

Účast NM SED – zahájení číše vína na New Zealand Trade and Enterprise

Za novozélandskou stranu zahájí: Caroline Bilkey, Director of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Branch in Auckland

Návrh vystoupení:

- It is my honor and pleasure to welcome you all here on the occasion of our business mission.
- Let me express my very special thanks to New Zealand Trade and Enterprise for allowing us to use their amazing premises and for all that wonderful cooperation we have had while preparing the mission, and also to Caroline Bilkey from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for their support.
- Within a month, on November 17, we will commemorate 30 years anniversary of Velvet revolution – a precious moment of our history that allowed us to follow a pathway of democracy and enjoy the liberty of free market.
- Finding our way from centrally-directed economy to open market was not an easy task. Our exclusive east-block countries forced business focus proved to be devastating and in the initial years put our competition skills to a test
- Facing obstacles, 30 years ago we embarked on a journey that led us here to our NATO membership in 1999 and in 2004 in the EU.
- Despite a large geographical distance, the Czech Republic and New Zealand are close friends and like-minded partners. We share similar fundamental values of a rules-based order, democracy, free and open market and respect for human rights. Czech Republic is an export based economy, with our export go on average of 80 % to the EU member states
- The Czech Republic trade relations with New Zealand have been stable in the long-term with mutual merchandise exchange of USD 137,4 mil in 2018. The Czech Republic exports consist primarily of cars (40% on average.)
- If I may briefly introduce the major Czech Republic industries, I would need to name the automotive first, which has been the backbone for decades. There are more and more Skoda cars cruising the streets on New Zealand. Another one is aerospace – Kiwis seem to enjoy Czech ultralights.
- Other essential industries are ICT – cyber security, AI, smart solutions, nano, power engineering, recycling. In many companies, households and in our pockets there are devices with Avast and AVG antivirus installed. There might be some fine examples of Czech power engineering – turbines – installed in some of the NZ hydroplants. And, of course, today we will have a chance to taste some of the Czech brewing produce at the end

- Czech company LINET is present at New Zealand market, to name a leading global producer of healthcare equipment.
- Talking of Skoda and Linet – those shouldn't be the only flagships of our national industries we focus on. At the end of the day, it's the support of SME's that really connects people in mutual trade and cooperation.
- In a search for new opportunities of mutual collaboration, we have gathered and delivered representatives of various industries, including ICT, advanced engineering, research institutions.
- We hope this mission will allow for yet more of new ways of cooperation to be discovered and new opportunities unlocked.
- We oppose protectionism and perceive the currently negotiated Free Trade Agreements as an opportunity to deepen our partnerships.
- The FTAs will be mutually beneficial agreement boosting opportunities for businesses by removing trade barriers for goods and services.
- Bilateral trade in goods between EU and New Zealand equalled €9,2 bn in 2018 whereas trade in services accounted for €4,8 bn in 2017. The EU is New Zealand's third largest trading partner, accounting for 13.5 % of total trade. The fifth round of negotiations was held already and negotiations show good progress.
- Allow me to finish here and briefly conclude: the world is getting more and more interconnected nowadays, and it is easier to build bridges, tapping into new niches and further extending beyond the traditional pathways. The cooperation we seek is not only in the traditional ways yet on a level of R&D and innovation, too - for ideas, the distance is no barrier.
- Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your attention – please enjoy the evening!