

# Sector themes within the CZ PRES framework

This section deals with a brief outline of the themes that will be negotiated in the 1st half of 2009 within the framework of the EU Council formations concerned, irrespective of the Czech Republic's preferences. The so-called sector themes are concerned with what will be accentuated by the events with regards to the politically defined priority areas of the CZ PRES referred to in the motto "Europe without barriers".

## SECTOR THEMES OF THE CZ PRES

### I - GAERC: GENERAL AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COUNCIL

To prepare the ground for further enlargement

- Endeavour to achieve the Lisbon Treaty ratification in the entire EU in 2009
- Finalisation of the accession negotiations with Croatia, commencement of the negotiations with FYROM, Iceland

The Eastern Partnership (summit EU-Russia, summit The Eastern Partnership): achievement of a free trade agreement between the EU and Ukraine

Transatlantic relations (summit EU-USA, summit EU-Canada)

Monitoring of the action programme for implementation of the EU Territorial Agenda (a report on progress)

European Safety and Defence Policy: fulfilment of the Civilian Headline Goal 2010 and the EU involvement in Western Balkans (i.e. EULEX in Kosovo), support of the European Defence Agency activity

Increase in efficiency of the EU policy in the area of human rights and democracy support (interconnection

of the EU development agenda with the other international initiatives)

Endeavour to achieve an agreement within the framework of the Doha Development Agenda and WTO functioning

Implementation of the revised Market Access Strategy and revision of Trade Defence Instruments

Greater IPR protection and enforceability



### II - ECOFIN: ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Solving of the financial and economic crisis

Coordination of the economic policy (BEPGs) and preparation of the Key Issue Paper for the spring European Council

European Commission report on the impacts of population ageing, public finance sustainability

Lisbon Strategy after 2010

Informal ECOFIN dealing with evaluation of the EU enlargement in 2004 (the Commission report "Five years after")

Effective supervision over financial markets (Solvency II, collective investing, directive on capital requirements, e-money directive)

Fight against tax evasions

### III - JHA: JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Preparation of the new Post-Hague Programme 2010-2014

Implementation of the European Pact on Migration and Asylum, blue cards e-justice (building of the European Justice Portal)

Observance of the time schedule for launching of the Visa Information System (VIS) (May 2009) and of the Schengen Information System of the second generation SIS II (September 2009)

Integrated Model of the EU External Borders Protection

Implementation of the Decision of the Council on establishing Europol

### IV - EMPL: EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Labour market liberalisation in the

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SIESSSEUKCZBEBGDKEEFIFRIEIT  
ITCYLTULUHUUMTDENLPLPTAT  
ATROELSKISSSEUKCZBEBGDK  
DKEEFIFRIEITCYLTULUHUUMTD  
DENLPLPTATROELSKISSSEUK  
UKCZBEBGDKEEFIFRIEITCYLTU  
LULUHUUMTDENLPLPTATROELS  
SKSIESSSEUKCZBEBGDKEEFIFR  
FRIEITCYLTULUHUUMTDENLPLP  
PTATROELSKISSSEUKCZBEBG  
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MTDENLPLPTATROELSKISSSE  
SEUKCZBEBGDKEEFIFRIEITCYLT  
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EU and cancellation of the transitional periods being applied

Implementation of the European Employment Strategy and flexibility Directive on working hours

Financial sustainability of health systems

E-health

### V - COCOM: COUNCIL ON COMPETITIVENESS

Lisbon Strategy after 2010 (European Commission annual report on progress, evaluation of the national programme reforms).

Internal market: Implementation of the directive on services (December 2009), Revision of the internal market strategy, OECD report on persisting barriers in the internal market, Community patent, complex IPR strategy

Better regulation: observance of the reduction objective by 25% by 2012 and of the approved Prague Declaration, evaluation of the impact on the inter-institutional decision-making process and the policies being newly submitted.

SMEs policy: SBA fulfilment and implementation of the action plan; SME Week will take place from May 6 to 14.

EU Sustainable Industrial Policy

## What is Czech Presidency about

The Czech Presidency calls for a "Europe without barriers" which makes full use of its economic, human and cultural potential and is therefore capable of holding its own against global, political and economic competition. The Presidency will focus on three priority objectives:

### Economy - A Competitive Europe

In line with the Lisbon Strategy, the Presidency will focus on the development of all four freedoms of the internal market and try to improve the administrative environment for businesses and to enhance employment as well as flexibility on the labour market. The Presidency will further work on world trade liberalisa-

tion and fight unfair competition and insufficient protection of IPR.

### Energy and Climate Change

The Presidency will try to ensure energy security, competitiveness and sustainability in Europe focusing on energy supply security, on replacing imported fossil fuels with new technologies and greater territorial diversity of suppliers. Further, it will strive to achieve efficient coordination among transmission system operators. The Presidency will focus on Kyoto obligations to pave the way for a broad international consensus to be reached in Copenhagen at the end of 2009.

