

Chronology of Events 2005

January

5 January

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel embarks on a working visit to Ukraine.

6 January

At a regular session the Government adopts the proposed Ratification of the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe Act and establishes a core working group for preparations for the EU Presidency in the first half of 2008.

10 January

On a visit to Bovec, members of the Government continue with formulation of the 2005 Government Programme.

11 January

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel visits Kosovo in his capacity as OSCE Chairman-in-Office.

12 January

With a decisive majority the European Parliament adopts the resolution on the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe.

13 January

At the meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council and as the new OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel outlines the 2005 priorities of the Slovenian Chairmanship to the permanent representatives of the 55 participating countries.

20 January

Slovakian Foreign Minister Edvard Kukan begins an official visit at the invitation of Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel.

21 January

At the first working meeting after the formation of the new Slovenian Government, Slovenian and Croatian Prime Ministers Janez Janša and Ivo Sanader review all open issues between the two countries and agree on the direction to be taken towards their resolution.

25 January

Prime Minister Janez Janša pays a visit to NATO headquarters.

28 January

Austrian Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik makes her first official visit to Slovenia at the invitation of Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel.

February

1 February

At an extraordinary session the National Assembly ratifies the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe. In his capacity as Chairman-in-Office, Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel meets Russian Foreign Minister Sergej Lavrov, president of the Russian Parliament's International Affairs Committee Konstantin Kosačov and Secretary of the National Security Council Igor Ivanov in Moscow.

2 February

President Janez Drnovšek and Prime Minister Janez Janša hold the traditional New Year reception for foreign diplomats. Macedonian Foreign Minister Ilinka Mitreva arrives in Slovenia for a two-day working visit.

3 February

The Government adopts the proposed Declaration on Orientations for the Activities of the Republic of Slovenia within EU institutions in 2005 and a more

detailed programme of operations in this area entitled Slovenia's Priority Tasks for Work in the EU Council in 2005, and approves the plan for the introduction of the euro in Slovenia.

7 February

During a one-day visit to Belgrade in his capacity as Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel meets Serbian President Boris Tadić and Prime Minister Vojislav Koštunica. The main Slovenian cultural holiday celebrations take place with the awarding of Prešeren Awards and Prešeren Fund Awards.

9 February

At a working lunch for NATO foreign ministers in Brussels to coincide with the visit of the new American Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Slovenia announces that it will increase its contributions towards the stabilisation of Iraq.

10 February

At a two-day informal meeting in Nice attended by Defence Minister Karl Erjavec, NATO defence ministers agree to expand the international peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan (ISAF) to the west of the country.

11 February

Health Minister Andrej Bručan plays host to ambassadors of EU Member States to Slovenia. His address includes an outline of the Government's health protection priorities and its health policies.

15 February

Macedonian President Branko Crvenkovski is on a visit to Slovenia. He meets President Dr Janez Drnovšek and Prime Minister Janez Janša.

16 February

At a press conference, Prime Minister Janez Janša outlines the key Government priorities in the Government's programme of work for 2005.

18 February

Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel is on a working visit to Germany and meets German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer among others.

22 February

Prime Minister Janez Janša takes part in an extraordinary NATO summit in Brussels attended by American President George Bush.

24 February

OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel appears at the introductory session of the fourth winter meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Vienna.

25 February

Defence Minister Karl Erjavec meets Bosnian Defence Minister Nikola Radovanović on an official visit to Sarajevo.

March

2 March

Prime Minister Janez Janša visits Prekmurje with his ministerial team, where he holds a number of discussions with representatives of local institutions and companies.

4 March

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel appears at an open session of the UN Security Council in his capacity as OSCE Chairman-in-Office.

6 March

Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Janša meets his Croatian counterpart Ivo Sanader at a working meeting.

7 March

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel meets the US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Washington. Defence Minister Karl Erjavec meets Secretary-General Jaap de

Hoop Scheffer at NATO headquarters.

8 March

Prime Minister Janez Janša meets Unicef regional Director Philip O'Brien. They discuss Slovenia's contributions to Unicef and the possibilities for further cooperation.

