



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Czech Republic

# Report on the Foreign Policy of the Czech Republic

2010

# Contents

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| INTRODUCTION..... | 10 |
|-------------------|----|

|                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| I. MULTILATERAL COOPERATION..... | 15 |
|----------------------------------|----|

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>1. The Czech Republic and the European Union.....</b> | <b>15</b> |
|--|-----------|

|   |    |
|---|----|
| The Czech Republic and European Union external relations .....            | 15 |
| Treaty of Lisbon .....  | 17 |
| European Union enlargement .....  | 18 |
| The Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union .....         | 21 |
| The Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.....          | 21 |
| The Czech Republic and the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy .....  | 22 |
| Representation of the Czech Republic before the EU Court of Justice ..... | 33 |
| Responses to the financial and economic crisis .....                      | 35 |
| The Europe 2020 strategy and the European Semester .....                  | 37 |
| Preparation for talks on new EU Multiannual Financial Framework .....     | 38 |
| Energy and climate change.....  | 39 |
| The EU internal market and sector policies .....                          | 41 |
| The European Economic Area .....  | 46 |
| The European Union's new macro-regional strategies .....                  | 47 |
| Internal security and judicial cooperation .....                          | 48 |
| EU law and Czech foreign policy .....                                     | 51 |
| European Neighbourhood Policy .....                                       | 53 |
| The Czech Republic and the Common Security and Defence Policy .....       | 56 |
| EU development cooperation and humanitarian aid.....                      | 62 |

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>2. The Czech Republic and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.....</b> | <b>65</b> |
|--|-----------|

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Bilateral meetings between members of the Czech government and NATO SG and visits to the Czech Republic ..... | 65 |
| Summits and ministerial meetings in 2010 .....  | 65 |
| Political themes.....   | 66 |
| Operations and missions .....   | 74 |
| NATO transformation and reform.....   | 78 |
| Public diplomacy.....   | 80 |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>3. The Czech Republic and regional cooperation .....</b> | <b>81</b> |
|---|-----------|

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Visegrad cooperation .....        | 81 |
| Central European Initiative ..... | 83 |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Regional Partnership .....   | 85         |
| Regional Cooperation Council.....  | 86         |
| <b>4. The Czech Republic and other European international organisations and forums....</b> | <b>86</b>  |
| The Czech Republic and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)..... | 86         |
| Council of Europe .....  | 92         |
| <b>5. The Czech Republic and the United Nations (UN) .....</b>                             | <b>94</b>  |
| Principle UN bodies .....  | 94         |
| UN international conferences.....  | 103        |
| UN specialised agencies.....   | 105        |
| UN programmes, funds and other specialised bodies .....                                    | 110        |
| UN humanitarian programmes and agencies .....  | 111        |
| The fight against transnational organised crime and drugs in the UN .....                  | 114        |
| <b>6. The Czech Republic and other international organisations.....</b>                    | <b>116</b> |
| The Czech Republic and the world economy.....  | 116        |
| The Czech Republic's membership in other international organisations.....                  | 125        |
| <b>7. The international law dimension of the Czech Republic's foreign policy .....</b>     | <b>129</b> |
| <b>8. Human rights in Czech foreign policy.....</b>  | <b>135</b> |
| <b>9. Non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament .....</b>                            | <b>138</b> |
| <b>11. The Czech Republic in the fight against international terrorism .....</b>           | <b>148</b> |
| <b>12. Foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid .....</b>                      | <b>152</b> |
| Development cooperation.....   | 152        |
| Humanitarian Aid.....  | 158        |
| <b>13. Transformation policy and cooperation.....</b>                                      | <b>162</b> |
| Projects implemented in 2010.....  | 165        |
| <b>14. The consular dimension of the Czech Republic's foreign policy.....</b>              | <b>172</b> |

## II. THE CZECH REPUBLIC'S BILATERAL RELATIONS<sup>178</sup>

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>1. The Czech Republic's Relations with Central European Countries .....</b> | <b>178</b> |
| Austria.....   | 179        |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Germany.....   | 181        |
| Hungary .....  | 183        |
| Liechtenstein.....   | 184        |
| Poland .....   | 185        |
| Slovakia.....  | 187        |
| Slovenia.....  | 189        |
| Switzerland.....   | 190        |
| <b>2. The Czech Republic's Relations with North European Countries .....</b>   | <b>191</b> |
| Denmark.....   | 192        |
| Estonia .....  | 193        |
| Finland .....  | 194        |
| Iceland.....   | 195        |
| Latvia.....  | 195        |
| Lithuania.....   | 197        |
| Norway .....   | 198        |
| Sweden .....   | 199        |
| <b>3. The Czech Republic's Relationship with West European Countries .....</b> | <b>200</b> |
| Belgium .....  | 201        |
| France.....  | 202        |
| Great Britain .....  | 204        |
| Ireland.....   | 206        |
| Italy .....  | 207        |
| Luxembourg.....  | 208        |
| Malta .....  | 210        |
| Monaco.....  | 211        |
| The Netherlands.....   | 211        |
| Portugal.....  | 212        |
| San Marino.....  | 213        |
| Sovereign Military Order of Malta.....   | 213        |
| Spain.....   | 214        |
| Vatican .....  | 217        |
| <b>4. The Czech Republic's Relations with East European Countries.....</b>     | <b>218</b> |
| Armenia.....   | 219        |
| Azerbaijan .....   | 220        |
| Belarus.....   | 222        |
| Georgia .....  | 223        |
| Moldova.....   | 225        |
| Russia .....   | 227        |
| Ukraine.....   | 229        |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>5. The Czech Republic's Relations with Southeast European Countries .....</b>            | <b>231</b> |
| Albania .....   | 231        |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina .....  | 233        |
| Bulgaria .....  | 235        |
| Croatia .....   | 237        |
| Cyprus .....  | 238        |
| Greece .....  | 239        |
| Kosovo .....  | 240        |
| Macedonia / FYROM .....   | 241        |
| Montenegro .....  | 242        |
| Romania .....   | 243        |
| Serbia .....  | 245        |
| Turkey .....  | 247        |
| <br>  |            |
| <b>6. The Czech Republic's Relations with Middle East and North African Countries .....</b> | <b>249</b> |
| Algeria .....   | 250        |
| Bahrain .....   | 250        |
| Egypt .....   | 251        |
| Iraq .....  | 252        |
| Iran .....  | 254        |
| Israel .....  | 254        |
| Jordan .....  | 256        |
| Kuwait .....  | 258        |
| Lebanon .....   | 259        |
| Libya .....   | 260        |
| Morocco .....   | 260        |
| Oman .....  | 262        |
| Palestinian Autonomous Territories .....  | 262        |
| Saudi Arabia .....  | 263        |
| Syria .....   | 264        |
| Tunisia .....   | 265        |
| United Arab Emirates .....  | 265        |
| Yemen .....   | 266        |
| <br>  |            |
| <b>7. The Czech Republic's Relations with the Countries of Sub-Saharan Africa .....</b>     | <b>267</b> |
| Angola .....  | 268        |
| Botswana .....  | 268        |
| Cape Verde .....  | 269        |
| Democratic Republic of Congo .....  | 270        |
| Djibouti .....  | 271        |
| Ethiopia .....  | 271        |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Ghana .....  | 272        |
| Kenya.....   | 273        |
| Mali .....   | 275        |
| Namibia.....   | 275        |
| Nigeria.....   | 276        |
| Republic of Congo .....  | 277        |
| RSA.....   | 278        |
| Senegal .....  | 279        |
| Sudan .....  | 280        |
| Zambia.....  | 280        |
| Zimbabwe.....  | 281        |
| <b>8. The Czech Republic's Relations with North America Countries .....</b>                            | <b>283</b> |
| Canada.....  | 283        |
| USA.....   | 285        |
| <b>9. The Czech Republic's Relations with Central and South American and Caribbean Countries .....</b> | <b>290</b> |
| Argentina.....   | 291        |
| Barbados .....   | 292        |
| Brazil .....   | 292        |
| Chile .....  | 294        |
| Colombia .....   | 295        |
| Costa Rica.....  | 296        |
| Cuba .....   | 297        |
| Dominican Republic .....   | 298        |
| Ecuador .....  | 299        |
| El Salvador .....  | 299        |
| Haiti.....   | 300        |
| Honduras .....   | 301        |
| Mexico .....   | 301        |
| Panama.....  | 303        |
| Paraguay.....  | 303        |
| Peru .....   | 304        |
| Uruguay.....   | 305        |
| Venezuela .....  | 306        |
| <b>10. The Czech Republic's Relations with Asian and Pacific Countries .....</b>                       | <b>308</b> |
| Afghanistan .....  | 309        |
| Australia .....  | 311        |
| Bangladesh .....   | 312        |
| Bhutan.....  | 313        |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Brunei.....  | 313        |
| Cambodia .....   | 313        |
| China .....  | 314        |
| Democratic People’s Republic of Korea .....                                  | 322        |
| East Timor.....  | 323        |
| India .....  | 323        |
| Indonesia.....   | 325        |
| Japan .....  | 326        |
| Kazakhstan.....  | 328        |
| Kyrgyzstan.....  | 329        |
| Laos .....   | 330        |
| Malaysia .....   | 330        |
| Maldives .....   | 331        |
| Mongolia .....   | 331        |
| Myanmar/Burma .....  | 333        |
| Nepal .....  | 334        |
| New Zealand.....   | 335        |
| Pakistan.....  | 336        |
| Republic of Korea.....   | 337        |
| Singapore .....  | 340        |
| Sri Lanka .....  | 340        |
| Tajikistan.....  | 341        |
| Thailand .....   | 342        |
| The Philippines .....  | 343        |
| Turkmenistan.....  | 344        |
| Uzbekistan.....  | 345        |
| Vietnam.....   | 347        |
| <b>III. Economic and Cultural Dimensions of Foreign Policy .....</b>         | <b>350</b> |
| <b>1. Promoting the Czech Republic’s Economic Interests Abroad .....</b>     | <b>350</b> |
| <b>2. The Czech Republic’s Foreign Cultural and Information Policy .....</b> | <b>356</b> |
| Presentation of the Czech Republic and its culture abroad .....              | 356        |
| Czech Centres.....   | 358        |
| Media and information .....  | 360        |
| Internet presentation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs .....               | 363        |
| Czech Radio international broadcasting .....                                 | 364        |
| <b>IV. CZECHS ABROAD .....</b>   | <b>367</b> |

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>V. THE CZECH FOREIGN SERVICE .....</b>  | <b>372</b>     |
| <b>1. Staffing.....</b>  | <b>372</b>     |
| <b>2. Diplomatic Academy .....</b>   | <b>375</b>     |
| Training modules .....   | 375            |
| International cooperation.....   | 376            |
| <b>3. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' budget and operations.....</b>  | <b>377</b>     |
| Incomes .....  | 378            |
| Expenditure.....   | 378            |
| <br><b>APPENDICES .....</b>  | <br><b>384</b> |
| <br><b>Overview of the Czech Republic's diplomatic relations.....</b>  | <br><b>384</b> |
| <br><b>Overview of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' contributions for the Czech Republic's membership of international organisations .....</b> | <br><b>395</b> |
| Membership of international organisations in the UN system.....  | 395            |
| The Czech Republic's membership of international organisations in the field of multilateral economic relations .....                           | 396            |
| The Czech Republic's contributions to international organisations in the field of human rights and special-purpose contributions.....          | 398            |
| Payments to organisations in the field of international law and certain others.....  | 399            |
| <br><b>Overview of the Czech Republic's participation in peacekeeping missions .....</b>   | <br><b>400</b> |
| Participation of the Army of the Czech Republic's participation in foreign missions and operations.....  | 400            |
| The Czech Republic's participation in civilian missions.....   | 400            |
| <br><b>The Czech Republic's participation in OSCE and EU observer missions .....</b>   | <br><b>401</b> |
| <br><b>Heads of Missions of the Czech Republic as at 31 December 2010 .....</b>  | <br><b>402</b> |
| Missions headed by ambassadors and chargés d'affaires .....  | 402            |
| General consulates/consulates .....  | 412            |
| Other types of mission .....   | 413            |
| Consular offices.....  | 413            |
| <br><b>Placement of MFA staff within the framework of international organisations.....</b>   | <br><b>414</b> |
| EU civilian missions.....  | 414            |
| Secondments in EU institutions .....   | 414            |



|   |            |
|---|------------|
| OSCE .....  | 415        |
| Office of the NATO Senior Civilian Representative for Afghanistan ..... | 415        |
| KFOR Kosovo .....   | 415        |
| Offices of the EU Special Representatives (EUSR) .....                  | 415        |
| European External Action Service (EEAS).....                            | 416        |
| <b>Laureates of the Gratias Agit Award 2010 .....</b>                   | <b>417</b> |
| <b>Czech Centres .....</b>  | <b>418</b> |
| <b>Publications by units of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.....</b>    | <b>419</b> |
| <b>Organisational Chart of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs .....</b>    | <b>420</b> |
| <b>Acronyms of MFA units valid as at 31 December 2010 .....</b>         | <b>421</b> |
| <b>Acronyms of organisations founded by the MFA .....</b>               | <b>423</b> |

## Introduction

In accordance with tradition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic presents its annual report on foreign policy. Last year's report for the year 2009 was, in contrast to previous years, the first to also be provided in electronic form. This year's report offers the same user-friendliness and is likewise guided by an effort to provide maximum informative value with the results presented. In putting this report together we focused even more on the concise and unambiguous language of clear data. This effort for greater comprehensibility is also felt in the shorter introduction, as systematically organised text does not need extensive additional explanation.

