



Embassy of the Czech Republic
in London

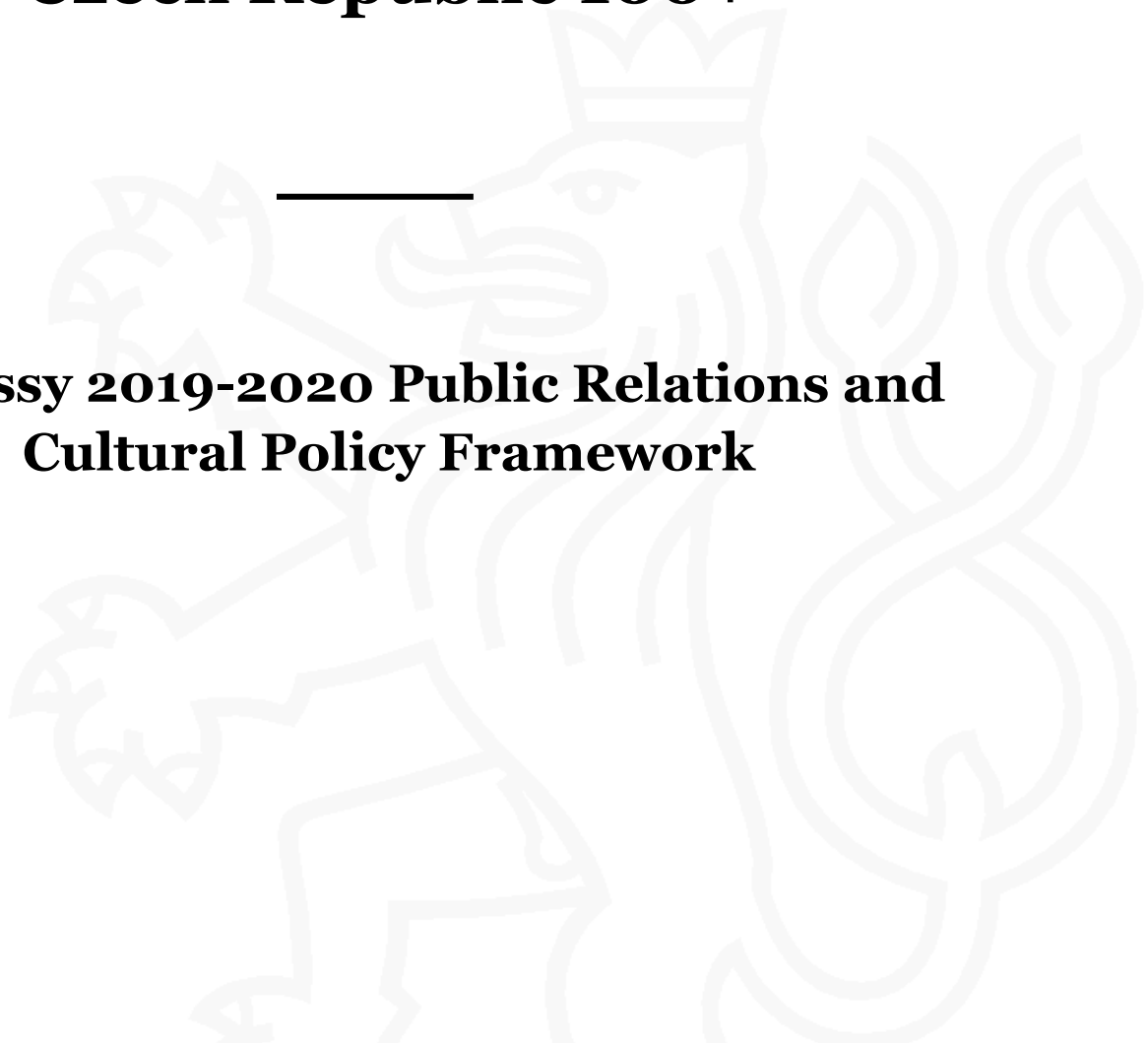
Embassy of the Czech Republic in the United Kingdom



“Czech Republic 100+”