10 March

Prime Minister Janez Janša meets representatives of SLOMAK, a coordinating body bringing together Slovenian minority organisations in Austria, Croatia, Italy and Hungary.

11 March

President of the Austrian Parliament Andreas Khol meets President Janez Drnovšek, Prime Minister Janez Janša and heads of National Assembly deputy groups during a visit to Slovenia.

14 March

Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel visits Moldova, meeting President Vladimir Voronin and Foreign Minister Andrej Stratan.

15 March

Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov begins an official visit to Slovenia.

18 March

Serbian President Boris Tadič makes a visit to Slovenia.

20 March

At an extraordinary meeting in Brussels, EU finance ministers, among them Slovenian Finance Minister Andrej Bajuk, reach agreement on reform of the Stability and Growth Pact, the basic mechanism for ensuring stability and strength in the euro area.

21 March

The IMF delegation concludes its regular annual meetings with representatives of Government and non-governmental organisations in Slovenia.

22 March

Leaders of EU member states approve reform of the Stability and Growth Pact on the first day of the spring summit; Slovenia is represented at the summit by Prime Minister Janez Janša, Finance Minister Andrej Bajuk, Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel and State Secretary for European affairs Marcel Koprol.

24 March

Slovenian President Janez Drnovšek and Croatian President Stipe Mesič hold an informal meeting in Bizeljsko. Jean Asselborn, Foreign Minister of Luxembourg, which holds the EU Presidency, visits Slovenia. The Government adopts a development report that maintains that Slovenia has a high level of economic and social stability, but that it is accompanied by developmental and structural weaknesses in a variety of areas.

25 March

Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel visits Kosovo. The main part of the Slovenian contingent leaves to inspect the Operation Joint Guardian peacekeeping operation in Kosovo.

29 March

At a press conference held jointly with Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel, Deputy US Secretary of State Robert Zoellick, who is on a flying visit to Slovenia, stresses the importance of Slovenia's role as holders of the OSCE Chairmanship.

30 March

During a visit to Slovenia, President of the Committee of the Regions Peter Straub says that Slovenia should work towards dividing the country into three regions.

31 March

The Slovenian and Croatian Governments appoint their delegates to the Slovenian-Croatian historical commission, which will study the history of relations between the two countries and peoples. Director-General of the United Nations

Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) Carlos A. Magariños visits Slovenia.

April

2 April

Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel concludes his tour in Baku, on this tour he visited Armenia, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan.

4 April

During discussions in Belgrade, Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel emphasises the importance of a commencement of political dialogue between Belgrade and Priština at the appropriate level as soon as possible, as well as the readiness of the OSCE and Slovenia to assist in stimulating this dialogue, where solutions must be found for Kosovo within a European framework.

6 April

At a press conference, after outlining the situation by ministry and government service, Prime Minister Janez Janša gives a general assessment of the situation inherited by the new Government.

7 April

Swedish Defence Minister Leni Björklund begins a two-day official visit to Slovenia at the invitation of Slovenian Defence Minister Karl Erjavec.

8 April

The day of the funeral of Pope John Paul II is declared a day of mourning in Slovenia. Statesmen and church dignitaries from Slovenia attend the funeral, among them President Janez Drnovšek, Prime Minister Janez Janša, Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel and a number of Slovenian bishops.

11 April

Minister of Public Administration Gregor Virant (for the Government) and representatives of public sector trade unions sign the 2005 Agreement on Coordination of Starting and Basic Salaries in the Public Sector.

13 April

In Slovenian Istria and Kras, as part of a tour of the regions, members of the Government adopt the premises for the drafting of the proposed budget rebalance for 2005. President Janez Drnovšek is on a two-day visit to Poland with the largest trade delegation so far.

14 April

The Government prepares proposed new versions of the so-called "war acts" and the proposed RTV Slovenija Act for discussion at the National Assembly by fasttrack procedure. It also adopts a decree on the national site plan for the second track on the Divača-Koper rail section.

15 April

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel attends the traditional informal meeting of EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg.