Foreign policy is above all a continual process. A great number of projects, ambitions, processes and cycles included under foreign policy are not delineated by the calendar year. Nonetheless, for practical reasons yearly annual reports have become an established tradition and we therefore present as intelligible a view as possible of what 2010 was like for Czech foreign policy.

At first glance it might seem that 2010 was a quiet period for foreign relations. The close of the first decade of the new millennium seems to have lacked any climactic events that could be labelled milestones or defining moments of Czech foreign policy. In comparison with the preceding years, 2010 was a period that demanded more systematic work of the sort not always evident to the general public. At first glance it could seem that our foreign policy receded into the background in 2010. After a stream of major events – for example the confirmation of the international position of renewed democracy in 1990, entry to NATO, integration into the EU and our EU Presidency in 2009 – a period began in 2010 where the focus and meaning of our foreign policy was divided up into a range of lesser tasks, of which each however had its own specific role in forwarding our state interests and ensuring the continuity of our foreign policy.

2010 was also the year when a new government was formed following parliamentary elections. While foreign policy was not a central theme of the election campaign, the new governing coalition increased the attention devoted to foreign policy and anchored this in the government's mission statement.

August's programme declaration of Prime Minister Nečas's cabinet set foreign policy and diplomatic goals as one of its priorities. The main goals of our foreign policy were mentioned in the government declaration: to forward the interests of the Czech Republic intensively within the EU, to involve the European committees of both chambers of Parliament more in EU relations, and to push for approval of the Czech exemption from the Lisbon Treaty. Other priorities listed by the government were EU enlargement, energy security and increasing competitiveness. Also mentioned as a priority was endeavouring to break down protectionist barriers. Further goals

included: to accent cooperation with the USA and the countries of Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans and to support democracy and human rights in the world; to prepare a new foreign policy concept in parallel with a new state security strategy; to push for closer cooperation between the EU and NATO and to prepare for participation in foreign missions at a level commensurate to the abilities and financial capacity of the Czech Republic.

All these priorities mentioned in the government declaration were met over the course of 2010, as can be seen in greater detail in the following text of the report. It is also necessary to mention that the current government placed emphasis on the continuity of foreign policy and the level of domestic political consensus in the formulation thereof. In terms of cooperation between parliamentary political parties, effort was made to ensure greater continuity in the state's foreign policy, thereby increasing its credibility.

The year 2010, though primarily a year of systematic bilateral and multilateral diplomatic work, did have some peaks that stuck out of the "iceberg" of day-to-day diplomatic activity. One such example was the USA-Russia summit and the signature of the new START treaty. A year after US President Barack Obama announced his vision for a world without nuclear weapons at Prague Castle's Hradčanské náměstí, the American statesman was back in Prague. On 8 April 2010 the Castle became the site of the official signature of the START treaty, which President Obama signed with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. This symbolic act of signing a highly significant international document once again confirmed the prestige of the Czech capital of Prague as a metropolis of international importance, a strategic intersection of global political forces and a place where cultures have long clashed and intermingled.

Also worthy of mention is NATO's Lisbon Summit, which took place in the Portuguese capital of Lisbon on 19 and 20 November 2010 and was labelled one of the most important in the Alliance's history. The most important item of the whole summit was the approval of NATO's new Strategic Concept, in which Czech diplomacy took an active part in preparing. The document defines the new challenges, tasks and objectives that the Alliance will face in the coming years. For the Czech Republic, the updating of NATO's Strategic Concept is important for the very reason mentioned above, that our country is located in an area that is a strategic intersection of global political forces and ambitions.

An undeniable success was our activity in the Eastern Partnership. The emphasis our foreign policy places on this initiative is derived logically from our geographical position and from our mid- and long-term national interests. It is also one of the characteristic features of our foreign policy – one of our "values added". An example of the Czech Republic's active role in the Eastern Partnership is the pushing through of the principle of "more for more", confirmed at the ministerial meeting in Brussels on 13 December 2010. This means that more support and accommodation should be provided to those Eastern Partnership members who show greater interest and better results in the transformation toward democracy and a market economy and moving toward the EU.

Other activities by the Czech Republic that fell under the Eastern Partnership in 2010 were, for example, lobbying for greater support for the Civil Society Forum or efforts for greater involvement by civil society in implementing reforms and greater support from the EU. This policy is completely in synergy with a further traditional characteristic of our foreign policy, which is support for the observance of human rights in the world in their position as universal values.

A success of Czech diplomacy in neighbourly relations is its activity as part of the Visegrad Four or V4. The coordination of the V4 states in their approach to key EU agendas was strengthened and the V4 managed to bring greater assertiveness to bear toward the EU.

Continuing progress and stabilisation of relations with Germany is another of Czech diplomacy's successes in terms of relationships with neighbours. In this relationship we act more and more as a key partner and are also perceived as such, with our importance dictated by both geographical conditions and the growing level of economic ties, as well as centuries of mutual influence as part of European culture.

One of the significant areas where Czech diplomacy was active was the push to diversify the EU's energy sources and increase the continent's energy security. As the government declaration emphasised in the second half of the year, the government considers its priorities within the EU to be enlargement, energy security and increased EU competitiveness. Energy was an important topic in the EU again in 2010. The Lisbon Treaty also brought a change to this field, with responsibility for this issue now shared between the EU and member states. The European Commission submitted fundamental strategic documents reflecting the new situation in November 2010 when it published the Energy 2020 strategy and its Communication on energy infrastructure with an outlook to further years. These documents set off a more profound discussion on the semblance of European energy, including the context of the EU's planned financial perspective for the period 2014–2020.

Another diplomatic constant in 2010 was ongoing engagement in the field of human rights protection, transformation toward democracy and strengthening democracy and principles of good governance. In 2010 the Czech Republic actively took part in formulating the EU's human rights policy in the EU Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM). Among the priority topics discussed in this working group in 2010 were freedom of religion and faith, the rights of sexual minorities, support for democracy, human rights in Iran, rationalisation of local human rights strategies, suppressing racism and preparing a review of the UN Human Rights Council. An evaluation of the human rights dialogue with China took place and a similar process was launched for dialogue with Russia.

A testimony to the importance of systematic foreign policy efforts based on the continuity of national interests is the success of Czech diplomacy in the Galileo project. In December 2010 it was confirmed that the Czech Republic would be the site of the GSA agency. This decision meant recognition of the Czech Republic's preparedness to provide a quality base for both the activities

associated with running the GSA and the associated activities of public and private entities involved in preparing and operating the Galileo satellite system. This is an unquestionable success of the work by all ranks and departments that were involved on this issue.

The year 2010 further strengthened our position within the European Union, with the Czech Republic presenting itself as a sovereign country capable of putting forward its interests and at the same time as a responsible, constructive EU member. In terms of the Czech Republic's foreign policy, EU external relations are a highly important area that reflects the level of the EU's influence on the international scene. Alongside the Common Foreign and Security Policy, the field of EU external relations also includes the common commercial policy, development cooperation, the EU enlargement process, visa issues, migration policy and other external dimensions of EU internal policies. The energy policy holds an important position among these aspects and, in regards to energy security, the role of its external dimension is growing. In 2010 the Czech Republic continued to take part in defining the main line of the EU's external relations agenda through its involvement in the appropriate formations of the Council of the EU. Its priorities were relations with the countries of Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans.

The first year the Lisbon Treaty was in force, 2010, under the Spanish and Belgian Council of the EU Presidencies, showed that the reform of institutional organisation, intended to improve the functioning of the EU and make it more transparent and simplified, was not so quickly achievable. Interpretation of the changes dictated by the Lisbon Treaty kicked off a period of redefinition of the relations among EU institutions. Political attention and legal implementation first focused getting the new EU representatives set up in their functions and endorsing the European Commission at the beginning of its new mandate. The European Commission, once again led by José Manuel Barroso, took up its function on 10 February 2010. The Czech Republic is represented by the European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle.

The year 2010 was a year of fundamental changes in the functioning of the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy, also caused by the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty (on 1 December 2009). This primarily related to the creation of a brand new EU body, the European External Action Service (EEAS), the main task of which is to assist EU High Representative Catherine Ashton in achieving the EU's foreign policy goals. Since the creation of the EEAS, the Czech Republic has attempted to follow the conditions for EU member state diplomats in the EEAS and to lobby for our diplomats to join this European foreign service.

The results of our foreign policy in 2010 confirmed that, twenty years after the radical changes in Central and Eastern Europe, the Czech Republic is a stable, democratic and developed country anchored in the conditions of international stability and external security. The fundamental goal of Czech foreign policy is to ensure safety and prosperity for the Czech Republic and its citizens and to protect the interests of Czech entities abroad. In a broader sense, Czech

foreign policy promoted and defended our national interests while not forgetting to consider other important values: human dignity, awareness of obligations to others, responsibility toward human rights and principles of civil society. For this reason it can be said that 2010 was a successful year for Czech foreign policy.

# I. Multilateral Cooperation

## 1. The Czech Republic and the European Union

### **The Czech Republic and European Union external relations**

In terms of the Czech Republic's foreign policy, EU external relations are a highly important area that reflects the level of the EU's influence on the international scene. In 2010 the Czech Republic continued to take part in defining the main line of the EU's external relations agenda through its involvement in the appropriate formations of the Council of the EU. It set as its priorities relations with the countries of Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans.

A key issue for the EU's external relations is development in its immediate neighbourhood. The countries of **Eastern Europe** remain a subject of interest for the Czech Republic, and not just in terms of their relation to the EU. The Eastern Partnership, one of the priorities of Czech foreign policy, entered its second year of existence and the Czech Republic endeavoured to make maximum use of its bilateral and multilateral dimensions over the course of the whole year. Fulfilment of the main goal of the Eastern Partnership – spreading stability and prosperity on the European continent – is however often confronted with the political developments in individual partner countries (for more detail see the chapter on the European Neighbourhood Policy). In terms of the **process of EU enlargement**, progress was made in 2010 in the accession talks with **Croatia**, while for **Turkey no progress was made**. By a decision of the European Council, **Iceland and Montenegro** attained the status of candidate countries in 2010. Complimentary to this was the **process of visa liberalisation with the countries of the Western Balkans**, which took place over the whole of 2010 (for more detail see the chapters on EU Enlargement and the Czech Republic and the ESDP).

The **United States of America**, as the EU's most important strategic partner, continued in coordinating its stance on key international issues, which culminated with the EU-US summit on 20 November 2010. The EU-US Energy Council assembled on the day before the summit. In December 2010 a meeting of the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC) was held in Washington with the goal of removing trade barriers between the EU and the USA. Development of EU – Canada relations continued successfully in 2010 as well. Expert talks took place on the *Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)* between the EU and Canada. For the Czech Republic, relations with Canada were marked by the ongoing visa problem.

In parallel to the ongoing, as yet unsuccessful multilateral efforts to unblock the **Israel-Palestine peace talks**, EU diplomacy pushed for practical steps toward strengthening the institutional and economic development of the Palestinian Territories in 2010.

EU relations with Asia in 2010 were dominated by aid for **flood-afflicted Pakistan and the security situation in Afghanistan/Pakistan**; other significant topics in this regard were the unrest in Kyrgyzstan, elections in Myanmar/Burma and the increased tension on the Korean Peninsula. A traditionally important pillar of EU-Asia relations was working on the EU's relationship with China; in the context of the debate on the ten strategic partners launched in 2010, discussions on the need to recalibrate relations with China as a key EU partner came up. Regular summits with Japan, China, the Republic of Korea and India took place, as did an *ad hoc* summit with Pakistan. The ASEM summit was held in Brussels. A Free Trade Agreement between the EU and South Korea was signed in 2010, a modern legal instrument to govern trade between developed economies.

The most important meeting with representatives of the African continent was the **EU-Africa summit**, which took place in Tripoli, Libya in November 2010. The EU-Africa summit was preceded by a meeting between the African Union (AU) and the EU, which was held in April 2010 and which aimed primarily to improve implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, prepare a new Action Plan and plan for the EU-Africa summit. Over the EU-Africa summit the main summit documents were adopted, above all including the new Joint Africa-EU Strategy Action Plan for the years 2011–2013. A joint declaration on climate change, however, failed to be adopted.

**EU-Latin America** relations were dominated by the EU-LAC summit and the numerous events associated with this summit. At the sidelines of the EU-LAC foreign minister meetings and the EU-LAC summit in May 2010, top-level meetings were held between the EU and Chile, Mexico, CARICOM, Mercosur, Central America and the Andean Community. As part of these sub-regional summits, announcements were made on the completion of the Association Agreement with Central America, on multilateral trade agreements with Colombia and Peru and on renewal of negotiations on an Association Agreement with Mercosur. An EU-Brazil summit took place in August 2010.

An important medium for external activities and support for EU policies are the **EU external cooperation financial instruments**, the most important of which are the ENPI (*European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument*), the IPA (*Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance*), the EDF (*European Development Fund*) and the DCI (*Development Cooperation Instrument*). In addition to these geographically focused instruments, the Czech Republic also closely monitors the thematic instruments, in particular the EIDHR (*European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights*). The total amount of funding the European Union spends on external cooperation reaches EUR 13 billion annually. Approximately EUR 10 billion of that is implemented through the external cooperation financial instruments. These funds come from both the EU budget (representing 5.7 % of the budget) and from the European Development Fund, which is programmed in five-year cycles from member state contributions and is not part of the EU budget. In the second half of 2010, the first discussions began to take place about revising these EU external cooperation financial instruments. The results of this revision will have an influence on



the future form of funding for EU external cooperation for the period of the new 2014–2020 Multiannual Financial Framework.

