



**Statement by Ambassador Stanislav Raščan at the 773rd Permanent Council
on 10. September 2009**

Bled Strategic Forum Conference with the title 'The Politics of Economic Crisis: redefining Economic and Geopolitical Landscapes in Europe and Eurasia', took place 30-31 August 2009 in Bled, Slovenia

It is my honour to inform this Council that on 30 and 31 August 2009 Slovenia successfully hosted 4th annual Bled Strategic Forum. This year's Conference, entitled 'The Politics of Economic Crisis: redefining Economic and Geopolitical Landscapes in Europe and Eurasia', brought together over 420 senior governmental officials, business executives and academics from 50 countries and various international organizations, including the Secretary General of OSCE Mr. Marc Pierre de Blichambaut and the OSCE Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities, Mr. Goran Svilanović.

In six panels, a round table and a night owl event the conference touched upon an array of topical issues pertaining to:

- the current financial crisis,
- the Russian proposal on new European security architecture,
- global energy security,
- regional stability in Eastern Europe and the Caspian region and
- economic challenges in the Western Balkans.

I am convinced that this years' Bled Strategic Forum with its many topical, focused and innovative debates, and many accomplished participants, proved its place among the most vibrant informal strategic/economic gatherings. It confirmed that the Forum has grown into a platform for open discussion - relevant from regional and global perspectives -- and a popular gathering place for politicians, business people, academics and media people.

More conference details as well as the broadcast form the four panels is available at:
www.bledstrategicforum.org/index