18 April

OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel arrives in Tajikistan on the first leg of his tour of Central Asia, which will also take place in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan. As part of a four-day visit to Afghanistan, Defence Minister Karl Erjavec meets Afghan president Hamid Karzai.

19 April

Hungarian President Ferenc Mádl begins a three-day official visit to Slovenia.

20 April

The National Assembly appoints Barbara Brezigar State Prosecutor General, at the Government's proposal. Defence Minister Karl Erjavec and Major General Ladislav Lipič, Chief of General Staff of the Slovenian Armed Forces, present the annual report on the Slovenian Army's state of readiness to President Janez

Drnovšek. OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel is on a working visit to Turkmenistan, where he meets President Saparmurat Nijazov.

21 April

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel attends an informal meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Vilnius. At a meeting of EU transport ministers, among them Slovenian Transport Minister Janez Božič, agreement is reached on the introduction of the Eurovignette.

22 April

At an extraordinary session the National Assembly supports the entry of Romania and Bulgaria into the EU and the signing of an accession agreement between the EU and the two countries. A meeting of interior ministers of the Salzburg Group (Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Slovenia) takes place in Budapest.

25 April

OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel is on a visit to South Korea.

27 April

The main state celebrations to mark Uprising Against Occupation Day take place at Mala Gora pri Ribnici; the main speech is given by Prime Minister Janez Janša.

28 April

The Government prepares a proposed new version of the Pension and Disability Insurance Act for discussion at the National Assembly by regular procedure, and approves the text of the new version of the Public Sector Salaries Act. The European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs Joaquin Almunia begins a two-day visit to Slovenia.

29 April

In separate statements, President Janez Drnovšek, Prime Minister Janez Janša and Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel assess Slovenia's first year of EU membership. Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel meets Irish Foreign Minister Dermot Ahern, who arrives in Slovenia as the special envoy of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to Europe responsible for promoting UN reform.

May

9 May

Ljubljana is the scene of the major national celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, at which the main speaker is Prime Minister Janez Janša. On the invitation of Minister of the Economy Andrej Vizjak, the Finnish Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Paula Lehtomaeki arrives in Slovenia for a two-day visit with a business delegation.

11 May

As part of its tour of Slovenia's regions, the Government visits Maribor and surroundings.

12 May

The Government adopts the draft rebalanced annual budget.

13 May

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel participates in a quadrilateral meeting of foreign ministers in Budapest.

16 May

Prime Minister Janez Janša and Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel attend the Council of Europe summit in Warsaw. During the summit Prime Minister Janez Janša meets separately with his counterparts from Greece and Portugal, Konstantinos Karamanlis and Jose Socrates.

17 May

The Prime Ministers of Slovenia and Croatia, Janez Janša and Ivo Sanader, devote a meeting during the Council of Europe summit to determining the topics

for a joint session of the Slovenian and Croatian Governments to be held in June in Croatia.

18 May

Slovenian Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel begins a visit to Canada.

19 May

As part of his official visit to Canada, Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel attends the seventh ministerial meeting of the Human Security Network in Ottawa.

20 May

A two-day meeting of EU Member State ministers responsible for regional policy and territorial cohesion begins in Luxembourg, and is attended by Minister without Portfolio Responsible for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy Dr Ivan Žagar and State Secretary at the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning Marko Starman.

22 May

On the 15th anniversary of the first democratically elected Slovenian Government, its then members meet at Brdo pri Kranju. The EU foreign ministers meet in Brussels in a so-called conclave.

23 May

The 13th OSCE economic forum, focusing on demographic trends, migration and integration of members of ethnic minorities, begins in Prague, and is attended by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel.

25 May

A consultation is hosted by President Janez Drnovšek on the competitiveness of Slovenia in the EU.

27 May

A five-day session of the Parliamentary Group of NATO begins in Ljubljana.

June

2 June

The Government adopts a supplemented and amended draft of the resolution on the national environmental protection programme and the strategy for informing the Slovenian public about the introduction of the euro.

3 June

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel participates in a conference in Zagreb on the prospects for SE Europe on its path to the EU.