## **Treaty of Lisbon**

The first year the Lisbon Treaty was in force, 2010, showed that the reform of institutional organisation in order to improve the functioning of the EU and make it more transparent and simplified was not so quickly achievable. Interpretation of the changes made by the Lisbon Treaty kicked off a period of redefinition of the relations among EU institutions. Political attention and legal implementation first focused on getting the new EU representatives set up in their functions and endorsing the European Commission at the beginning of its new mandate. The European Commission, once again led by José Manuel Barroso, took up its function on 10 February 2010. The Czech Republic is represented by the European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle.

In the first half year of his mandate, permanent President of the European Council Herman van Rompuy managed to largely dispel the initial mistrust regarding his role and actions in his new function. He successfully rose to the occasion in dealing with major topics such as the economic situation of the EU, the debt problems of some member states, the danger to the common currency and last but not least the new ten-year strategy Europe 2020. In one year, he called a total of six EU summits, two of them extraordinary. He founded the so-called Task Force on Economic Governance, the results of which formed the base for adopting decisions on both the Council of the EU and the European Council. This is a completely new approach compared to the previous method applied at the EU level, an approach of top-down management. His mandate will last two and a half years with the possibility of one extension.

In the first phase of her term, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton dealt with creating the necessary conditions for establishing the *European External Action Service* (EEAS) – for more information see the chapter on the Czech Republic and the CFSP.

Over the course of 2010, talks took place on the EU's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, so far without a final result. Negotiations on the status of the EU within the UN were likewise not completed by the end of 2010.

The role of the rotating Presidency also underwent a change. The practice of a Presidency Trio was introduced, meaning formalised cooperation of three subsequent Presidencies for a period of a year and a half. The rotating Presidency remains responsible for chairing the General Affairs Council (hereinafter the Council), for leading discussion, looking for compromises and representing the opinion of the Council toward other institutions. The Lisbon Treaty increased the volume of work by, for example, expanding the number of areas where legislative acts are discussed

through cooperative decision-making, which puts greater demands on collaboration between the Council (Presidency) and the European Parliament.

The strengthening of the role of the European Parliament proved to be the most significant and in practice most visible change that the Lisbon Treaty brought about. In addition, in 2010 the European Parliament was not satisfied with mere mechanical fulfilment of the provisions of the Treaty, but actively attempted to increase its power and expand its zone of influence as much as possible. This was most felt when negotiating the conditions for creating the European External Action Service and the budget, where the European Parliament now decides on all categories, with no distinction between obligatory and non-obligatory expenditures. The size of the European Parliament had to be brought in line with the Lisbon Treaty; the number of MEPs was temporarily increased from 738 to 754 for the 2009–2014 period. The Czech Republic was not affected by this change, keeping its current 22 seats in the EP.

The economic and financial crisis, which led to some eurozone members becoming highly indebted, brought about the need for further adjustment to the Lisbon Treaty. In relation to this, decisions were made at the top EU forums on establishing a permanent European Stability Mechanism designed to provide financial assistance to over-indebted states of the eurozone. The December European Council supported this goal politically.

In 2010 the following topics were discussed as part of inter-institutional dialogue: the Inter-institutional Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the Commission through 2014, negotiating the EU multi-annual financial framework for 2014–2020, the procedure of negotiating international contracts according to Article 218 of the Treaty, the Council of the EU joining the Transparency Register, EU regulation agencies, financial instruments in the field of external relations and the approach of European Parliament to the confidential sections of international agreements.

The Lisbon Treaty counts on a legal framework being created for the European Citizens' Initiative as a tool of participatory democracy. The European Parliament and Council agreed on the procedural, administrative and organisational parameters of the European Citizens' Initiative on 15 December 2010. It will be necessary to collect 1 million signatures from at least one quarter of EU member states for the European Citizens' Initiative. Through it, EU member state citizens can turn to the European Commission with a request to present a legislative act on the issue or issues presented by the European Citizens' Initiative.

## **European Union enlargement**

On 9 November 2010 the European Union published an "enlargement package" containing documents of the Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2010–2011 and the Progress Report evaluating the individual candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey, Iceland, Macedonia/FYROM) and potential candidate countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo) and

giving recommendations to individual countries for moving closer to accession to the European Union. The European Commission issued an avis for Albania and Montenegro's applications for EU membership. The initiation of accession talks with these two countries is left to the political decision of the Council.

The strategic document for the coming period primarily places emphasis on the issue of maintaining the credibility of the enlargement process; in other words, that the countries aspiring to accede must meet all the required criteria and if they do fulfil all the criteria that they have a clear perspective for membership in the EU. The document emphasises the importance of cohesion between enlargement and other EU policies (energy, transportation, the environment) as well as of strengthening dialogue and sharing experiences on macroeconomic policies and the business environment with individual countries. Great emphasis is placed on strengthening the rule of law, freedom of the media and protection of minorities.

The enlargement package was discussed by member states, and on the basis of these talks the General Affairs Council (hereinafter the Council) adopted the conclusions on EU enlargement on 14 December 2010, which was then confirmed by the European Council on 17 December 2010. The Council's conclusions speak about the fact that the EU enlargement process continues to take place on the basis of the renewed consensus adopted at the European Council session in December of 2006. Every country is evaluated based on its own merit and progress. EU enlargement strengthens democracy, security and stability in Europe and also serves as a key stimulus for the realisation of political and economic reforms in candidate and potential candidate countries. EU enlargement is one of the main programme priorities of the Government of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

### ***Croatia***

The Council's conclusions welcomed Croatia's overall progress in fulfilling the criteria for membership in the EU, adding that talks are now in the final phase. Croatia's efforts at resolving bilateral problems and reaching reconciliation at the regional level are evaluated positively. In order to complete the accession talks, Croatia must primarily make progress in the areas of justice, the fight against corruption, administrative reforms, the rights of minorities, the return of war refugees and war-related trials.

At the end of 2010, Croatia had 34 negotiating chapters open out of a total of 35, with 28 of them provisionally closed. The Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomes Croatia's progress and shares the opinion that accession talks have reached their final phase. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs express the hope that Croatia succeeds in fulfilling the remaining conditions for concluding all chapters so that the accession treaty can be signed in 2011.

### ***Turkey***

The Council's conclusions welcomed the unchanged commitment to continue in accession talks and for implementation of political reforms to continue on the part of Turkey. Great emphasis is placed

on continued reforms in the justice system, the fight against corruption, protection of civil rights, freedom of speech and religion, the functioning of political parties and the rights of minorities. From a foreign policy perspective the strategic significance of Turkey for security and stability in the Near East and Western Balkans, Afghanistan/Pakistan and the southern Caucasus is positively reflected. The Council expects that Turkey will begin implementing the Supplementary Protocol to the Association Agreement, actively support the ongoing negotiations on settling the Cyprus issue, and that a shift will be made in normalising relations with the Republic of Cyprus.

At the end of 2010, Turkey had 13 negotiating chapters open of the total 35, of which one had been provisionally closed. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic supports Turkey's full-fledged membership in the European Union, assuming it meets the relevant conditions, and hopes that it can manage to speed up the accession negotiations. In connection with this, the Foreign Ministry considers it important that Turkey continue with the reform process, make progress in negotiations on resolving the Cyprus issue and proceed with full, indiscriminatory implementation of the Supplementary Protocol to the Ankara Agreement.

### ***Iceland***

The Council's conclusions mention Iceland's long democratic tradition and its close relations with the EU. In light of Iceland's membership in the European Economic Area, its overall level of preparedness for membership in the EU is positive.

Accession talks with Iceland were launched 27 July 2010. In November 2010 the phase of "screening" negotiating chapters was launched. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic welcomes the start of accession talks with Iceland and expects that the first negotiating chapters will be opened in 2011.

### ***Other countries in the Western Balkans***

Further progress was made in the process of European integration with most of the countries in the Western Balkans during both the Spanish and Belgian Presidencies. The main milestones included completion of ratification and entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Montenegro, start of ratification of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Serbia, passing along of Serbian application for EU membership to the European Commission for evaluation (avis) and awarding of candidate status to Montenegro. No progress was made in setting a date for accession talks with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) due to the ongoing bilateral conflict with Greece over the name of that country.

A separate process of bringing the region closer to the European Union is visa liberalisation. Short-term visas for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania could be done away with effective 15 December 2010 if the stipulated conditions are met.

## **The Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

The dominant themes of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2010 were dealing with the problems of the common currency as a result of the serious financial and economic situation in some monetary union member states and coordination of measures to reduce budget deficits and indebtedness. In connection with this, an extraordinary session of the European Council was held in February 2010, where a declaration was adopted on the EU's readiness to provide assistance to Greece and the *EU 2020 Strategy for jobs and growth* was presented. The March EU summit, the first formal meeting of the European Council under its permanent president, continued in discussing economic topics. Five framework goals were discussed as part of the EU 2020 Strategy: employment, science and research, climate change and energy, education and social integration (more specifically reduction of poverty). In June 2010 the EU summit approved the main course of the EU's economic policy including the submitted report on employment. Particularly important topics were strengthening economic cooperation (budget supervision and macroeconomic supervision) and regulation of financial services. A consensus was found on significantly accelerating key legislative measures so that the new supervisory authorities could begin their activities on 1 January 2011.

Under the Spanish Presidency, a decision was adopted on the acceptance of Estonia into the eurozone as of 1 January 2011 and approval was given to the granting of candidate status to Iceland, including a decision to launch accession talks.

In terms of the Millennium Development Goals, a common EU position was arrived at for the September UN Summit confirming the EU's commitment to achieve the established development aid goals by 2015. The Spanish Presidency also dealt with the climate issue, in particular the follow-up to the Copenhagen conference, where reflections were made on the progress to date of "fast-start financing" and discussions were held evaluating the various aspects of moving from a 20 % reduction goal to 30 %.

An unexpected topic of the Spanish Presidency was coordinating the humanitarian and other EU assistance for Haiti following the devastating earthquake there at the start of January. EU summits took place with Russia, Canada, Japan, Pakistan and, for the first time in history, with Morocco. In May a summit was held between the EU and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, with an EU–Mexico summit taking place as well.

## **The Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

Belgium presided over the Council of the EU from 1 July until 31 December 2010 and its priorities included renewing economic growth through steps focused on sustainable economic growth and adopting measures to increase supervision of financial markets.

Already in the first months of the Presidency, an agreement was arrived at with the European Parliament on financial supervision, thereby opening up the path to found three

supervisory bodies to watch over banks, insurance companies and financial markets starting 1 January 2011. Activities leading to the introduction of the European semester as of 1 January 2011 continued. The Task Force Report for strengthened economic coordination was presented at the EU summit in October 2010, containing measures to ensure macroeconomic stability and budget accountability within the EU. The result was, *inter alia*, an agreement on the necessity of changing the Treaty establishing the European Stability Mechanism, which was subsequently confirmed by the December session of the European Council.

During the Belgian Presidency an agreement was reached between the Council and the European Parliament on the rules for establishing the European Citizens' Initiative. In September an extraordinary meeting of the European Council took place, dealing with the EU's relations with strategic partners and the upcoming G20 summit. The European Council agreed that the EU must live up to its role as a global player that is ready to take on a leading function during joint reactions to common problems; the new European External Action Service, founded as of 1 December 2010, should help a great deal in this regard.

In July, accession talks were launched with Iceland, and the December European Council gave consent to grant candidate country status to Montenegro.

Two regional summits took place under the Belgian Presidency – the EU summit with Asian countries (ASEM) and the EU-Africa summit, as did the EU-China, EU-South Korea, EU-USA, EU-Russia and EU-India summits.

## **The Czech Republic and the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy**

The year 2010 was a year of fundamental changes in the functioning of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy, resulting from the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty (on 1 December 2009). In particular this related to the creation of an EU body that had hitherto not existed, the *European External Action Service (EEAS)*, the main task of which is to assist EU High Representative Ashton in achieving the EU's foreign policy goals. The Council Decision establishing the organisation and functioning of the EEAS was adopted 26 July 2010. The decision lays out the responsibilities of the EEAS, which include supporting the High Representative in executing the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and assisting the European Council President, the European Commission President and the Commission in carrying out their functions in the field of external relations. The decision also sets out the method of cooperation between member states and EU institutions and the method for running the EEAS, addresses the issue of hiring employees, transferring them from EU institutions and the budget, and specifies the EEAS's share in programming external action instruments. An important component is the principle for filling EEAS posts, which states that once it reaches full capacity (mid-2013), the EEAS should be at least one third represented by member states and at least 60 % by permanent EU institution employees. The decision also mentions the principle of geographic and gender balance.

In October 2010, the European Parliament approved a package of legal acts that are fundamental for the creation of the EEAS. This package contained a change to the Financial Regulation and the staff rules and a revision of the 2010 budget with an extra EUR 9.5 million approved for the EEAS. Approval of these documents was preceded by complicated negotiations between the European Council, the European Commission and European Parliament in the form of informal trialogues where the institutions defined their positions of power. The approved budget for 2011 totals EUR 475.8 million and includes the employment of a total of 3720 persons (1643 regular jobs and 2077 contract or local jobs or secondary national experts). It was also decided that in the future the EEAS will be located in the Capital building in Brussels. Staff should move in in 2011. Following a demanding legislative marathon, in the end the EEAS managed to formally launch on time on 1 December 2010, exactly one year after the Lisbon Treaty entered into force.

With the creation of the EEAS, changes were also made to the internal structure of institutions. One of the most important was the change to the structure of the European Commission in terms of development policy and humanitarian aid: DG EuropeAid (AIDCO) and DG Development (DEV) were merged, creating the DG EuropeAid Development and Co-operation Directorate-General (DG DEVCO).

The first selection procedures for EEAS structures (at the Brussels headquarters and the EU Delegations) were held over the course of 2010 and the deputies of the top management were named.

