**SLOVENIA/TURKEY STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

The relationship between Slovenia and Turkey is based on strong bonds of alliance, friendship and mutual trust.

Slovenia and Turkey share the same set of values and ideals in our regional and global objectives: promotion of peace, democracy, rule of law, human rights, freedom and prosperity as well as common perspectives on a wide range of international issues and global challenges.

Challenges which the contemporary international community faces offer a variety of possibilities for formulating common policy approaches.

Slovenia and Turkey have proven capabilities which can positively contribute to overcoming these challenges.

We hereby launch a Strategic Partnership between our two countries, particularly, but not exclusively in the areas listed below, and commit to reviewing this document on bi-annual basis.

This Strategic Partnership will be sustained by regular meetings of the Prime Ministers underpinned by thematic Ministerial consultations across the breadth of our shared interests.

**Political dialogue**

The two countries will upgrade their bilateral relations by conducting a regular bilateral dialogue on high political level and through yearly contacts through high officials and experts of the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and where necessary other governmental bodies.

**Bilateral trade and investment**

We are committed to working together for increasing bilateral trade and investment. We will strive to achieve the highest possible level in bilateral trade. Both parties will work on enhancement of economic cooperation in the third markets. Slovenia and Turkey will also endeavour to search new possibilities for strengthening of cooperation between Turkish ports and the Port of Koper. Slovenia and Turkey will continue to discuss transport issues, including increase of the quota of transit permits for Turkish trucks, in the Joint Committee for Road Transport. Progress will be driven by annual Slovenia/Turkey Joint Economic and Trade Committee meetings.

**Turkey’s EU accession**

We are committed to advancing Turkish membership to the European Union. Turkey will actively pursue its accession negotiations and reform process. Slovenia will continue its firm and vocal support in advancing Turkey’s bid for EU membership. Slovenia and Turkey will enhance political dialogue on the EU related issues of common concern.

**Regional stability and peace**

We are committed in engaging regular, sustained and substantive dialogue at all levels so as to contribute to overcoming regional tensions and conflicts, and promoting stability and peace, especially in the Balkans. Slovenia and Turkey have a shared vision of a stable, secure and prosperous future for Europe, underpinned by respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law in our region and beyond. The two countries will commit to strengthening cooperation, inter alia, in the framework of the regional initiatives and organisations of the South East Europe and in the framework of the Mediterranean dimension.

**Issues of global concern**

We are committed to combating all forms of terrorism and organised crime, by enhancing our dialogue and cooperation at bilateral level and international fora.

**Environmental issues and energy security**

The two countries will conduct dialogue and promote cooperation, in particular, on climate change, water and energy security, food security, land and forest management.

Slovenia and Turkey face common energy challenges. The diversification and security of energy supplies, the energy market reforms, the development and modernization of energy infrastructures, energy efficiency, energy savings and the use of renewable energy sources are key concerns for both parties. Therefore, both sides will devote their best endeavours to enable enhanced energy cooperation between Slovenia and Turkey.

**Intercultural dialogue**

We are committed to promoting intercultural dialogue in order to combat all forms of racism, discrimination, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and related intolerance that threatens the principles and ideals which our countries are attached to.

**Education, research and culture**

We are committed to forging stronger educational and cultural links, including supporting long-term partnership between Slovenian and Turkish higher education institutions and research collaboration. Slovenia and Turkey will also cooperate in the field of academic exchanges for the success of the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI) in Portorož.

**Civil Society**

The two sides will encourage contacts between institutions and representatives of civil societies in various projects of common interest.

**Ankara, 3 March 2011**

**Borut Pahor**

**Prime Minister of the**

**Republic of Slovenia**

**Recep Tayyip Erdoğan**

**Prime Minister of the**

**Republic of Turkey**