7 June

Finance Minister Andrej Bajuk attends a meeting of EU finance ministers in Luxembourg, where they discuss the 2007-2013 EU financial perspective.

8 June

As part of his tour of capital cities prior to the EU summit, Prime Minister Janez Janša meets with Luxembourg's Prime Minister and EU President Jean-Claude Juncker. Organised by the Slovenian presidency of the OSCE and Spain, a twoday international conference on the fight against antisemitism and other forms of intolerance begins in Cordoba, and is attended by OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel.

9 June

The Government confirms the proposed position of Slovenia for negotiations on the next EU financial perspective for 2007-2013.

10 June

A joint session of the Slovenian and Croatian Governments is held on Brioni, where several agreements are signed on cooperation in the economic area and a commitment is made towards the process of continued EU enlargement. The Slovenian-Croatian historical commission meets for a constitutive session in Pula. European Agriculture and Fisheries Commissioner Marianne Fischer Boel is on a

visit to Slovenia and meets with Agriculture Minister Marija Lukačič.

11 June

The Teharje memorial park is the setting for the main national commemoration of the concealed victims of post-war killings, and the main speaker is national President Janez Drnovšek.

14 June

Foreign Minister and the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel meets his British counterpart Jack Straw at a working meeting in London.

16 June

Interior Minister Dragutin Mate meets with his Austrian counterpart Liese Prokop in Feldbach, Austria. Minister of the Economy Andrej Vizjak meets with European Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs in Brussels.

21 June

In an extraordinary session the National Assembly adopts the rebalanced national budget for 2005. British Transport Minister Stephen Ladyman arrives on a visit to Slovenia, meeting with his Slovenian counterpart Janez Božič. The annual two-day OSCE security review conference begins in Vienna, aimed at reviewing activities to date and the security situation in the OSCE area – the introductory address is given by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel.

23 June

In a regular session the Government adopts the Slovenian Development Strategy and the proposal for a new law to promote harmonised regional development, which envisages the division of Slovenia into two cohesion regions.

24 June

The main celebrations marking Slovenian National Day take place in Ljubljana, where the key speaker is President Janez Drnovšek.

28 June

Hungarian Foreign Minister Ferenc Somogyi arrives on a visit to Slovenia and holds talks with his Slovenian counterpart Dimitrij Rupel, Prime Minister Janez Janša and National Assembly President France Cukjati primarily on European issues.

29 June

The Government visits the Savinjsko-Šaleška region. The National Council adopts a postponement veto on the RTV Slovenia Act.

30 June

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel begins a two-day visit to Washington.

July

1 July

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel meets with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

4 July

The Slovenian and Croatian transport ministers, Janez Božič and Božidar Kalmeta, meet at Otočec.

5 July

A consultation lasting several days on violence against children in Europe and Central Asia begins in Ljubljana, and is opened by Prime Minister Janez Janša. Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel meets with coordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe Erhard Busek.

7 July

In a regular session the Government adopts the basis for the draft of a budget memorandum for 2006-2010, representing a basis for drafting the proposed national budgets for 2006 and 2007. Slovakian President Ivan Gašparovič arrives in Slovenia for a two-day visit.

11 July

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, attends a commemorative ceremony in Potočari marking the 10th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, and meets with President of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Ivo Miro Jovič. Representatives of the Government and National Assembly, headed by Prime Minister Janez Janša and National Assembly President France Cukjati join the symbolic action in memory of the victims of the Srebrenica massacre, organised at the Three Bridges in Ljubljana by Amnesty International of Slovenia.

13 July

During a visit to Russia, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, meets with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov. In Brussels, Interior Minister Dragutin Mate and Justice Minister Lovro Šturm participate in an extraordinary session of EU justice and home affairs ministers devoted to measures in the fight against terrorism following the attacks in London.

14 July

In a regular session the Government adopts a proposed revision of the healthcare and health insurance act, and a proposed law on the dual marking of prices in tolar and euros, and appoints a working group to draw up structural reforms, which will be headed by Jože P. Damijan.

15 July

Following the National Council veto, and on the proposal of the Government, the National Assembly adopts the Radio and Television Corporation of Slovenia Act in a new procedure.