In 2010 we saw two draft organisational charts for the EEAS (in July, along with the Decision establishing the EEAS, and at the end of December). The "organigram" expresses the management levels and relations among the individual EEAS components. The top management level is comprised of the Corporate Board, under which the individual managing directors serve, the crisis management structures and the permanent chair of the Political and Security Committee (COPS). The directors report to the managing directors. A level lower are the section heads. The chairs of the working groups are connected to the directors and the section heads. Named to the top management were Pierre Vimont (Secretary-General), David O'Sullivan (Chief Operating Officer), Helga Schmid and Maciej Popowski (both at the level of Deputy Secretary-General).

Also related to the founding of the EEAS was the changeover from the European Commission Delegations to EU Delegations (DEU). Since the beginning of 2010, the execution of local chairmanship has been transferred to DEUs in a significant number of third countries (around 60 countries, with the number increasing further in the second half of the year). The execution of local representation at international organisations has remained with a rotating presidency. The issue of changing the EU representation at the UN from a rotating presidency to a permanent EEAS representative became one of the important and difficult to resolve problems that the High Representative encountered in setting up the EEAS. In September 2010 a resolution that would amend the EU's participation in UN work, including the transition from a presidency to a

permanent representative, was not passed in the UN General Assembly (voting did not even take place as some countries requested more time to discuss the proposal). The resolution had been under development since October 2009.

In light of the Lisbon Treaty's innovations in the field of external policy, a debate was stirred up in the EU in 2010 about the need to establish new relations between the EU and its strategic partners. Currently the EU is developing a total of ten partnerships that it labels "strategic" (with Russia, the USA, Japan, Canada, China, India, Republic of South Africa, Brazil, Mexico and the Republic of Korea). The last strategic partner, South Korea, was only added to this list on 6 October 2010 at the EU-Republic of Korea summit. A series of discussions launched in 2010 on the grounds of the Council on Foreign Relations and the European Council focused on analysing relationships with key partners and using these partnerships to better further EU interests. High Representative Ashton primarily made use of these strategic partnership discussions in connection with her efforts to build a strong EEAS; increasing the effectiveness of relations with strategic partners was one of Ashton's priorities after taking office. The culmination of these debates was an extraordinary European Council 16 October 2010, where High Representative Ashton was assigned the task of, in coordination with the European Commission and Council on Foreign Relations, evaluating the perspectives of relations with all strategic partners and establishing the EU's interests and possibilities for furthering them more effectively. The September European Council also decided that it will regularly discuss upcoming key external relation events with the goal of setting a general course and key messages ahead of time. In 2010, relations with three strategic partners were submitted to analysis – with the USA, Russia and China. High Representative Ashton presented the first results of these debates – a review of relations with the USA, China and Russia – at the European Council on 16 and 17 December 2010. The European Council welcomed this report in its conclusions, calling on the High Representative to continue in discussions and ordaining that progress in this area will be evaluated once per year.

The United States of America remain the EU's most important strategic partner. The EU-US summit took place on 20 November 2010. A new date was set after the originally planned summit during the Spanish Presidency was postponed. The programme included talks on climate issues, security (international terrorism, cyber security) and especially the economy (employment, economic growth). The importance of the Transatlantic Economic Council and the EU-US Energy Council was highlighted, with an emphasis on cooperation in developing and utilising clean technologies in energy and exchanging information and scientific staff. The summit confirmed the strategic importance of EU-US relations for both parties. In 2010 the EU-US Energy Council and Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC) both met.

EU-Canada relations are primarily focused on the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA). CETA was also the main topic at the EU-Canada summit held 5 May 2010 in Brussels. Both sides sent out a clear signal that they reject protectionism. The leaders also



discussed bilateral issues beyond the realm of economic relations (security, law, freedom) and committed to make efforts to resolve the barriers preventing visa-free travel for all EU members.

The Western Balkans region remained a central focus of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy. The EU's interest in this region was confirmed by a conference in the Balkans, which took place 2 June 2010 in Sarajevo. The decisions adopted over the course of the year with the Czech Republic's active participation proved to the region's residents that the European perspectives of the Western Balkans are not a mere political declaration, but a real ongoing process with advantages for both sides. In accordance with the Czech Republic's perception of the Western Balkans as one of its foreign policy priorities, it supported all EU steps leading to further integration of the region into the EU.

An important shift took place in relation to Serbia, with ratification of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Serbia being unblocked in June 2010 on the basis of a positive report from the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). In connection with the International Court of Justice advisory opinion on Kosovo's declaration of independence, a joint resolution of the EU and Serbia was adopted in the UN General Assembly on 9 September 2010 committing Serbia to initiate a dialogue with Kosovo on practical issues (resolving questions of movement of goods, border controls, judicial functions in the north of Kosovo, etc.). In October 2010 the Council on Foreign Affairs passed Serbia's application for EU membership along to the European Commission for its position (avis).

The EU Common Foreign and Security Policy and the use of its instruments remain limited in relation to Kosovo due to the disunity of member states on the issue of Kosovo's independence. Five EU member states still do not recognise Kosovo as an independent state, which makes a consensual decision on important issues impossible. The main link of common EU policy thus remains the EU Rule of Law Mission (EULEX Kosovo), the EU Special Representative for Kosovo (EUSR) and Kosovo's European perspective within the context of the membership perspective for the whole Western Balkans region. In 2010 progress was made, predominantly thanks to the efforts of the European Commission and EULEX mission, in continuing with practical steps for ensuring the development of the rule of law in the north of Kosovo. The European Commission's regular evaluation report published in the autumn was largely critical, but progress in a positive direction had been made compared to the previous year. Positive evaluation was given to progress in the activities of parliament and the government, particularly in decentralising local administration, and in the European agenda and the activities of Kosovan police. The main criticisms targeted the voting system, cooperation between central and local administration, cooperation with the ICTY and participation in regional and international forums.

No distinct progress was made in the integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the EU over the course of 2010, with the exception of visa liberalisation. Bosnia and Herzegovina did very little to fulfil the conditions for closing the Office of the High Representative and bringing the

constitution in line with the European Convention on Human Rights. The functionality of state institutions is disrupted by an overly complicated structure and lack of coordination between parliament, the government and the entities. Both CSDP missions are still operative in the country – the EUPM police mission and especially the EUFOR Althea military operation, the mandate of which was extended to November 2011.

The Czech Republic plays a distinct role in the Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine), which was established at the Prague Summit in 2009 under the Czech Republic's Presidency of the Council of the EU and which the Czech Republic has declared as one of its foreign policy priorities (for more information see the chapter on the European Neighbourhood Policy). The Czech Republic supports the negotiations for Association Agreements with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, which were launched on the basis of a mandate from the May General Affairs Council. In the given context, the Czech Republic followed developments and the presidential elections in Moldova, which it considers one of its priority countries, as well as the declared pro-European course in Ukraine.

Talks with Belarus showed no progress. The post-election repressions from the end of December 2010 then resonated badly in the EU. For the Czech Republic, which in the interest of supporting Belarusian civil society has long lobbied for visa facilitation with Belarus in the EU, December's events were a further confirmation of the need to take a differentiated approach toward exponents of Lukashenko's regime and representatives of civil society.

The Czech Republic maintains intensive bilateral relations with Georgia. Within the EU, the Czech Republic pushes for including the Georgia issue in the relevant discussions in EU structures. On the sidelines of the Foreign Affairs Council the Czech Republic organised a meeting of the New Group of Friends of Georgia. The Czech Republic – along with the other EU member states – expresses its permanent fundamental support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia. The Czech Republic also plays a role in searching for a solution on an EU approach to the Georgian separatist regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia that would help prevent their complete isolation and affiliation with Russia despite the fact that they are not recognised by the international community. The Czech Republic bases its interest and efforts on its long-term attempts to resolve protracted conflicts.

In relations with Russia, renewed dialogue continued. The EU views Russia as one of its strategic partners. The Czech Republic, however, is not indifferent to the deteriorated situation in Russian society, including the rise in extremism and terrorist activities. At the appropriate levels of EU talks, the Czech Republic points out the necessity of discussing human rights issues and the resolving protracted conflicts, as well as issues energy security, and pushes for maximum use of human rights dialogue with Russia.

No positive breakthroughs occurred in the Middle East peace process. After the unilateral Israeli moratorium on the construction of new Jewish settlements on the West Bank expired in

September, the international community and the United States in particular intensified their mediating diplomatic activities, but without any concrete results. Aside from participation in the Middle East Quartet, which continues to assist in searching for a global diplomatic solution to the conflict, the EU's political engagement focused on supporting steps aiming to renew the economy and infrastructure of the Palestinian Territories. The EU is currently discussing High Representative Ashton's three-point plan from November 2010 on the possible future role of the EU in Gaza, which includes: a) building border crossing infrastructure and aiding in reconstructing the road network; b) repairing border crossing equipment; c) helping develop Palestinian capacity to administer borders and border crossings (training of Palestinian border guards). Over the course of 2010, the EU continued to exert pressure on Israel to ease the blockade on Gaza.

In 2010 Iran continued to refuse to fulfil the requirements of the UN Security Council resolutions related to its nuclear programme, consisting of freezing sensitive nuclear activities and taking concrete steps to verify the peaceful nature of the programme. The efforts of the international community, represented by the 5+1 group with EU High Representative for the Foreign and Security Policy Catherine Ashton in the position of negotiator, to achieve a partial diplomatic breakthrough in the form of an agreement on exchanging Iranian low-enriched uranium for industrial 20% enriched fuel failed. In June 2010 the UN SC then approved a new sanction Resolution 1929. In response to the weakened wording of several points of the resolution as the result of diplomatic compromises (in particular related to the list of financial institutions put under embargo and the energy sector), the EU Foreign Affairs Council adopted a decision (Council Decision 2010/413/CFSP) of 26 July 2010 concerning restrictive measures against Iran, which provides the legal basis for the EU to level additional sanctions against Iran beyond the framework of Resolution 1929, affecting the areas of trade, financial services, energy and transport. Also part of this Council Decision are lists naming the persons, entities and authorities taking part in the Iranian nuclear and missile programme to which the ban on issuing visas and freezing of assets is applied – the primary targets are Iranian banks, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) and the company Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL). Resolution 1929 and the consecutive unilateral measures have not yet produced any signs of the Iranian position easing up.

Several planned summits took place in 2010 as part of the EU's relations with Asia and the Pacific. Summits took place during the Spanish Presidency for EU-Japan (28 April 2010, Tokyo) and EU-Pakistan (4 June 2010, Brussels). In the second half of the year, during the Belgian Presidency, high-level meetings took place with China and the Republic of Korea (both on 6 October 2010, Brussels) and India (10 December 2010), as did the ASEM summit (4–5 October 2010, Brussels). Preparations for the autumn summits took place under the new regime, which reacted to the EU's new, higher foreign policy ambitions in connection with the innovations of the Lisbon Treaty – the extraordinary European Council on 16 September 2010 decided in its conclusions that it will regularly discuss upcoming key external relation events with the goal of setting a general course and key messages ahead of time.

EU relations with Asia in 2010 were dominated by aid for flood-afflicted Pakistan and the security situation in Afghanistan/Pakistan; other significant topics in this regard were the unrest in Kyrgyzstan, elections in Myanmar/Burma and the increased tension on the Korean Peninsula. A traditionally important pillar of EU-Asia relations was the building of relations with China.

The primary results of the EU summit with Pakistan were the decision to increase the strategic dialogue between both sides and an agreement to create a joint five-year cooperation plan. EU-Pakistan relations in 2010 were however primarily governed by the destructive floods that hit Pakistan in June, not long after the summit took place. The EU (European Commission and member states) reacted to the natural disaster with extensive humanitarian aid totalling over EUR 420 million. The floods worsened the security situation in Pakistan and strengthened extremist groups in the country. The increased EU activities in Pakistan focused on reinforcing the rule of law, the development strategy for the Malakand District, energy issues, human rights and trade.

The year 2010 did not result in any change for the better for Afghanistan and its fight against the Taliban, despite massive support from the international community. Marked changes did however take place in planning the future of the international presence in the country. The Kabul conference of 20 July 2010 confirmed the international community's commitment to stabilise Afghanistan and take part in its reconstruction and development and laid out the process for passing responsibility for governance and security over to Afghan hands. In 2014 the security of the country should be in the hands of Afghan forces, though it is not expected that the international coalition would completely withdraw from the country by that date. The EU took part in the Kabul conference and supports the process of transferring responsibility to Afghan hands.

Vygaudas Ušackas of Lithuania became the head of the EU Delegation in Kabul in the spring, also taking on the position of EU Special Representative in Afghanistan. The EUPOL Afghanistan civilian mission continued its work in 2010, focusing on training local police; in May its mandate was extended by three years to the end of May 2013. The Czech Republic had eight experts in this EU mission as of the end of the year. The EU and member states' priorities for further work in Afghanistan are building up local capacities, support for multilateral donorship programmes and funds, deepening of regional cooperation (particularly with Pakistan, India and Iran), support for the reintegration and reconciliation process and support for reforming the police and judicial system.

The European Union attempted to help calm the situation in Kyrgyzstan, where the authoritarian regime of President Kurmanbek Bakiyev was overthrown in April, with ethnic violence following in the south of the country. At a donor conference in Bishkek, the EU promised Kyrgyzstan EUR 118 million for needs connected to the country's stabilisation, reconstruction and democratisation; the EU also unsuccessfully supported the idea of sending an OSCE police advisory mission to southern Kyrgyzstan. In the context of the EU's relations with other Central Asian countries, important events were the December OSCE summit in Astana, Kazakhstan and the

conclusions of the October Foreign Affairs Council evaluating the situation in Uzbekistan. These conclusions confirmed the decision from 2009 to ease the remaining restrictive measures the EU had in place against this country. The EU had introduced the sanctions as the result of the bloody suppression of demonstrations in 2005; the conclusions appreciated the constructive steps the Uzbek government took during the unrest in Kyrgyzstan, but also expressed concern over the failure to honour human rights and the country's insufficient democratisation and rule of law.

