

JANSA & SLOVENIAN PRESIDENCY READY FOR 2008 CHALLENGES

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The President of the European People's Party (EPP) **Wilfried Martens** welcomed today the start of the new [Slovenian Presidency](#) of the European Council, led by Prime Minister **Janez Janša** (EPP). Slovenia is the first of the 12 new EU member-states to preside over the European Council.

The Slovenian Presidency will be followed, in the second-half of this year, by the French Presidency led by President **Nicolas Sarkozy** (EPP). Together with the President of the European Commission **Jose Manuel Barroso** and the President of the European Parliament **Hans-Gert Poettering**, the EPP will be leading all main EU institutions in 2008.

"This is a great moment both for Slovenia and the European Union not only because the Union is now led by a new EU member-state but also because Janez Janša is a strong and effective European leader that is well prepared for the many and important challenges of 2008," stated President Martens.

"I am convinced that the Slovenian Presidency led by Janez Janša will be a great success," concluded the EPP President.

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