



Slovensko predsedstvo EU 2008  
Slovenian Presidency of the EU 2008  
La Présidence slovène de l'UE 2008

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## **Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

**Permanent Council No. 704  
6 March 2008**

### **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the Presidential Elections in the Russian Federation**

I would like to draw the attention of the participating States to the following Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union, issued on the 4th of March 2008:

"The European Union takes note of the provisional results of the Presidential elections which were held on 2 March in the Russian Federation and congratulates the newly elected President Dmitry Anatolyevich Medvedev.

The EU takes note of the fact that the elections took place in a generally calm and peaceful manner. The EU regrets, however, that the OSCE/ODIHR had to conclude that a meaningful election observation mission was not feasible.

The EU also regrets that the electoral process did not allow for truly competitive elections. The lack of equal media access for the opposition candidates is of particular concern.

The EU recalls the mutual interest to enhance a strategic partnership with the Russian federation in the political, economic, cultural, scientific and other spheres. The EU expresses the hope that this partnership with Russia will be further strengthened and developed constructively during the tenure of Mr Dmitry Medvedev as President of the

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Russian Federation. The EU is looking forward to the implementation of political and social reforms, the strengthening of rule of law and individual freedoms as well as the economic modernization announced by him during his election campaign.

The candidate countries Croatia\* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, the European Free Trade Association country Liechtenstein, a member of the European Economic Area, as well as Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

\* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process”

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