The European Union devoted considerable attention to November's parliamentary elections in Myanmar/Burma. Although there is a consensus with the EU that the elections were undemocratic, some member states – also taking into account the release of the leader of the opposition democratic camp Aung Saan Suu Kyi (ASSK) from jail – optimistically consider them a signal of future democratising processes or at least of a certain political thaw. In November High Representative Ashton decided to send her advisor Robert Cooper on an informal fact-finding mission to Myanmar/Burma. He was to meet with ASSK, but his trip had not taken place by the end of the year. The EU stood on the side of its South Korean ally in connection with the crisis on the Korean Peninsula, triggered by a series of provocations on the part of North Korea (the sinking of the Cheonan corvette in March and the shelling of the island of Yeonpyeong in November). The EU's involvement in resolving the conflict is however indirect, as the EU is not part of the six-way peace talks.

The EU summits with key Asian partners brought varying results. While the summit with Republic of Korea meant raising the relationship between the EU and South Korea to a "strategic partnership" and signing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the first agreement of this type signed with an Asian country, the summit with China was rather awkward. China showed up with exorbitant expectations and two concrete demands – requests for revoking the arms embargo and being awarded the status of market economy. The EU however was not willing to discuss those topics, nor did it have a mandate to do so. For the first time in a long time the joint press release did not mention human rights or any of the offensive economic issues. Relations with China were on the programme at a series of debates on the EU's strategic partners. In December 2010 High Representative Ashton presented the first report on setting up new relations between the EU and strategic partners at a meeting of the European Council; the analysis, with proposals for more effective promotion of EU interests with key countries, focused on the USA and Russia, as well as China. An event that had a significant impact on the EU's relations with China was the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, who is serving a sentence for subversion of state power. Despite threats from China, all EU member states took part in the award ceremony in Oslo. In December 2010, evidently primarily as a reaction to the honouring of Liu Xiaobo, China cancelled its planned round of human rights dialogue with the EU. Disagreements in the approach to human rights also dominated the EU's relations with Sri Lanka. In August 2010 Brussels withdrew Sri Lanka's GSP+ trade benefits due to shortcomings in the area of human rights. This temporary measure cooled off relations with this country.

The EU-Japan summit focused on discussions about the new framework for relations after the joint Action Plan runs out in 2011 (a group was set up to draft proposals for a new partnership by the summit in 2011), about the possibilities for concrete cooperation in addressing global and regional problems and about presentations at international forums. The main results of the summit with India were the signature of a declaration of cooperation in the fight against terrorism, the signature of a memorandum of understanding in the field of statistics and a joint declaration on cooperation in culture. Debates focused on security issues – aside from terrorism this included piracy, cybersecurity and the stabilisation of Afghanistan. The 8th **ASEM** summit, a broad platform for dialogue between Europe and Asia, took place in Brussels; permanent President of the European Council Herman van Rompuy took on the hosting duties for the first time there. Aside from representatives of the EU member states and the 16 traditional Asian participants, for the first time Russia, Australia and New Zealand took part as proper members. The theme of the summit was ensuring greater prosperity and dignity for all, but the greatest amount of discussion was devoted to increasing global and financial administration in connection with the world economic crisis. In 2010 the dialogue between the EU and ASEAN countries continued with the 18th ministerial meeting, which focused on partnership and cooperation in regional integration.

In 2010 the EU continued in negotiating new contractual frameworks for its relations with the countries of Asia. Aside from signing the aforementioned FTA with Republic of Korea, the EU entered the final phase of negotiations on Partnership and Cooperation Agreements (PCA) with Mongolia, Vietnam and the Philippines. At the start of 2010 a new PCA entered into force with Tajikistan. Negotiations on PCAs with Thailand, China and Singapore continued, as did talks on an FTA with India. Negotiations on a PCA and FTA with Malaysia and an FTA with Singapore were launched. No significant progress was made in the talks on a framework with Turkmenistan; a PCA with this country was signed in 1998, but its entry into force has been postponed due to the poor human rights situation in the country.

In relation to Africa, the European Union focused above all on current crisis areas and ongoing transformation processes. Cooperation between the two continents continued with the approval of the Action Plan for implementation of the EU-Africa Join Strategy for 2011-2013.

The region of the African Great Lakes remained a main focus of the EU's attention and activities, primarily concentrated on these main priorities: humanitarian aid, the problem of illegal mineral extraction and sexual violence. The integrated mission of EUPOL RD Congo and the EUSEC RD Congo mission continued with their activities. Their task is to support the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo in reforming its security sector.

The European Union devoted considerable attention to Somalia in 2010, being aware of its importance for stability in the region. In order to ensure the training of Somali security forces, in January 2010 the EU decided to send a CSDP mission to Uganda (EUTM Somalia). Also being

dealt with intensively was the issue of handing over and trying pirates apprehended as part of Operation Atalanta and cooperating with other states of the region on this issue.

The European Union dealt with the situation in Sudan over the whole course of 2010, both within the context of the April parliamentary and presidential elections, when the EU sent one of its largest observer missions to Sudan, and in connection with preparations for the referendum that was to decide on the independence of southern Sudan. Issues of the subsequent, post-referendum political organisation in Sudan were also addressed. The EU's engagement in the Sudan/Darfur conflict continued through support for the mediation efforts of the UN and African Union. The EU Special Representatives for Sudan travelled to the region regularly, conducting dialogue with all the actors relevant to the crisis in Darfur and for dealing with implementation of the peace agreement between the north and south of Sudan (CPA).

In light of the fact that no fundamental progress was made in implementing the Global Political Agreement in Zimbabwe, targeted sanction measures were renewed against several of the country's government representatives.

The topic of security and development problems in the Sahel area was retabled at the Foreign Affairs Council due to the worsening security situation, with the goal of preparing any EU strategy for the region.

In December 2010 the EU reacted to the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire that occurred after President Laurent Gbagbo refused to recognise the results of the presidential elections and his defeat; sanctions were put in place against persons who refused to recognise the election results. This primarily related to visa restrictions and the freezing of assets.

A number of meetings with representatives of the countries in the region also took place during 2010. These included a ministerial political dialogue with Cape Verde, IGAD (Horn of Africa) and ECOWAS and in September a summit with the Republic of South Africa was held. The ministerial meeting between the African Union (AU) and the EU, held in April 2010, focused primarily on the possibility of improving implementation of the Africa-EU Joint Strategy, preparing a new Action Plan and preparing for the EU-Africa summit, which subsequently took place in November 2010 in Tripoli, Libya. At the summit the main documents were approved, in particular the new Action Plan for the Africa-EU Joint Strategy for 2011-2013. The joint declaration on climate change was not adopted.

On 18 May 2010 the EU-LAC summit took place. The heads of state/government of the EU-LAC countries adopted all the prepared documents at the summit – the Declaration, Action Plan and Terms of Reference for the EU-LAC Foundation. The main topics of discussion at the summit were the financial crisis, innovations and new technologies, energy, the environment and climate change. At the sidelines of the summit, high-level meetings were held between the EU and Chile, Mexico, Caricom, Mercosur, Central America and the Andean Community. At the end of these sub-regional summits, announcements were made on the completion of an Association Agreement with

Central America and a Multilateral Trade Agreement with Colombia and Peru and on renewal of talks on an Association Agreement with Mercosur. At the summit, the modalities of the EU-LAC Foundation were agreed upon and the foundation was officially founded. Its goal is to contribute to increasing the bi-regional relations between the countries of the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean. On 17 May 2010 a meeting of EU-Caricom also took place at the summit sidelines, approving the documents needed for implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

EU–Mexico relations were also the subject of talks at the EU-Mexico Joint Committee, which took place 27–28 October 2010 in Mexico City. An agreement was also made on the sidelines of the event to send a mission of EU security specialists to fight organised crime in Mexico in November 2011. This step is part of the application of the implementation plan for the strategic partnership between the EU and Mexico. The result of the mission were two reports that state that the main areas of cooperation should be cooperation in creating/consolidating new criminal procedures, prevention of criminality and cooperation on the Mexico-Guatemalan border.

At the start of the Belgian Presidency, on 14 July 2010, an EU-Brazil summit took place. Brazil is, alongside Mexico, a strategic partner of the EU. The leaders welcomed intensified relations between the EU and Brazil and expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the joint action plan and the top-level bilateral political dialogue. Also discussed were global issues of common interest (financial and economic topics, climate change, sustainable development) and topics of bilateral cooperation. In its elections of 1 November 2010, Brazil selected a new president, Dilma Rouseff. Rouseff entered office on 1 January 2011. On 8 November 2010 a visa-free agreement was signed between the EU and Brazil.

Haiti, as one of the poorest countries in the world, is primarily dealt with under the EU's development agenda. The destructive earthquake of January 2010, which claimed the lives of over 200 000 victims, made local conditions even worse. The EU earmarked a total of EUR 522 million for development cooperation. EU projects in Haiti primarily focus on infrastructure and governance support. The complex political situation complicates the country's renewal. The first round of presidential elections (28 November 2010) was marked by low turn-out, poor organisation, fraud, violence and threats to voters. The manipulated results make it more difficult to choose candidates for the second round of elections in 2011.

On 12 May 2010 the European Commission adopted the first ever Strategic Document on Cuba, where it counts on a total allocation of EUR 20 million in the years 2011–2013. Aid should come from the European Development Cooperation Instrument. The priority areas are to be food safety, the environment and adaptation to climate change and exchange of experts, training and studies. At the end of 2010 the European Union dealt with the proposal of the Commission and several member states (led by Spain) to launch talks on simplifying the bilateral contract between the European Union and Cuba while maintaining the current EU Common Position, which would



represent a positive signal from the European Union to the Castro regime. The proposal was not adopted and the European Union Common Position calling on Cuba to make progress on human rights and democracy remains in effect.

## **Representation of the Czech Republic before the EU Court of Justice**

Since the Czech Republic's accession to the European Union, the Czech representation before the Court of Justice of the European Union has been the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, within which this task is assigned to a government agent for representing the Czech Republic before the Court of Justice of the European Union (hereinafter *government agent*). The post of government agent is based on the Statute of the Government Agent for Representation of the Czech Republic before the Court of Justice of the EU, which was adopted by Czech Government Resolution No. 113 of 4 February 2004, as amended by Czech Government Resolution No. 382 of 24 May 2010 (hereinafter the *Government Agent Statute*). The Government Agent Statute defines the powers of the government agent and the essence of the agent's work. Czech Government Resolution No. 435 of 13 April 2005 extended the government agent's powers to include representing the Czech Republic before the European Free Trade Association Court.

Since 2008, the government agent has been Martin Smolek, who was appointed by Czech Government Resolution No. 246 of 10 March 2008.

The Government Agent Statute established the *Committee of the Government Agent* as an interdepartmental advisory and consultation body.

The activities of the government agent focus on three main areas of representing the Czech Republic before the Court of Justice of the EU (hereinafter the *Court of Justice*). The first is representing the Czech Republic in so-called Treaty infringement procedures, in all its phases (i.e. including before the European Commission), the second is representing the Czech Republic in preliminary rulings and the third is representing the Czech Republic in so-called direct actions.

### ***Treaty infringement procedures***

Treaty infringement procedures are a mechanism by which the European Commission performs its responsibility to watch over the observance of EU law.

In 2010, 45 new procedures on infringement of European Union law according to Article 258 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU were initiated against the Czech Republic, two of which reached the phase of bringing the case before the Court of Justice (procedure according to Article 260 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU).

The total number of procedures initiated against the Czech Republic from accession to the European Union up until the end of 2010 was 495 cases. A significant number of these cases were successfully stopped before being brought before the Court of Justice – as of the end of 2010 the number of ongoing procedures was 45, of which 22 were still in the first phase (formal notice), 17 in

the second phase (reasoned opinion), one in the phase of an action before the Court of Justice and two in procedures on enforcement of conviction by the Court of Justice. Decisions had also been made to launch three cases, but they had not been delivered to the Czech Republic by the end of 2010.

Two new cases against the Czech Republic were referred to the Court of Justice in 2010. Four convictions were also made against the Czech Republic in 2010 (see Judgment of 14 January 2010 on Case C-343/08, Judgment of 10 June 2010 on Case C-378/09, Judgment of 30 September 2010 on Case C-481/09 and Judgment of 22 December 2010 on Case C-276/10). At the end of 2010 one court procedure was underway at the Court of Justice.

From May 2004 until the end of 2010 there had been 22 actions made against the Czech Republic by the European Commission, of which 13 ended in conviction; in eight cases the action was taken back and one procedure had not yet ended.

It is also necessary to mention in relation to Treaty infringement procedures that the government agent is the national contact point for the EU Pilot Project<sup>1</sup>, the main goal of which is to deal with cases of claimed violation of EU law before a formal procedure is launched. A total of 18 cases were dealt with as part of the Pilot Project in 2010.