**Embassy 2019-2020 Public Relations and
Cultural Policy Framework**



Czech Republic 100+

The past two and a half years has been a remarkably dynamic period for the development of Czech–British bilateral relations. This is true both for political dialogue and in other areas of mutual cooperation. The Embassy of the Czech Republic in London maximized the occasion of the centennial of the founding of Czechoslovakia to showcase the Czech Republic as an important and attractive partner. It presented a country with great potential and much unique to offer towards effective cooperation in selected sectors. The Czech Embassy initiated the official visit by President Miloš Zeman to London and his audience with Queen Elizabeth II in June 2017, as well as the visit to the British Capital by Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babiš and his meeting with British Prime Minister Theresa May in October 2018.

In implementing the wide-ranging “Czech Republic 100” programme, we set out on an uncharted path of pioneering projects and forms. The difficulties and problems we incurred were in direct proportion to the height of our ambitions. Nevertheless, the programme can be declared a resounding success. Never before had the *Financial Times* published an article about a living Czech artist (Pavel Brázda – May 2017). Never before had a Czech artist exhibited his works at the prestigious IKON Gallery in Birmingham (Vladimir Kokolia – July 2018). Never before had an international conference been jointly organized by Czech Radio and BBC Radio (“Truth and Power” – London, June 2018). We can continue with “Czech Week in London” in October 2018, during which the unique “Czech Heart Day” took place as well as the extraordinary concert by the Czech Philharmonic at the Royal Academy of Music and a host of other events. All these undertakings brought us closer to Great Britain and strengthened the foundations for future bilateral cooperation.

The next phase will inevitably be influenced by the wider context of European and British political and economic developments as the United Kingdom prepares to leave the EU. This process is complex and, in many respects, more painful than anyone could have imagined at the outset. It is not just the domestic political scene that is polarized, deeply divided and weary from “Brexit”, but society as a whole. However this lengthy exit process resolves, it is already clear that it will require time, energy and resources for the wounds to gradually heal, for the most significant socio-economic and geographical disparities to subside, and for the country to readjust itself towards standard, normal functioning.

As the British government is well aware, it will also require international cooperation and strengthened bilateral relations with foreign partners. First and foremost, the focus will be on cooperation that brings added value, that will help Britain to confirm its position as a world leader in technological development. This is also a call to



envision the future of Czech–British relations. In addition to our natural, standard and traditional bilateral relations, we will devote greater attention and focus to such areas as automation, mobility and artificial intelligence; we will continue with our emphasis on nanotechnology, environmental energy technology and important healthcare sectors.

The programme “Czech Republic 100+”, which will span a period of approximately two years, is based on our previous successful project and will continue the same line of logic, including co-operation with external partners and supporters. What will partially change is resources and territorial focus. In accordance with the conditions described above, the programme will be more restrained in character. The focus will be less on the type of organizationally and financially demanding projects that brought the best of the Czech Republic into British public view, especially in London (for example, the reopening of the Czech Embassy – architecture; the concert by the Czech Philharmonic – culture; Czech Heart Day – healthcare), but rather on more modest forms of presentation for professional groups, experts, and friends, supporters and allies both old and new.

The aim will be to take the brand “Czech Republic” more to smaller cities, provinces and outlying areas of the British Crown than we have in the past. In cooperation with Czech government agencies, we will make a greater effort to promote individual regions of the Czech Republic. We also will coordinate more with the Czech expatriate community – one of the biggest in the world – which is brimming with innovation, talent and the ability to improvise. It will be a well-considered, low-key and deliberate approach to building new contacts and relationships that can bring about effective future cooperation between the Czech Republic and United Kingdom.

