for Enlargement Olli Rehn arrives in Slovenia for a two-day visit.

14 February

Finance Minister Andrej Bajuk announces that Slovenia will ask for a Separate Convergence Report on its fulfilment of criteria for adopting the euro.

20 February

President of the European Parliament Josep Borrell arrives in Slovenia for a two-day visit to discuss current European issues with senior Slovenian officials.

22 February

A meeting of representatives of Slovenia, Germany and Portugal, the countries presiding over the EU in 2007 and the first half of 2008, takes place in Berlin.

March

1 March

President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso, accompanied by Commissioner for Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy Margot Wallström, and Commissioner for Science and Research Janez Potočnik, begins an official visit to Slovenia.

The National Assembly founds twelve new municipalities. An act on dual display of prices in Slovenian tolar and euros comes into force.

3 March

Finance Minister Andrej Bajuk receives the European Finance Minister of the Year award from Brian Caplen, editor of The Banker magazine.

8 March

US State Department issues a positive evaluation of the human rights situation in Slovenia for 2005.

15 March

During a visit to Germany, Prime Minister Janez Janša meets Chancellor Angela Merkel, and Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel meets his German counterpart, Frank-Walter Steinmaier.

21 March

Jože P. Damijan resigns as Minister for Development.

23 March

Prime Minister Janez Janša takes part in the EU Summit in Brussels and also meets the Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

27 March

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel meets President of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Regional Government, Riccardo Illy, to discuss the issues related to the building of LNG terminals in the Gulf of Trieste.

28 March

The IMF ends its annual 14-day mission to Slovenia.

31 March

European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Danuta Hübner, arrives in Slovenia on an official visit. .

April

4 April

National Assembly passes the Relations between the Republic of Slovenia and Slovenes abroad Act.

4 April

Representatives of three central EU institutions, the Council of the EU, the European Parliament, and the European Commission reach a final agreement on the financial perspective for 2007–2013.

18 April

The two MPs of the Italian and Hungarian ethnic minorities and leaders of parliamentary parties, with the exception of LDS, sign the Partnership for Development.

25 April

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel attends the conference of Asian OSCE partners in Bangkok, Thailand.

May

3 May

Financial Minister Andrej Bajuk hosts German Federal Minister of Finance Peer Steinbrück, and they sign a double taxation agreement.

8 May

Signatories to the Partnership for Development convene with Prime Minister Janez Janša for the first meeting of the partnership council.

10 May

Prime Minister Janez Janša, Minister of the Economy Andrej Vizjak, and State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Božo Cerar travel to Bulgaria for a one-day official visit.

11 May

Prime Minister Janez Janša attends the EU–LAC Summit in Vienna.

16 May

European Commission confirms Slovenia's preparedness for the introduction of the euro, recommending that it enter the Eurozone on 1 January 2007.

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the future status of Kosovo Martti Ahtisaari visits Slovenia.

17 May

During his visit to the Netherlands, Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel meets Chief UN War Crimes Prosecutor at the Hague Tribunal Carla Del Ponte and Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs Bernard Bot.

18 May

Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel meets his French counterpart Philippe Douste-Blazy in Paris.

19 May

Foreign ministers of the forty-six members of the Council of Europe, including the head of Slovenian diplomacy, Dimitrij Rupel, conclude their regular annual two-day meeting in Strasbourg.

23 May

Centre for European Perspective is opened at Jable Castle in Loka near Mengeš.

30 May

During his visit to Russia, Prime Minister Janez Janša meets Patriarch of Moscow and Head of the Russian Orthodox Church Alexey II and inaugurates a Slovenian-Russian business conference.

31 May

On the last day of his visit to Russia, Prime Minister Janez Janša meets Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov.

The Prince of Monaco Albert II begins a two-day official visit to Slovenia.

June

1 June

8th Ministerial Meeting of the Human Security Network begins in Bangkok, Thailand, and is attended by Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel.

5 June

Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel meets his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Dy Nien in Hanoi.

7 June

At ECOFIN Council in Luxembourg, Slovenian Finance Minister Andrej Bajuk and his EU counterparts express agreement with positive reports by the European Commission and the ECB on Slovenia's bid to join the Eurozone on 1 January 2007.

8 June

NATO defence ministers including Slovenian Defence Minister, Karl Erjavec, conclude a two-day meeting in Brussels, confirming their determination to expand the peace mission in Afghanistan across the entire country.

15 June

European Parliament endorses the introduction of the euro in Slovenia as of 1 January 2007.