### ***Preliminary ruling proceedings***

In references for a preliminary ruling, by means of which member states' national courts turn to the European Court of Justice with queries concerning the interpretation of particular provisions of European Union law or their validity, the government agent received approximately 600 submissions in 380 proceedings in 2010. The Czech Republic was active in 53 of those proceedings in 2010, due chiefly to the significance of the preliminary rulings for legislation and application in the Czech Republic, as well as with an interest in promoting the interpretation applied in the Czech Republic. In 40 cases a written statement was submitted and in 20 cases the Czech Republic took part in oral proceedings (this is a slight increase over the past: in 2008 the Czech Republic took part in such proceedings 40 times, of which 32 were in writing and eight oral, and in 2009 fifty-one times, 35 in writing and 16 orally). Statements concerned the general principles of European Union law; the free movement of goods, services and persons; customs union; taxes and financial markets; economic competition; public procurement; the jurisdiction of courts; consumer protection; social security; intellectual property rights and environmental protection.

At the end of 2010 there were a total of four references for preliminary rulings commenced on the basis of queries submitted by Czech courts before the Court of Justice (C-399/09 *Landtová*, C-17/10 *Toshiba*, C-327/10 *Lindner* and C-514/10 *Wolf Naturprodukte*). In C-399/09 *Landtová*,

---

<sup>1</sup> Initiated on the basis of Commission Communication 2007/0502 A Europe of Results – Applying Community Law of 5 September 2007. For the time being this is a voluntary project in which 15 EU member states are taking part.

concerning discrimination in determining the amount of the supplement to retirement pension, the Czech Republic's written statement was sent in February 2010, which was followed up in November 2010 with a presentation at oral proceedings. In C-17/10 *Toshiba*, related to dividing up jurisdictions among national authorities for the protection of competition and the Commission, a written statement was sent in April 2010. In C-327/10 *Lindner*, related to the jurisdiction of courts, a written statement was sent in October 2010. A notification on commencement of proceedings in C-514/10 *Wolf Naturprodukte*, also concerning the jurisdiction of courts, was delivered to the government agent at the end of 2010.

Two judgments in references for a preliminary ruling submitted by Czech courts were issued in 2010, in cases C-339/09 *Skoma-Lux* and C-393/09 *Bezpečnostní softwarová asociace*.

### ***Direct actions***

The first kind of direction action are actions by which the Czech Republic attacks the validity of a decision by an EU authority (most frequently the European Commission). In 2010 the Czech Republic did not file any new action concerning invalidity: as of the end of 2010, three proceedings were underway before the General Court in which the Czech Republic was contesting decisions by the European Commission: T-194/07 (emission allowances), T-248/07 (surplus stocks) and T-465/08 (Phare offsetting). Oral proceedings took place in the latter case, while in the former two no progress was made.

The Czech Republic also has the option of intervening on one side of a dispute in proceedings before the Court of Justice or the General Court. As of 2010 the Czech Republic had exercised that option in 24 cases, of which proceedings are still underway on eleven of them. The most important of them are proceedings on the national emission allowance allocation plans of Poland and Estonia for the period 2008-2012 (the case relates to the aforementioned proceedings on case T-194/07) and proceedings whereby the European Parliament is attempting to have the issue of the fight against terrorism transferred from an area in which it is not included institutionally to an area where it holds co-decision powers (case C-130/10).

### **Responses to the financial and economic crisis**

The year 2010 was marked by slight economic recovery, though risks for developments in the upcoming period still exist, consisting primarily of the state of public budgets, debt financing and the situation in the banking sector in several eurozone countries and the mutual negative interaction between the financial sector, government and the other sectors of the real economy. The economies of the states of the eurozone and EU-27 have been growing quarter-on-quarter since the third quarter of 2009. The estimate for the real year-on-year GDP growth in the EU-27 for 2010 is around 1.7 %.

A total of 24 EU countries, including the Czech Republic, are in the *excessive deficit procedure*, meaning that their public budget deficits are higher than 3 % of the GDP. Only Sweden,

Estonia and Luxembourg have managed to avoid this procedure so far. The Czech Republic has been in the phase of corrective action since 2 December 2009; it can be expected, however, that the 2013 deadline for correction will be met. The economies of Greece (high government debt) and Ireland (necessity of government intervention to support banking sector) have fallen into the greatest problems. Portugal and Spain are also considered countries at risk. The key factor remains the faith of markets in the implemented and planned rescue mechanisms and their ability to cover the potential needs of countries in trouble.

In May 2010 a regulation was adopted to introduce the *European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism (EFSM)* as part of the measures to ameliorate the financial situation in Europe. States that find themselves in a difficult situation caused by extraordinary circumstances that they cannot influence can apply for financial aid from this mechanism. Activation is subject to very strict circumstances (e.g. provision of financial aid from the International Monetary Fund). The EFSM instrument applies to all EU countries and the loans are administered by the European Central Bank. The total amount of the EFSM is limited to around EUR 60 billion. Participation in the EFSM by individual states is determined by their share of the own resources of the EU budget.

At the same time, eurozone member states decided on the creation of the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF). The EFSF is entitled to emit bonds, which are covered by guarantees from eurozone member states to a total amount of EUR 440 billion and are divided up among these countries based on their share of the paid-up capital of the European Central Bank.

In May 2010 *financial assistance for Greece* was approved in the amount of EUR 110 billion, provided in the form of bilateral loans. Eurozone member states contribute EUR 80 billion and the remaining EUR 30 billion is provided by the International Monetary Fund. In December 2010, eurozone finance ministers agreed on providing *financial assistance for Ireland*. Financial assistance totalling EUR 85 billion was approved based on a three-year programme (EUR 17.7 billion as part of the EFSF, voluntary bilateral loans from several states outside the eurozone (UK, SE and DK), EUR 22.5 billion under the EFSM and EUR 22.5 billion from the IMF).<sup>2</sup>

The December European Council agreed on a change to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union so that the permanent *European Stability Mechanism (ESM)* could be founded. The ESM is to succeed the current temporary instrument of the EFSF and is for those member states whose currency is the euro, though the voluntary addition of eurozone non-members is also expected. The mechanism will only be activated if the eurozone is endangered as a whole and strict conditions are expected for the provision of assistance, as is involvement from the private sector. The Czech Republic, as with other non-members of the eurozone, expressed interest in participating in preparing the mechanism.

---

<sup>2</sup> as part of the EFSM the Czech Republic is also taking part in the assistance for Ireland through a financial guarantee for the corresponding part of the loan provided. Specifically this is a guarantee of a maximum of 1.2 % of the unpaid amount in the given year.

In September 2010 the form of the *new structure for EU financial supervision* was approved. The new supervision framework enters into force 1 January 2011 and will include the *European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB)* and three new European supervisory bodies – for banking, capital markets and for insurance and occupational pensions.

In October 2010 the European Council also approved the final report of Herman van Rompuy's *Task Force* with a proposed measure to increase fiscal discipline and coordination of economic policies. In connection with this, the European Commission published six *legislative proposals for strengthened economic cooperation*. The proposed measures support the prevention of macroeconomic imbalances and aim to reinforce the *Stability and Growth Pact* and to reform budget supervision in the EU.

In October 2010 the European Commission published its communication on the *European framework for crisis management in the financial sector*. According to the European Commission, these instruments would significantly increase the resilience of the financial system and allow the responsible authorities to react better and earlier. In terms of financial measures for dealing with the crisis, the introduction of an *ex ante* fund or a bank fee is being considered. In reaction to the effects of the financial crisis, countries agreed at the June European Council that member states should introduce a system of payments and taxes for financial institutions. The Czech Republic reserved the right not to introduce such measures. Opinions continue to be exchanged about the concrete possibilities for taxing the financial sector.

## **The Europe 2020 strategy and the European Semester**

The timeline of the Lisbon Strategy from 2000 ran out in 2010. Starting 1 January 2011 the new *Europe 2020 Strategy* is the valid document, presenting the conceptual economic strategy for the course of the EU. The strategy was approved by the European Council in June 2010, including the five main goals relating to the fields of employment, research and development, the energy sector, education and social exclusion (poverty). The government of the Czech Republic approved the associated Czech national targets on 7 June 2010:

**Employment:** national target for employment level of 75 %

**Research and development:** national goal for investment in research and development of 2.7 % of the GDP

**Increasing energy efficiency:** the government of the Czech Republic will attempt to reduce the consumption of primary energy sources

**Education:** national target for rate of people in the age of 30 – 34 with tertiary education 32 % and rate of students leaving educational institutions early at 5.5 %

**Social exclusion:** The Czech Republic will attempt to maintain the number of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion at 2008 levels until 2020, while also making efforts to reduce these numbers by at least another thirty thousand.

The Czech Republic also took part in preparations of the *European Semester*. The concept of the European Semester was approved by the European Council in June 2010 and represents a framework for supporting structural reforms while also monitoring the macroeconomic development.

According to the European Semester, member states should submit the final version of their National Reform Programmes along with their Stabilisation/Convergence Programmes by the end of April every year. By June of the same year the Council will issue specific instructions for each member state based on recommendations from the European Commission so that member states can take them into account in planning their national budgets and potential modification of their National Reform Programmes.

The *draft National Reform Programme* that was sent to the European Commission in November 2010 was the preliminary document on the basis of which the completed National Reform Programme will be put together in cooperation with economic, social and regional partners over the following months.

The National Reform Programme as such is a framework document for achieving the national targets approved by the Czech government with regard for the relevant main targets defined at the EU level under the Europe 2020 strategy. The structure of the draft National Reform Programme is determined by the individual national targets in compliance with the European Commission's guidelines. This is called thematic coordination in the field of macroeconomics, with the introductory part of the document dedicated to macroeconomic issues.

In accordance with the demand for increased competitiveness, the Czech Republic established supplementary national targets in the field of employment in addition to the main national target. They are divided into two pillars, with the first pillar dedicated to employment and the second focused on increasing competitiveness (e.g. reducing the administrative burden by 30 % in comparison with 2005).

## **Preparation for talks on new EU Multiannual Financial Framework**

In October 2010 the European Commission published its Communication on the EU Budget Review, thereby launching the debate on reform of the EU budget and its future form. The result of this discussion will influence the draft EU Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014–2020. It is apparent from the Communication that the European Commission wants to tie EU budget expenditures to meeting Europe 2020 strategy goals as much as possible. There is also an evident interest in increasing expenditures in the fields of research, innovation and education and for the

fight against poverty worldwide. In the field of the EU cohesion policy as well, the close connection to *Europe 2020* goals is emphasised. In the case of the Common Agricultural Policy, the European Commission wants to continue with reforms so that the historical references for calculating the amount of direct payments are done away with and the differences between member states are gradually reduced. Gradual introduction of new sources of financing is pushed for, for example in the form of a financial tax or profits from emission allowance auctions. The European Commission is inclined toward a ten-year programming period with a review of the financial aspect after the first five years.

A fundamental question in the negotiations will be the *future of the cohesion and agricultural policy*, which makes up nearly 80 % of the EU budget expenditures. Member states in the position of net payers are pushing for the expenditure side of the budget to be reduced and for greater return of invested funds. Currently the Czech Republic is among the states with the highest per capita allocations from structural funds and thus has an eminent interest in cohesion policy expenditures being maintained as much as possible in the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

## **Energy and climate change**

*Energy* was once again an important topic in the EU in 2010. New impulses were expected from the new Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger and the Lisbon Treaty also brought changes, with this area now falling under the shared competence of the EU and member states.

At the March Council, ministers came to a political agreement on the *regulation on the obligation to inform the European Commission about investments into energy infrastructure* and furthermore discussed the role of energy in achieving the targets contained in the *Europe 2020* communication. The debate on energy efficiency and achieving the goal of 20 % savings by 2020 continued at the May Council and, due to the differing positions of member states to the obligatory nature of the targets, for the rest of the year as well. In the second half of the year the Council and European Parliament came to an agreement on the regulation on the security of gas supply, which for example calls for cross-border connections between member states to allow bidirectional gas flow by December 2013.

In autumn 2010 the Commission published the *Energy 2020* strategy, in which five main topics are identified: energy efficiency, completing an internal energy market, improving the EU's position in terms of energy technology and innovation and strengthening the external dimension of the energy market. In its *Communication on energy infrastructure*, the European Commission identified nine mid-term energy priorities and two long-term ones in the field of electric energy, gas and oil infrastructure. In this Communication, the Commission also proposed increasing regional energy cooperation and establishing a High Level Group on North-South Interconnections, with the Czech Republic and five other EU member states taking part.

In the second half of 2011 the Council and European Parliament completed discussions on a review of the *regulation for supporting energy infrastructure projects*, for which nearly EUR 4 billion was set aside in 2009. Part of the unused funds, in total EUR 146 million, was transferred to projects in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.

In terms of external relations, the second meeting of the *EU-US Energy Council* took place in November 2010, emphasising cooperation in developing and utilising clean technologies in energy and exchanging information and scientific staff. The debate also dealt with energy security and the Council emphasised the importance of diversification of resources in Europe, expressing support for the Nabucco pipeline project. Over the course of the year the European Commission passed along information about activities related to the oil spill on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico. In the autumn the Commission published a Communication on the safety of offshore oil and gas activities, in which it did not rule out putting together a legislative draft on this issue.

In the second half of the year the Council also repeatedly discussed a common EU candidate for executive director of the International Energy Agency. Member states did not manage to find a consensus on a single candidate and in December both the Netherlands and the Czech Republic put forward candidates<sup>3</sup>.

### ***Climate change***

At the beginning of 2010, significant attention was devoted to evaluating the results of the 15th Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 5th Meeting of the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol, which took place in December 2009 in *Copenhagen*, and the subsequent implementation of the *Copenhagen Accord*. In January 2010 a joint letter from the European Commission and Council was sent to the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, adding the EU to the Copenhagen Accord and also announcing the joint target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020 compared to 1990 levels and the possibility of raising this target to 30% if other developed countries committed to comparable goals and more developed developing countries contributed to these efforts in accordance with their responsibility and ability. The European Commission prepared a brief Communication on International Climate Policy post-Copenhagen, proposing a "stepwise approach" consisting of dividing up the agenda into concrete sub-measures that could be agreed upon at the end of 2010, and fundamentally controversial aspects, the resolution of which could be left until 2011. In May 2010 the European Commission published a Communication concerning the options to move beyond 20% greenhouse gas emission reductions and assessing the risk of carbon leakage<sup>4</sup>, which

---

<sup>3</sup> At a European Council meeting on 4 February 2011 the Czech Republic officially withdrew its candidacy.