### External relations - An Open and Secure Europe

The Czech Presidency will place an emphasis on clo-

se dialogue with the new US administration in the key areas of security, economy and energy. It will launch the Eastern Partnership project, strengthening the cooperation with the countries of the Eastern Dimension of the ENP and will continue with the South Dimension as well. Accession negotiations with Croatia, Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will continue, and possibilities for the countries of the Western Balkans will be examined.



## VI – TTE: TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY COUNCIL

Optimisation of the internal market functioning: implementation of the measures from the “greening package”, negotiation about the amendment to the Eurovignette Directive, Single European Sky, Trans-European Transportation Network  
Elimination of administration in transportation

Galileo Programme: Intelligent Transport Systems Action Plan, NAIADES

Safe road traffic: Action Plan 2011-2020

Telecommunications and information society: revision of the regulatory framework for electronic communi-

cations networks and services, revision of the extent of the universal service, revision of the regulation on roaming prices, information society  
Power engineering: Action Plan after 2010, implementation of the measure approved during the FR PRES in the area of the internal market with electricity and climate calls, safety of energy supplies into the EU

## VII – AGRIFIN: AGRICULTURE AND FISHERY COUNCIL

Revision of expenditures for the Common Agricultural Policy

Direct payments after 2013 and prolongation of the SAPS application for the EU-12 till the end of 2013

Agricultural products and food quality

Establishment of a system of official laboratories for phytosanitary purposes and change of the plant passport system

## VIII – ENVI: ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

UN Framework Agreement on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol

Strategic Energy Outline, national emission limits for 2020, ETS

Communication on the sustainable consumption and production and sustainable industrial policy

## IX – EYC: EDUCATION, YOUTH AND CULTURE COUNCIL

Updating of the EU long-term strategic framework for coope-

ration in education after 2010  
Partnership between the educational sphere and employers  
European space of university education in 2010 (conference in Louvain during the CZ PRES)  
Autonomy of sport

Forum for Creative Europe, Work plan for the area of culture for the years 2008-2010, European Heritage Label



# ABSTRACT OF THE KEY EVENTS DURING CZ PRES

EVENT	DATE	INSTITUTION	PLACE
<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>2009</b>		
Business breakfast “SMEs access to finance”	21/01	CEBRE	Brussels
Conference “CZ PRES and Barriers of Internal market”	28/01	CEBRE	Brussels
Conference “Perspectives of the Internal market with electricity”	29-30/01	Ministry of Trade and Industry CR	Ostrava
<b>FEBRUARY</b>			
Debate on Internal Market liberalization	03/02	CEBRE	Prague
Conference on Internal Market liberalization	2-3/02	MIT	Prague
Policy Café “SBA progress”	10/02	CEBRE	Brussels
Business Breakfast “EU Budget review - Business priorities”	11/02	CEBRE	Brussels
Conference Family childcare and employment affairs	5-6/2	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Prague
E-health Conference for individuals, society and economy	18-20/02	Ministry of Health	Prague
<b>MARCH</b>			
Conference “5 years after”	02/03	Government office, MIT; MoF, MLSE	Prague
Youth conference	5-6/03	MYES	Prague
Conference on quality policy	12-13/3	Ministry of Agriculture	Prague
Business Breakfast “Internal market: Free movement of labour”	18/03	CEBRE	Brussels
Conference Flexicurity - Lifelong learning and components of social protection	25-26/03		Prague
Conference Towards the e-Environment	25-27/03	Ministry of Environment CR	Prague
7th European Business Summit	26-27/03	BusinessEurope	Brussels
<b>APRIL</b>			
Conference - Transfer of Knowledge between Universities and Businesses	6-7/04	MYES	Prague
Conference on FITPRO	16-17/04	Czech Chamber of Commerce	Prague
CEBRE - Business Breakfast	29/04	CEBRE	Brussels
Conference European Patent Forum	28-30/04	Intellectual property office of CR, EC	Prague
<b>MAY</b>			
European Enterprise Awards; SME Conference	13-14/05	MIT	Prague
Congress Eurochambres	13-15/05	Czech Chamber of Commerce	Prague
Business forum - EU and its partners	14-15/05	Czech Chamber of Commerce	Prague
Conference on VET: quality	20/05	MYES	Prague
Nuclear forum 2009	28-29/05	Vice Prime Minister for EU affairs CR	Prague
<b>JUNE</b>			
Conference “Removed barriers of the internal market during CZ PRES”	10/06	CEBRE	Brussels
Conference on Lifelong learning program (NAEP)	June 2009	MYES	CR

This Abstract focuses on events which may be interesting for the business community and does not include all CZ PRES events. The dates will be updated! For further information please contact CEBRE at [cebre.europe@mail.be](mailto:cebre.europe@mail.be), web: [www.cebre.cz](http://www.cebre.cz)