20 July

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, takes part in a round table in Vienna entitled 30 Years of the Helsinki Process: the Contribution of the OSCE in a Changing World.

22 July

In Yalta, State Secretary for European Affairs Marcel Koprol attends a two-day conference entitled Ukraine in the EU.

27 July

In London, State Secretary for European Affairs Marcel Koprol participates in consultations with the representatives of the UK's Presidency of the EU on the future EU financial perspective.

28 July

The Government adopts a programme of preparations for Slovenia's Presidency of the EU in the first half of 2008. A two-day session of interior ministers from Member States of the Salzburg Group (Austria, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Slovenia) begins in Graz, and is attended by State Secretary at the Ministry of the Interior Vinko Gorenak.

29 July

The Government adopts the draft budget memorandum for the period 2006-2010 and a proposal for determining spending cuts to draft the national budget for 2006 and 2007.

30 July

Delegations from the Russian Duma and Federation Council arrive in Ljubljana on a working visit.

31 July

At the Russian chapel below Vršič the traditional ceremony is held commemorating dead Russian soldiers.

August

1 August

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, attends a seminar

in Helsinki to mark the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act.

19 August

Defence Minister Karl Erjavec begins a working visit to the Austrian city of Bregenz, where he meets with his host, Austrian Defence Minister Günther Platter, and Czech Defence Minister Karl Kuehl.

24 August

A meeting in Zagreb takes place between the State Secretaries at the Slovenian and Croatian Foreign Ministries, Božo Cerar and Hido Biščević, organised following submission of the proposed law on the Slovenian ecological zone and epicontinental belt for Government procedure. President of the Austrian Parliament Andreas Khol makes an unofficial visit to Slovenia.

25 August

The Government adopts the proposed law declaring a protective ecological zone and epicontinental belt and sends it to the National Assembly, which should adopt it in a fast-track procedure.

26 August

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel presents Slovenia's law declaring a protective ecological zone and epicontinental belt in the Adriatic to EU ambassadors.

29 August

President Janez Drnovšek bestows on Tom Harkin, a US senator of Slovenian descent, the golden order for meritorious service in the diplomatic and international area. The Iowan senator is also received by Prime Minister Janez Janša and Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel.

31 August

In Gdansk, Prime Minister Janez Janša and Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel attend the celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Polish union movement Solidarity. Separately from this event Janša also meets with his Croatian counterpart Ivo Sanader and British Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott.

September

1 September

Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning Janez Podobnik invites EU ambassadors in Slovenia to a presentation of the proposed law on a protective ecological zone and epicontinental belt.

2 September

During the session of EU foreign ministers, Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel meets with Croatian counterpart Kolinda Grabar Kitarović.

5 September

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel visits Azerbaijan as Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE; from Baku he travels to Armenia.

7 September

The Government visits the wider Celje area.

9 September

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, meets with the Head of the OSCE Mission in Moldova, Ambassador William Hill.

12 September

Prime Minister Janez Janša, accompanied by Foreign and Economy Ministers Dimitrij Rupel and Andrej Vizjak, as well as a sizeable economic delegation, depart for a three-day official visit to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

13 September

Defence Minister Karl Erjavec participates in a two-day autumn informal session of NATO defence ministers in Berlin.

14 September

President Janez Drnovšek and Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairman-in-Office

Dimitrij Rupel attend the UN summit in New York.

15 September

The Government adopts amendments and supplements to the notary tariff, whereby the fees for the majority of notarial services are lowered, and also adopts the proposed resolution on the national and developmental programme, and determines the wording for the proposed revision of the Research and Development Act.

16 September

Celebrations take place in Portorož marking the anniversary of the return of the Primorska region to Slovenia, at which Prime Minister Janez Janša gives an address.

19 September

Transport Minister Janez Božič departs on a two-day working visit to Denmark, where he exchanges views on current issues in the transport area with Danish counterpart Flemming Hansen. In New York, Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel takes part in a meeting of EU foreign ministers with their Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov.

20 September

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel meets with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in New York.