<sup>4</sup> The Communication pointed out the fact that the 20 % reduction target would not suffice to meet the target of keeping global warming under 2°C; it also stated ahead of time that it does not anticipate making a decision to increase the target to 30 % as it must be taken into account that the condition for such an increase



was the subject of discussion at the June Council. In particular, the Council asked the European Commission for a deeper analysis of the impact of increasing the reduction commitment for individual member states and the industrial sector.

In the second half of 2010 efforts focused on preparing a joint EU position for the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 6th Meeting of the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol; both events took place at the end of November and beginning of December in *Cancun*, Mexico. The main result of the Cancun conference were the *Cancun Agreements*, a set of concrete decisions on some of the fundamental issues of international climate change negotiations which are considered the basis for further international talks that could lead to the adoption of an agreement on the climate change regime after 2012. The December Council evaluated the Cancun Agreements as the most significant progress since 2007 when the Bali Action Plan was adopted. The Cancun conference was also proof of the renewed faith in the multilateral process and an expression of the willingness of all parties to cooperate to resolve the issues with the goal of achieving further progress. The main positive outcomes were the entrenching of key aspects of the Copenhagen Accord, referencing a list of reduction commitments, confirming the target of not exceeding a global temperature growth of 2°C and the introduction of a credible system for monitoring, reporting and verifying emissions for developing countries. Significant steps in terms of financing were the founding of a new Green Climate Fund and confirmation of USD 100 billion in annual funding for financing measures in developing countries. A programme was also set up for adapting and transferring technologies and an agreement was made on gradually slowing and stopping deforestation. The main shortcomings of the Cancun Agreements were the absence of any reference to clear goals for international negotiations in 2011, when a new legally binding agreement on climate change should be signed to deal with the situation beyond 2012, potentially even by introducing a second Kyoto Protocol control period.

## **The EU internal market and sector policies**

In connection with laying out the Europe 2020 strategy, the question of the still insufficient functionality of the *single market* came to the forefront. An effectively functioning internal market is absolutely necessary if a stable and innovative economic environment is to be created and if Europe is to be capable of competing with the economic rise of Asia in the coming years. In October 2010 the European Commission issued the *Single Market Act*, which presented 50 concrete proposals on how to improve its functioning. Through the proposed measures, the Commission

---

had not yet been met (i.e. an international agreement, comparable targets on the part of developed countries and adequate participation from the more developed developing countries). The Communication also introduced several measures that could be used to achieve a 30 % target and calculated the costs associated with them. In terms of the risk of carbon leakage, particularly in energy-intensive sectors, the Commission evaluated the measures to date – allocation of free allowances and access to international credits – justified and sufficient.

above all hopes to spur economic growth in Europe. The Czech Republic considers the internal market a political priority and supports the European Commission's new comprehensive and more integrated approach to this issue. Of the 50 proposals it selected its top priorities, including three from the field of intellectual property (EU patent, copyright licensing, action plan against counterfeiting and piracy), four from the services sector (implementation of the services directive, recognition of professional qualifications, mutual recognition procedure, the Internal Market Information System), two on the digital internal market (electronic trading, electronic signature) and three from the area of small and medium enterprises (standardisation legislative framework, improving SMEs on capital markets, evaluating the act for small enterprises).

### ***Galileo***

After several years of efforts the Czech Republic successfully made good on talks on the headquarters of the *GSA agency for the Galileo navigation programme*, which will be moving to Prague on the basis of a decision made by member state representatives in December. The Czech Republic renewed the debate on the agency's location after almost four years during which the GSA was temporarily based in Brussels. Following the opening debate at the June Council of Transport Ministers, discussions culminated at the end of the year, when the original eleven candidates for the headquarters had been narrowed down to just the Czech Republic and the Netherlands. Prague's candidacy received more support and, at the conference of representatives of member state governments 10 December 2010, the ministers unanimously decided to move the agency to Prague. In November 2010 the Regulation on the GSA entered into force, dealing with the agency's activities and the composition of its bodies. According to the new Regulation, the agency has a new name – the *European GNSS Agency* (with the same short form of GSA) – and since February 2011 it has a new director, Carlo des Dorides.

### ***Transport***

In the field of transport the EU had to react to problems caused by the eruption of Iceland's volcano Eyjafjallajökull. In connection with this, the May Council adopted conclusions leading to the introduction of measures to prevent and deal with the results of such a situation, particularly in terms of the effects on air travel. An agreement was come to on the Regulation on civil aviation accident investigation, the Regulation on rail corridors and the Regulation on passengers travelling by sea and inland waterways. In terms of international relations in air transport, progress was made in talks on aviation agreements with the USA, Canada and Brazil. The EU signed aviation agreements with Mexico, Jordan and Georgia. In light of the attempted bomb attacks in air freight transport it was necessary to adopt further measures and coordinate the EU's position on increasing the protection of air transport from lawless acts. At the December Council a political agreement was come to on a draft Directive on road infrastructure tolls for heavy freight vehicles and conclusions were adopted for a political agreement on a Directive on the enforcement of cross-border traffic offences, as were conclusions on road traffic safety. As part of conciliatory proceedings an agreement was come to on a draft Regulation on the rights of passengers in bus and

coach transport. This primarily related to resolving the conflict over setting the scope of the Regulation (over 250 km). The Belgium Presidency also devoted attention to sea and inland waterway transport. The Council adopted conclusions on the issue of integration of water transport.

### ***Telecommunications and information society***

In the field of telecommunications and information society, the activity of the *Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)* was successfully launched, with its headquarters placed in Riga. Another priority was the Digital Agenda, tying in to the *i2010 Information Society Strategy*. The Council also adopted a report on the progress on a proposal for the first radio spectrum policy programme, which is part of the "Broadband Package", and a report on progress concerning the mandate for the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA).

### ***Agriculture***

The most important *discussions* in 2010 in the field of agriculture were about the future of the *Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)* after 2013. In April 2010 the European Commission launched a public consultation on the future of the CAP after 2013, which culminated with a large conference in July 2010. The goal of the consultation was above all to find a new definition and role for the CAP in light of new needs (e.g. landscape preservation, food safety, animal welfare) as well as current global challenges (competitiveness, trade liberalisation, climate, biodiversity). The Belgian Presidency continued in discussions on the future of the CAP at informal agriculture minister talks in September 2010 in La Hulpe. The ministers' discussions focused primarily on clearing up the relationship between the two pillars of the CAP, the possibility of better coherence and coordination with other EU policies, the possibility of increasing CAP flexibility with a focus on regional diversity and fluctuations on the market. In November 2010 the European Commission approved its Communication on the future of the CAP; on the same day the Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Dacian Cioloş stood before the European Parliament Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development to present the Communication to the public for the first time. The Communication was first officially presented at the Council at the end of November 2010 and a more detailed discussion of the Communication took place as part of the Council of Ministers meeting in mid-December 2010. Other important agendas in 2010 were reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (discussions were held at both the expert and political level, including on issues of freshwater aquaculture, which is important for the Czech Republic) and reform of the EU Quality Policy and debates at the High Level Working Group for dairy (set up by the Commission in October 2009 due to the complicated situation in the dairy sector and charged with discussing measures that are necessary owing to the fact that the validity of milk quotas ends in April 2015; in December 2010, following prior discussions at the Council, the European Commission presented concrete draft legislation).

## ***Environment***

In 2010 it was necessary to deal with several aspects related to *implementation of the Lisbon Treaty* in relation to the environment. In particular this refers to the issue of shifting powers to the European Commission as part of the "delegated acts" and EU external representation, especially in negotiating international treaties. In terms of climate protection the Council approved conclusions that react to the European Commission Communication *Analysis of options to move beyond 20 % greenhouse gas emission reductions and assessing the risk of carbon leakage* with a request for specification of the impact of such a step on individual member states and the industrial sector. In the area of protecting biodiversity, the EU agreed on a strategic target to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2020. In October 2010 the 10th Conference of the Parties of the *Convention on Biological Diversity* took place, being held 18–29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. Significant success was recorded there with the adoption of the Nagoya package containing the Strategic Plan for 2011–2020, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilisation and the Strategy for Resource Mobilisation. The Council held on 20 December 2010 adopted conclusions on sustainable consumption and production and efficient use of natural resources and improving the instruments of environment policy. Significant progress was also made in discussing the proposal to review the Directive on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment, the draft Regulation to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from light-duty vehicles, the Regulation on the use and placing on the market of biocidal products and the Directive on integrated pollution prevention.

## ***Labour mobility, employment and social inclusion***

The main social policy and employment topics at the European level are above all job creation, the free movement of workers, social inclusion, coordination of social security systems and the fight against discrimination. The year 2010 meant the approach of the end of the transition period that Germany and Austria were still applying to the Czech Republic. As of 1 May 2011 EU member states are obliged to introduce free movement of labour for all citizens of states that entered the EU on 1 May 2004. Over the course of 2010 the Czech Republic primarily strove for a well configured communication strategy with the goal of calming fears from the end of the transitional period. The Czech Republic also joined in the debates on appropriate labour market measures in connection with the problems of the economic crisis. 2010 was also the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. At the European level, the Czech Republic above all focused on the importance of a healthy economic environment, support for employment and education and application of the principle of *flexicurity*. EU member states also recognised the added value of dealing with the social inclusion of Roma at the European level, particularly in light of the events around Roma migration to France and other west European countries. A process was also begun that should culminate in 2011 with the adoption of an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies. Legislative work continued in 2010 on a Directive on parental leave and an

Anti-Discrimination Directive. Also discussed were current topics such as demographic development and the aging population, including the needs for pension reform.

### ***Science and research***

In the field of science, research and innovation the EU dealt in particular with optimal configuration of EU instruments for supporting science and research, securing better access to financing and overall simplification of the procedures that in the future are to allow easier drawing of funding as well as more targeted and effective research focus on the EU's current problems. These parameters are met by the European Innovation Partnership and Pilot Project focused on active and healthy ageing. The Innovation Union initiative, adopted in 2010, also contains these objectives, including the EU's attempts to finish building the *European Research Area (ERA)*. The Czech Republic chiefly pointed out the necessity of increasing the motivation of research organisations to make further use of knowledge acquired and the increase in the ability of businesses to absorb new knowledge from research and development in practice. Also important for the Czech Republic was coordination of instruments that have, until now, been utilised quite autonomously, in particular the 7th Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration activities, the main financial instrument for supporting research in the EU and the Framework Programme for Competitiveness and Innovation. In 2010 talks continued on financing for the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), which is the second largest research project studying alternative energy sources based on thermonuclear fusion worldwide. The experimental thermonuclear reactor in Cadarache, France should be put into operation in 2019. The Czech Republic welcomed the commencement of discussions about greater EU involvement in the space policy as it holds significant potential for increasing the competitiveness of the European economy.

### ***Healthcare***

Although the field of health is within the competency of EU member states, coordinated actions on several healthcare issues can be of fundamental importance. This was shown, for example, by the experiences with the threat of the spread of the A/H1N1 flu virus. Member states began to concern themselves with coming up with better common approaches for such cases, including the possibility of using framework agreements to purchase pandemic vaccines and antivirals. Within the context of the economic crisis and experiences dealing with it, EU member states initiated a discussion on the future of the healthcare system in Europe. European healthcare faces a challenge of preserving its high standards while also ensuring better cost effectiveness and sustainability. It is also necessary to mention the successful completion of the more than two years of negotiations around the Directive on cross-border healthcare, the goal of which is to set up an overall framework for drawing healthcare abroad. The Directive essentially creates a "free movement of patients", while also demanding coordination among all 27 EU member states. In the field of pharmaceuticals progress was made in discussing the Directive on preventing the entry of

counterfeit medicines into legal distribution channels, the goal of which is to provide protection against counterfeit medicines from infiltrating the EU market.

### ***Company law, intellectual property and consumer protection***

Discussions continued over the whole year on a Regulation on a Statute for European Private Company, a kind of European limited-liability company, intended primarily for small and medium enterprises. No agreement has yet been reached. Intellectual property law also offers a great opportunity to increase the EU's competitiveness, reduce costs and introduce new European Union models. The introduction of a European Union patent and a single patent jurisdictional system has been discussed at European Union level for many decades. The aim is to make patent protection in the European Union cheaper and more effective and to reform the present patent system, which is several times more expensive than in the USA and Japan. In November 2010 the Council came to the conclusion that it is not possible to achieve unanimity despite all the compromises proposed. On the basis of this fact, eleven member states decided to present the European Commission with a proposal for enhanced cooperation, which would mean that shared patent protection would only cover the territory of the participating member states. The Czech Republic asked the European Commission to provide an impact study and asked the Council legal service to clarify the question of how the issue of single patent jurisdictional system would be dealt with in the enhanced cooperation and what an alternative method would be for including the European Patent Office in the process of awarding EU patents. The total number of member states wanting enhanced cooperation in the end reached 25, including the Czech Republic. In terms of consumer protection, which affects every one of the nearly 500 million consumers in the EU, the Czech Republic participated in work on the prepared Directive on the rights of consumers, which is to bring about an extensive revision of the current consumer rights with the goal of simplifying it, harmonising it, preventing fragmentation of the internal market and supporting cross-border trade and shopping within the EU. Discussions on this Directive to date have nevertheless shown that finding a fully harmonised solution is not realistic at this time.