London, February 5th 2019,

Libor Sečka

Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United Kingdom

Envisaged Activities in 2019

- **Remembering Jan Palach** (*in cooperation with Velehrad London*)
(19th January)
 - Commemorating event and a subsequent discussion of contemporary witnesses organised on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the sacrifice of Jan Palach. The discussion will be followed by a screening of a Czech film “Jan Palach” (R. Sedláček - 2018)
- **Dinner in honour of the „Friends of Jan Patočka“**
(7th March)
 - A festive dinner in the Residence of the Ambassador in Hamsptead in honour of the leading experts and supporters of the legacy of the prominent Czech philosopher Jan Patočka. The Czech Embassy will also support the publishing of the new publication about J. Patočka in English
- **Opening of the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Manchester**
(19th March)
 - Opening reception attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and the political representatives of Manchester along with business, diplomatic and cultural partners of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in London
- **Historic presentation and lecture to remember the 80th anniversary of the Occupation of Bohemia and Moravia**
(27th March)
 - Historic lecture and introduction of the new book „The Bell of Treason“ describing the so called Munich Betrayal and the subsequent events leading to the German occupation of Bohemia and Moravia in 1939. The lecture will be given in the Czech Embassy Cinema by the author of the book, professor Pierre Caquet from the University of Cambridge
- **Central European Symposium**
(10th April)
 - Academic Conference at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies of the University College London. Leading political scientists from V4 countries and Austria will debate current political developments in the Central Europe and will commemorate the respective anniversaries of their NATO and EU entry.
- **Memorial ceremony at the Brookwood Military Cemetery**
(5th May)
 - Commemorating act for everyone who wishes to pay tribute to the war heroes who gave their lives for the freedom of Czechoslovakia during the Second World War. A group of 20 boy scouts from the Czech Republic will stand as an honour guard at the memorial.

- **Czech Wine Day**

(21st May)

- Presentation of Czech and Moravian wines with accompanying cultural programme in the garden of the Czech Embassy in London. A B2B event. For British wholesalers, retailers and representatives in the field of hospitality industry

- **Czech Beer Day** *(in cooperation with CzechTrade Agency)*

(19th June)

- Presentation of Czech breweries and their products with accompanying cultural programme in the garden of the Czech Embassy in London. A B2B event. For British wholesalers, retailers and representatives in the field of hospitality industry

- **London Premiere of the film “Hands on Glass”**

(25th June)

- The Embassy of the Czech Republic in London will present a new documentary film “Hands on Glass”, focusing on the creation of a memorial dedicated to the parents of so called “Winton’s Children” in Prague. During the programme we will also celebrate this year's jubilee of our great friend and a “Winton’s child”, Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines, MBE

- **Literary evening with Franz Kafka**

(26th June)

- Literary evening aiming to introduce Jewish literature originating in historic Czech lands with special focus to the famous writer Franz Kafka. This event will be organised in cooperation with the Westminster Synagogue and the Israeli Embassy in London

- **Rony plesl – World premiere of a unique technology of creating melted glass sculptures**

(19th – 22th September)

- In cooperation with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in London, the renowned Czech sculptor and glassmaker Mr. Rony Plesl will introduce unique and breakthrough technology of melted glass sculpture for the very first time. The premiere will take place in the prestigious Victoria and Albert Museum in London

- **State reception on the occasion of the Czech National Day**

(27th September)

- Residence of the Czech Ambassador in Hampstead, Presentation of the Škoda company, the most important Czech car producer

- **ICT Start-ups London** *(in cooperation with CzechInvest Agency)*

(1st October)

- A fifth season of the popular seminar introducing promising Czech start-ups in the field of information and communications technology to potential investors and partners in the United Kingdom. This event will take place in the cinema of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in London

- **Performance by Moravian folk group „Veltlínek“ for children**

(7th October)

- Performance focused on Moravian folk music and songs for children (and their parents) attending the Czech School Without Borders in London

- **Cultural delegation to the Czech Republic**

(9th – 13th October)

- Delegation of chosen journalists, directors of galleries and independent arts consultants from the United Kingdom to the Czech Republic with an aim of supporting closer cooperation between the British and Czech artists

- **Velvet Freedom Ball**

(15th November)

- Formal VIP ball in the City of London's majestic Guildhall, organised on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the 1989 Velvet revolution. The ball will be organised together with the City of London Corporation, partner of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in London

- **Velvet Revolution 1989 – seminar “Generation89”**

(22nd November)