21 September

In Stockholm State Secretary for European Affairs Marcel Koprol begins participation in two-day informal talks on the next EU financial perspective for 2007-2013.

22 September

Deputies and ministers of the coalition parties SDS, NSi, SLS and DeSUS meet with Prime Minister Janez Janša and discuss the proposed national budgets for 2006 and 2007. Prime Minister Janez Janša and Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel separately receive the president of the lower house of Canada's parliament, Peter Milliken.

23 September

On the invitation of Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, Austrian Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik arrives in Slovenia for an informal visit.

25 September

A referendum is held in Slovenia on the RTV Slovenia Act, and the majority of voters are in favour of the act.

26 September

Minister of the Economy Andrej Vizjak heads to Belgrade for two days of talks on economic cooperation between the two countries.

27 September

OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, departs on a one-day visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina, during which he meets with the national leadership and representatives of the international community in that country.

28 September

Members of the Reform Committee present their basis for proposed structural reforms to Prime Minister Janez Janša. Romanian Foreign Minister Mihai-Razvan Ungureanu arrives in Slovenia for an official visit, and meets with his host, Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, Slovenian President Janez Drnovšek and National Assembly President France Cukjati. On an introductory visit Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel receives the regional director of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Budapest, Lloyd Dakin.

29 September

In a regular session the Government adopts the proposed national budgets for 2006 and 2007.

30 September

Members of the Reform Committee deliver to the Government their proposed structural reforms and systemic changes in key areas. Environment Minister

Janez Podobnik and French Minister for Ecology and Sustainable Development Nelly Olin sign a cooperation agreement on the capture and resettlement of brown bears from Slovenia to France. While attending a symposium of Pannonian lawyers in Budapest, Justice Minister Lovro Šturm meets with his counterparts from Austria and Hungary, Karin Gastinger and Jozsef Petrete.

October

4 October

The main celebrations marking the 15th anniversary of the establishing of the Manoeuvring Structure of National Defence take place in Cankarjev Dom, where the main speaker is Prime Minister Janez Janša. In the continuation of their regular September session, National Assembly Deputies adopt the act declaring a protective ecological zone and epicontinental belt.

5 October

Coalition parties are familiarised with the basis for economic and social reforms. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, makes a one-day visit to Skopje.

6 October

The Government is familiarised with the Proposed concepts of economic and social reforms to increase the competitiveness of the Slovenian economy, as drawn up by the Reform Committee. The presidents and leaders of deputy groups of parliamentary parties, the deputies of the Hungarian and Italian communities, and the President of the National Assembly are also familiarised with the proposal. A meeting of EU transport ministers held in Brussels is attended by Slovenian Minister Janez Božič.

7 October

Finance Minister Andrej Bajuk and Bank of Slovenia Governor Mitja Gaspari unveil the new Slovenian euro coins. The interior ministers of Slovenia, Croatia and Hungary meet in the Hungarian town of Kaposvar.

10 October

Prime Minister Janez Janša and Finance Minister Andrej Bajuk present their proposed national budgets for 2006 and 2007 to an extraordinary session of the National Assembly. A two-day session of the regional partnership takes place in Budapest, involving four members of the Visegrad group – Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia, and Austria and Slovenia, and the meeting is attended by Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel.

11 October

Finnish President Tarja Halonen arrives on a visit to Slovenia.

12 October

As part of its tour of Slovenian regions, the Government visits Gorenjska.

13 October

Swedish Foreign Minister Laila Freivalds visits Slovenia, meeting with Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, President Janez Drnovšek and Prime Minister Janez Janša.

14 October

The national electoral commission confirms the official result of the subsequent legislative referendum on the RTV Slovenia Act, in which 50.30% of voters were in favour of the act and 48.92% against.

19 October

Prime Minister Janez Janša departs for an official visit to Luxembourg, meeting with his host, Luxembourg's Prime Minister and Finance Minister Jean-Claude Juncker.

November

3 November

Prime Minister Janez Janša presents the framework of economic and social reforms to improve welfare in Slovenia.

December**5 December**

OSCE ministerial meeting takes place in Ljubljana.