16 June

At a summit in Brussels, EU leaders give Slovenia the political go-ahead for the adoption of the euro on 1 January 2007.

19 June

Ministry of Foreign Affairs publishes a white paper on the border between Slovenia and Croatia.

20 June

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel pays his first official visit to Italy since the new Italian Government has been sworn in and also meets his Italian counterpart Massimo D'Alema.

Slovenia recognises the sovereignty and independence of Montenegro.

24 June

The main state celebration of Slovenia's Statehood Day, with Prime Minister Janez Janša as honorary speaker, takes place in the Republic Square in Ljubljana.

27 June

Against the backdrop of the EU Environment Council meeting in Luxembourg, Slovenian Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning Janez Podobnik, meets his Italian counterpart Alfonso Pecoraro Scanio to discuss the planned construction of LNG terminals in the Gulf of Trieste.

European Commission sets the irrevocable exchange rate between the tolar and the euro at 239.640 tolar per euro.

July

4 July

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier meets Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Janša, Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, and President of the National Assembly France Cukjati.

6 July

Government approves a draft budget memorandum for the period 2007–2011.

10 July

Prime Minister Janez Janša is received at the White House by US President George W. Bush.

11 July

In Washington Prime Minister Janez Janša meets US Vice-President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, members of US Congress and representatives of US Chamber of Commerce. EU Financial Ministers give Slovenia the go-ahead for the adoption of the euro on 1 January 2007.

14 July

Leaders of coalition parties and Partnership Council discuss the Resolution on National Development Projects for the Period 2007–2023. It includes 34 key projects which will serve as a reference framework for national budgets in coming years.

20 July

Government approves a draft Euro Introduction Act.

Prime Minister of Kosovo Agim Çeku arrives on an official visit in Slovenia and is received by Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, Prime Minister Janez Janša and President of the National Assembly France Cukjati.

21 July

Government approves a framework of budget expenditures, which serves as the basis for amendments to the 2007 and 2008 budgets.

24 July

During his official visit to Slovenia, Latvian Prime Minister Aigars Kalvītis, meets Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Janša, President Janez Drnovšek and Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel.

25 July

As part of the preparations for Slovenia's Presidency of the EU, a meeting takes place between the representatives of the Slovenian authorities and senior officials from the United Kingdom, Denmark and Austria.

28 July

Speaker of the Russian Federation Council Sergey Mironov meets Prime Minister Janez Janša.

29 July

Following an invitation from the President of the National Assembly France Cukjati, President of the European Parliament Josep Borrell arrives in Slovenia for a three-day working visit, during which he also meets Prime Minister Janez Janša.

August

18 August

The town of Beltinci hosts the first official state celebration commemorating the incorporation of Slovenes in Prekmurje into the Mother Nation. A mass is also held on the occasion.

27 August

Two-day Caspian Outlook 2008 conference kicks off within the Bled Strategic Forum.

28 August

Economy Minister Andrej Vizjak and Lukoil President Vagit Alekperov sign a Letter of Intent concerning Lukoil's participation in the privatisation of Nafta Lendava. Prime Minister Janez Janša hosts Director-General of the IAEA Mohamed El Baradei.

29 August

The Japanese Government economic delegation visits Slovenia on 29 and 30 August.

September

2 September

Prime Ministers of Slovenia and Croatia, Janez Janša and Ivo Sanader, hold talks.

4 September

In a correspondence session, Government ratifies the joint statement of Prime Ministers of Slovenia and Croatia, Janez Janša and Ivo Sanader, in which they express their shared intention of repairing the embankment on the Mura River at Hotiza; at the same time, this agreement does not prejudice the border between the two countries.

7 September

The Government adopts a proposal to send twelve members of the SAF with a UN mission in Lebanon.

10 September

Prime Minister Janez Janša takes part in the Asia–Europe Meeting in Helsinki.

14 September

The Government approves draft amendments to the tax reform bundle.

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel attends a Regional Partnership meeting in Vienna with foreign ministers of Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.

15 September

At Cerje nad Mirnom a state celebration takes place marking the restoration of the Primorska Region to the Motherland. Prime Minister Janez Janša is the honorary speaker.

21 September

The Government relieves Iztok Podbregar of his duty as Head of the Slovenian Intelligence and Security Agency (SOVA) and replaces him with Matjaž Šinkovec.

Foreign ministers of the twenty-six NATO member states, including the head of Slovenian diplomacy Dimitrij Rupel, meet at an unofficial conference against the backdrop of the UN General Assembly meeting.

