

## Polity IV Country Report 2007: Slovenia

<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Score:</td> <td style="width: 15%;">2006</td> <td style="width: 15%;">2007</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Polity:</b></td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Democ:</b></td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Autoc:</b></td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Durable:</b></td> <td></td> <td>16</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Tentative:</b></td> <td></td> <td>No</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Score:	2006	2007	Change	<b>Polity:</b>	10	10	0	<b>Democ:</b>	10	10	0	<b>Autoc:</b>	0	0	0	<b>Durable:</b>		16		<b>Tentative:</b>		No		
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SCODE	<b>SLV</b>	CCODE	<b>349</b>	Date of Report	<b>1 November 2008</b>																				
<b>Polity IV Component Variables</b>																									
XRREG	XRCOMP	XROPEN	XCONST	PARREG	PARCOMP																				
3	3	4	7	5	5																				
<b>Date of Most Recent Polity Transition (3 or more point change)</b>																									
End Date			Begin Date																						
			25 June 1991 (Ind.)																						
<b>Polity Fragmentation: No</b>																									
<b>Constitution</b>	1991																								
<b>Executive(s)</b>	President Danilo Türk (Independent); directly 21 October and 11 November 2007, 24.5% and 68% Prime Minister Janez Janša (SDS); elected by parliament, 9 November 2004																								
<b>Legislature</b>	Bicameral: National Assembly (90 seats; 40 directly elected, 50 proportionally elected, with 2 seats reserved for ethnic minorities; most recent elections, 21 September 2008) Social Democrats (SD): 29 Slovene Democratic Party (SDS): 28 Zares-New Politics (ZARES): 9 Democratic Party of Pensioners of Slovenia (DeSUS): 7 Other parties: 15 Hungarian and Italian ethnic minorities: 2 National Council (40 seats; 18 appointed by local councilors, 22 representing commercial and non-commercial interests)																								
<b>Judiciary</b>	Constitutional Court; Supreme Court																								

## **Narrative Description:<sup>1</sup>**

### **Executive Recruitment: Competitive Elections (8)**

The Yugoslavian federal republic government of Slovenia declared its independence on 25 June 1991; the declaration was only briefly challenged by the Yugoslavian Federal Army and Slovenia largely escaped the violence that wracked the dissolution of that federation. The Slovenian constitution of December 1991 established a multiparty parliamentary republic. Executive authority is vested in the president, who is the head of state and directly elected by popular vote from a multi-candidate slate; however, under the 1991 constitution, the presidency is a largely ceremonial position. The prime minister heads the government and is appointed by the president on the recommendation of the National Assembly, whose members are elected on the basis of free and fair multiparty elections. In 1997 presidential elections, Milan Kučan, who originally gained executive office in 1990 under the federal system as head of the League of Communists, was reelected with 56% of the vote. The leader of the LDS, Janez Drnovsek, regained the prime minister post in November 2000 after losing the post on a no-confidence vote in April 2000. He was subsequently elected president in November 2002, following a runoff election against Barbara Brezigar. The SDS won a narrow majority in legislative elections held in October 2004; SDS leader Janez Janša was elected prime minister in November 2004. In the most recent presidential elections, independent candidate Danilo Türk gained office with sixty-eight percent of the vote in the November 2007 runoff election against another independent candidate, Lojze Peterle.

### **Executive Constraints: Executive Parity or Subordination (7)**

The prime minister is the head of government and requires the support of a majority of the legislature to remain in power. The presidency is a largely ceremonial post and must have the support of a majority of the legislature to get favored legislation passed. The upper house of parliament, the National Council, is mainly an advisory group but does have veto power over laws passed by the National Assembly. The judiciary is professional and independent of the government.

### **Political Participation: Institutionalized Open Electoral Competition (10)**

With the almost no exception all those of legal age are able to participate in the electoral process. The elections that have occurred since Slovenia's break from Yugoslavia have been free and fair, with peaceful transitions of power at both the president and prime minister levels. Seven political parties currently hold seats in parliament; the governing coalition consists of four parties led by the Slovene Democratic Party (SDS). While not commanding a parliamentary majority, the LDS (formerly the Union of Socialist Youth) has been the dominant party in parliament since independence. The LDS has controlled the prime minister's post, losing it only briefly in 2000 following a disagreement over Cabinet appointments. Legislative elections in October 2004 reversed this trend, with the SDS, led by Janez Janša, gaining a narrow victory over the LDS to take control of the government, in coalition with the NSi, SLS, and DeSUS.

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<sup>1</sup> The research described in this report was sponsored by the Political Instability Task Force (PITF). The PITF is funded by the Central Intelligence Agency. The views expressed herein are the authors' alone and do not represent the views of the US Government.