

"A SMILE ON THE FACE OF HISTORY" - PETERLE

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Speaking to pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela earlier this week, Alojz Peterle, the first prime minister of independent Slovenia and representative of the EU applicant countries on the European Convention, said the re-unification of Europe had already happened: "We are just waiting for the calendar to catch up."

History had a smile on its face, Peterle told the pilgrims, who came from all over the world. The EU was growing, he said, "as a community based on values and principles, on a free and democratic will of its peoples. Europe is growing in peace and freedom."

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