- In cooperation with the University of Cardiff and the University of Bristol, the Embassy of the Czech Republic will organise a seminar with contemporary witnesses of the revolution events of 1989 Czechoslovakia

*The Embassy of the Czech Republic in London will reflect upon the **Presidency of the Czech Republic in the V4 Group** taking place from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2020. The Embassy will also cooperate and coordinate its events with all the Czech governmental agencies represented in London.*

Envisaged Activities in 2020

- **New Year's Concert at the Embassy**

(17th January 2020)

- Czech Trio Incendio, founded by three young Czech musicians – pianist Karolína Františová, violinist Filip Zaykov and cellist Vilém Petras in 2016 in Prague, where all the members grew up, is considered to be among the most talented young European ensembles.

- **Jan Svoboda exhibition at The Photographers' Gallery, London**

(21st February – 7th June)

- A retrospective exhibition of one of the most internationally acclaimed Czech photographers in the prestigious Photographers' Gallery in London

- **Julian Anderson's trip to Prague**

(27th– 31st April)

- A famous British composer's visit to Prague in a cooperation with the Czech philharmonic.

- **Seminar on Czech and British Cooperation in the Space Industry**

(April/June)

- Business and scientific seminar bringing together Czech and British companies and R&D centres focusing on the products, trends and innovation in the space industry and in AI

- **Wooden puppets theatre of Jan Hrubec**

(23rd May)

Two fairy tales for children and their parents: The Princes and Green Peas –The Animals and Robbers.

- **Czech Wine Day**

(May)

- Presentation of Czech and Moravian wines with the Moravian Folk Group cultural program. A B2B event. For British wholesalers, retailers and representatives in the hospitality industry

- **Czech Beer Day (in cooperation with the CzechTrade Agency)**

(11th June)

- Presentation of Czech breweries and their products with accompanying cultural programme in the garden of the Czech Embassy in London. A B2B event. For British wholesalers, retailers and representatives in the hospitality industry

- **Exhibition of a Czech Artist in Guernsey**

(May - June)

- Cultural diplomacy project held together with the Art for Guernsey project in the aftermath of the "75th liberation day" of Guernsey Island.

- **Concert by Martinů Strings Prague**

(15th September)

- Classical music concert by some of the Czech Republic's leading chamber musicians in the St Martin-in-the-Fields Church in London

- **Exhibition of Krištof Kintera in the Ikon Gallery, Birmingham**

(16th September – 22nd November)

- Exhibition by one of the most renowned contemporary Czech artist, who has been nominated for the Jindrich Chalupecky Award three times. Exclusively, the Ikon Gallery will provide all its premises to Kintera to realise this project

- **State reception on the Occasion of the Czech National Day**

(September)

- At the Residence of the Czech Ambassador in Hampstead, an absolutely unique exhibition of the Bohemian Crown Jewels inside the residence held in a cooperation with the Central Bohemia region. A presentation of modern and vintage cars by Škoda in the residence' garden, the most important Czech car producer

‘Never Forgotten’

(The whole year)

- ‘Never Forgotten’ is a project in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. In the year 2020, Ambassador Libor Sečka aims to visit all military cemeteries and memorials to Czechoslovak airmen and soldiers, who lost their lives during their service in the United Kingdom in the Second World War. The Ambassador will place a flower in memory of the deceased on each of the graves. An event held together with the Representatives of the Memorial Association for Free Czechoslovak Veterans in order to commemorate fallen comrades at a service (World War II soldiers and military war veterans who participated in modern military missions) followed by a reception at the Embassy.

- **ICT Start-ups London** *(in cooperation with the CzechInvest Agency)*

(October)

- A sixth season of this popular seminar introducing promising Czech start-ups in the field of information and communications technology to potential investors and partners in the United Kingdom. This event will take place in the cinema of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in London

- **Exhibition of sculptures by Daniela Vinopalová**

(TBC)

- Exhibition of expressionist sculptures and vases by one of the most progressive Czech female sculptors of the 20th century



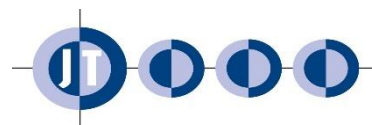


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