26 September

The National Assembly passes amendments to Republic of Slovenia Budget for 2006 and 2007 Implementation Act.

28 September

The Government approves proposed amendments to the 2007 and 2008 budgets. A two-day informal conference of NATO defence ministers opens in Portorož. Slovenian Defence Minister Karl Erjavec holds separate talks with his Russian counterpart Sergei Ivanov, US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld, and his Canadian counterpart Gordon O'Connor.

29 September

Prime Minister Janez Janša addresses NATO defence ministers and holds talks with NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, and Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov.

October

2 October

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel meets in Lisbon his Portuguese counterpart Luís Amado, to discuss preparations for EU Presidency. At Kittilä in Finland, a two-day informal meeting of ministers of EU member states begins in which Slovenian Minister of Defence Karl Erjavec also takes part.

9 October

At an extraordinary session of the National Assembly, Prime Minister Janez Janša and Minister of Finance Andrej Bajuk present draft budget memorandum for the next two years.

10 October

Foreign Minister of Luxembourg Jean Asselborn arrives in Slovenia for a one-day visit.

12 October

The Government approves the Resolution on National Development Projects for the Period 2007–2013. President of Montenegro Filip Vujanović arrives for a three-day visit, and meets Prime Minister Janša, President Janez Drnovšek and President of the National Assembly France Cukjati.

19 October

Prime Minister Janez Janša appoints new members of the Strategic Council for Economic Development, which is headed by Marjan Senjur.

22 October

Mayoral and local elections are held throughout the country.

25 October

Minister of the Interior Dragutin Mate, and Hungarian Minister of Justice and Law Enforcement József Petréttei sign an agreement on cross-border police cooperation to fight crime.

26 October

National Assembly passes the Personal Income Tax, Corporate Income Tax Act, the Tax Procedure Act, and the Euro Introduction Act.

27 October

National Assembly passes the VAT Act, the Real Estate Sales Tax Act, and the Act on the Taxation of Water Vessels.

November

2 November

The National Assembly approves the Inheritance and Gift Tax Act.

3 November

Minister of Transport Janez Božič travels to Verona, where he attends the fourth EU ministerial conference on road safety.

6 November

Government approves amended draft budget for 2008. Defence Minister Karl Erjavec attends an international conference on the development and outreach of the NATO alliance.

11 November

Prime Minister Janez Janša and a Slovenian delegation travel to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on a five-day visit.

15 November

Prime Minister Janez Janša visits the four SAF troops in Iraq.

17 November

Prime Minister of Kosovo Agim Çeku visits Slovenia.

18 November

The National Assembly passes the 2007 and 2008 budgets and other budgetary documents.

19 November

Foreign Minister of Serbia Vuk Drašković arrives on a one-day visit to Slovenia, and meets Prime Minister Janez Janša and Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel.

20 November

Prime Minister Janez Janša visits Finland.

21 November

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel attends a two-day summit of the Central European Initiative in Tirana. Austrian Minister of Justice Karin Gastingger begins a working visit to Slovenia.

27 November

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel attends a meeting between EU foreign ministers and Israel – the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Euromed) – in Tampere, Finland.

28 November

The European Voice, the EU affairs weekly, honours Slovenian Minister of Finance with the European Achiever of the Year 2006 award.

29. November

Prime Minister Janez Janša and Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel attend a NATO summit in Riga.

December

1 December

Following a proposal by Prime Minister, the National Assembly relieves Janez Drobnič of his duty as Minister of Labour, Family and Social Affairs.

4 December

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel attends a two-day ministerial conference of the OSCE.

5 December

EU ministers of the interior give the green light for the proposal which enables new EU member states, including Slovenia, to enter the Schengen zone at the beginning of 2008.

11 December

In Berlin, Germany, Slovenia, Germany and Portugal present their 18-month programme for EU presidency.

14 December

Prime Minister Janez Janša attends a two-day conference of EU heads of states and government in Brussels.

15 December

In Brussels, Minister for Public Administration Gregor Virant, and European Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry Günter Verheugen discuss the plans of EU and Slovenia to reduce red tape for companies. New premises of Slovenia's Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels are officially opened.

18 December

The National Assembly elects Marjeta Cotman as Minister of Labour, Family and Social Affairs.

20 December

The National Assembly elects Zdenka Čebašek Travnik as Ombudsman for a six-year term. Slovenian and Russian negotiating teams reach an agreement on Russia's repayment of its clearing debt to Slovenia.