### **The European Economic Area**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic coordinates participation in the *European Economic Area (EEA)*, bringing together the EU member states, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, as well as EU relations with the countries of the *European Free Trade Association (EFTA)*. In 2010, intensive cooperation continued as part of the single internal market, as well as cooperation in individual sectors (e.g. agriculture, transport and the EFTA countries' participation in EU community programmes).

Among the most important documents adopted in 2010 are the Agreement between the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway on an EEA Financial Mechanism for the period 2009–2014 and the Agreement between the European Union and Norway on a Norwegian

Financial Mechanism for the period 2009–2014, the intention of which is to provide grants aiming to reduce social and economic difference and increase cooperation within Europe.

## **The European Union's new macro-regional strategies**

In recent years the EU member states came up with the concept of macro-regions and strategies for their development. This is a new idea and so far strategies have been set for two macro-regions (the Baltic Sea Region and the Danube Region). Macro-regions are not yet an established EU instrument; their definition is that of "an area including territory from a number of different countries or regions associated with one or more common features or challenges".

The goals of the strategies are derived from the needs of the macro-region. The unifying factor is observing the principles approved by the European Council, such as budget and legislative neutrality (i.e. no additional expenses, no new legislative norms and no new institutions), subsidiarity and the possibility of including non-EU member states. Projects must have a broad reach affecting multiple countries in the region. Under the European Commission macro-regions are dealt with by DG Regio.

### ***EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region***

The European Union's first macro-regional strategy is the *Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region*. It includes the European Union member states around the Baltic Sea, i.e. Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden. The Czech Republic is not directly included, but takes part in talks as an observer.

### ***EU Strategy for the Danube Region***

This initiative is a response to internal political expectations from the economic sector, which has long expressed its interest in strengthening cooperation in the region. After Romania and Bulgaria joined the European Union in 2007, the Danube became one of the European Union's key transport corridors, which should be appropriately reflected in European policies. Currently, transport along this river represents only a fraction of what is transported along, for example, the Rhine.

The strategy was initiated by Austria and Romania. The content focuses on transport, protecting the environment of the macro-region, prosperity, competitiveness and increasing safety, and includes 11 concrete "priority areas", each of which will be coordinated by one to two countries. The Czech Republic selected support for sustainable energy along with Hungary.

The members of the strategy are 14 countries, including the Czech Republic, through which the Danube flows or which are part of its basin. These are the EU member states Germany (specifically two states – Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg), Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Romania and the non-EU member states Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Ukraine and Moldova.

## **Internal security and judicial cooperation**

Police and judicial cooperation in the EU in 2010 began to develop under the *new legal framework* established by the Lisbon Treaty. Internally this manifested in intensified institutional rivalry, especially in the first half of the year, whether between the Council and the European Parliament on the one hand or between the Council and the European Commission on the other. In February, for example, the European Parliament refused to give consent for concluding the SWIFT Agreement between the EU and USA on data-sharing about financial transactions as part of the fight against terrorism. Its explanation for the rejection was insufficient protection of personal data in the Agreement. The real reason is however more likely to be the Council decision of 30 November 2009, a day before the Lisbon Treaty entered into force, where the Council selected a legal basis for the decision on signing the SWIFT Agreement that allowed less institutional interference from the European Parliament.

The legal framework laid out by the Lisbon Treaty for judicial cooperation not only provided stimuli for interinstitutional rivalry, but also an opportunity for an "accelerated Europe". Member states took advantage of this to establish *enhanced cooperation* for judicial coordination on civil matters. The first case of enhanced cooperation in the EU arising out of the Treaties is the Directive on the deciding law in the case of cross-border separation or divorce. The Council gave the green light to this enhanced cooperation in June 2010. Fourteen member states are taking part; the Czech Republic is not among them.

The main goal of the common *EU asylum policy* is to bring the regulations and procedures for asylum proceedings in EU member states closer together and to find a balance between effectiveness and cost, as well as between national responsibility and EU solidarity. According to the Stockholm Programme, the fundamentals of the Common European Asylum System should be ready by 2012. These are represented by the four asylum Directives (the Directive extending long-term resident status to beneficiaries of international protection, the Qualification Directive, the Reception Directive and the Procedures Directive) and two Regulations (EURODAC – the fingerprint database and the Dublin Regulation – for transfer of asylum seekers to the first member state they entered). The Directive extending long-term residence to beneficiaries of international protection was approved and progress was made at the Council for both the above Regulations).

The Czech Republic, along with other member states from the "north wing" (Germany, the Netherlands, Great Britain and Denmark) share the conviction that national responsibility plays the primary role and EU solidarity has a supplementary role in the EU's asylum policy. This is particularly true for the issue of internal resettlement of asylum seekers within the EU from member states in the south wing to northern countries. If such internal resettlement of refugees within the EU were to be more or less obligatory, as Italy, Greece, Malta and Cyprus are requesting, it would act as a factor of "attraction" for illegal migration toward the EU. In November 2010 the



first meeting of the management board of the *European Asylum Support Office (EASO)* took place in Valletta, Malta.

*Legal migration* is connected to employment. Three Directives are being discussed in the EU – a Directive on a single work and residence permit, a Directive on seasonal workers and a Directive on intra-company transfers. None of them have yet been adopted.

*In terms of border control and illegal immigration*, in October 2010 the continuation of preparations for establishing the second generation of the Schengen Information System (SIS II) was finally confirmed with final validity. In February and March 2010 two technical "milestone tests" were held successfully. These tests and the Commission Report on the time schedule and financial plan attest to the fact that the term of the first quarter of 2013 when SIS II should be fully functional can this time be considered realistic.

The December Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA) approved the division of the *headquarters of the EU Agency for operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of internal security* between France and Estonia. The current technical systems (SIS I+) will continue to be based in France, while the administrative headquarters of the Agency will be created in Estonia.

Eighty percent of all illegal immigrants into the EU flow through Greece, most originating in Algeria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and Somalia. Greece is now wrestling with more than 300 000 illegal immigrants. Greece's announced intention to build a wall at the border with Turkey (inspired by the fence on the US-Mexican border) does not bother Turkey. Since November 2010 there have been EU rapid border intervention teams (RABITs) at the land borders between Greece and Turkey, coordinated by FRONTEX. They number 200 members of border police and customs officials from 22 EU member states and Norway. The Czech Republic has two members in RABIT units; it considers these units a supplementary and temporary activity, not the makings of an EU border police.

In terms of *visa policy*, at the June JHA Council the Commissioner for Home Affairs Cecilia Malmström confirmed that the Visa Information System (VIS) will be put into operation 24 June 2011.

In November 2010 the process of *visa liberalisation between the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania* was successfully completed. All the countries of the Western Balkans thus found themselves on the "white Schengen visa-free list". However, the aforementioned November Council added a clause into the decision on visa liberalisation with Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina about the possibility of reintroducing visa requirements for countries of the Western Balkans if asylum seekers began pouring into the EU in excessive amounts. Sweden and Belgium encountered a suddenly increased wave of such asylum seekers, particularly refugees from Serbia and Macedonia/FYROM, in February and March 2010.

At the November *EU-Ukraine* summit, the Action Plan for visa liberalisation between the EU and Ukraine was adopted. Ukraine expects that its citizens could begin to take advantage of visa-free travel to the EU in 2012 on the occasion of the European Football Championship, which Ukraine will be hosting with Poland. Nevertheless, before then Ukraine must meet the conditions of four areas of the Action Plan (document safety, illegal immigration, law and order, human rights). At the December EU-Russia summit, the EU and Moscow agreed on a gradual visa liberalisation process, implemented in "joint steps".

On 14 July 2009, *Canada* once again (after two years) introduced visas for citizens of the Czech Republic. It explained the decision as being due to considerable growth in the number of asylum seekers arriving in Canada from the Czech Republic. In the given period this was roughly 2 500 applicants, the vast majority citizens of the Czech Republic of Roma ethnicity. The Czech Republic reacted to Canada's step by introducing visas for Canadian diplomatic and official passports. This is the only possible reaction that the current common visa policy allows an EU member state. Canada does not recognise the principle of reciprocity that the EU's common visa policy cites. On the contrary, it considers its visa policy to be one of the most effective methods of protecting its borders.

The Czech Republic is addressing the visa asymmetry with Canada both bilaterally and at the EU level. A joint *Expert Working Group (EWG)* was set up, which – with certain cooperation from the European Commission – met for four meetings in the period from autumn 2009 to autumn 2010. During these meetings the EWG not only dealt with issues of Canadian asylum reform, but above all, at Canada's request, with various aspects of integration of the Roma minority in the Czech Republic (social, educational, security). Within the EU the Czech Republic brought up the problem of Canadian visas as an issue requiring a solution in connection with the EU's own visa policy. This took place regularly at the Council for Justice and Home Affairs over the course of the whole year.

In February 2010 the JHA Council approved the definitive wording of the *EU Internal Security Strategy*. The strategy lays out the threats and risks that the EU should deal with through internal cooperation and coordination. These include the fight against terrorism and organised crime, cybersecurity, the war on drugs, trafficking, etc.

In terms of the *protection of personal data*, the SWIFT agreement between the EU and the USA was successfully concluded in its new form for the EU's part in July 2010. The protection of personal data was a key topic the EU focused on with third parties in 2010. The issue of protecting personal data held a top spot in approving mandates for the European Commission in talks with the USA, Canada and Australia on the PNR Agreements (*Passenger Name Record*). The JHA Council approved the negotiating directives for the Commission on these agreements in December 2010.

The Czech Republic has long stood up for a more marked *Eastern dimension to the EU's migration policy*, focusing on the countries of the Eastern Partnership. To this end it initiated the creation of a letter on this issue from interior ministers, with the interior ministers of Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Romania adding their names. Hungary presented the "letter of 5" as an activity of its Presidency at the November JHA Council.

## **EU law and Czech foreign policy**

### ***Changes to EU primary law***

In connection with the commitments of EU member states made at the European Council held in December 2008 and in June 2009, at the end of 2009 the Spanish government submitted to the Council a *Protocol amending Protocol (No 36) on transitional provisions annexed to the EU founding Treaties* (hereinafter the "Protocol"). The Protocol reacts to the fact that the Treaty of Lisbon, foreseeing an increase in the number of MEPs from certain EU member states, only entered into force after the elections to European Parliament from June 2009. The goal of the Protocol is to temporarily increase the number of MEPs for the 2009–2014 period by eighteen (from 736 to 754). This increase affects twelve EU member states, but not the Czech Republic.

The Protocol was signed on 23 June 2010 in Brussels and in August 2010 it was presented to the Parliament of the Czech Republic for approval for ratification. The Senate gave consent for ratification of the Protocol with its Resolution No. 571 of 27 October 2010, while the Chamber of Deputies did so with Resolution No. 121 of 3 November 2010. The President of the Republic then ratified the Protocol on 15 November 2010 and, several days later on 24 November 2010, the Czech Republic deposited the instrument of ratification for this Protocol with the government of the Italian Republic, which is the depositary of the founding treaties and their amendments.

Although it was expected that the Protocol would enter into force on 1 December 2010, by this date not all EU member states' instruments of ratification had been filed with the Italian government; the Protocol will therefore enter into force on the first day of the month following the deposit of the last instrument of ratification.

Concurrently with the process of ratifying the Protocol, in the second half of 2010 a further change of primary law was prepared. The financial crisis, which peaked in 2010, showed that the current mechanisms for controlling observance of the Stability and Growth Pact by EU member states are insufficient and the instruments through which the EU and its members could effectively react to the financial crisis are weak. The heads of state and government therefore agreed at the European Council held 28–29 October 2010 on the need to introduce a permanent crisis mechanism for ensuring the financial stability of the eurozone as a whole (*European Stability Mechanism*). This mechanism is meant to replace the European Financial Stability Facility and the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism in 2013.

In contrast to the Protocol increasing the number of MEPs, the change to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union in connection with the European Stability Mechanism is taking place for the first time through the "simplified revision procedure" addressed by Article 48 (6) of the Treaty on the EU, i.e. through a European Council decision. The European Council decided to immediately initiate this procedure at its meeting on 16–17 December 2010, where negotiations on the wording of the *European Council Decision amending Article 136 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union with regard to a stability mechanism for Member States whose currency is the euro* (hereinafter the "Decision") were also completed. According to this Decision, a paragraph is to be added to Article 136 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union that will allow EU member states whose currency is the euro to introduce the European Stability Mechanism, which will be activated in cases where it is necessary to ensure the stability of the eurozone as a whole. This Decision should be formally adopted by the European Council in March 2011, with a condition of its entry into force being approval by EU member states in compliance with their constitutional regulations. These internal approval procedures should be completed by the end of 2012 so that the Decision can enter into force as of 1 January 2013.

### ***EU approach to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms***

The Lisbon Treaty dictates that the European Union must accede to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (hereinafter the "Convention"). The legal basis for the EU joining the Convention was laid down through Protocol 14 which, after the submission of the instrument of ratification of the last Convention party, the Russian Federation, on 18 February 2010, entered into force on 1 June 2010.

The EU's accession to the Convention was under preparation within the Council since December 2009. In the first half of 2010 the texts of the Commission's mandate to negotiate accession on behalf of the EU and the directives which would govern the Commission's negotiations were intensively discussed at the Council. This mandate was granted to the Commission by the Council at the end of the Spanish Council Presidency, on 4 June 2010, and the accession talks with the current Convention parties began in July 2010. For the purposes of these negotiations the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Human Rights created an informal working group CDDH-UE, made up of seven experts from EU member states, seven experts from other Convention parties and representatives of the Commission. By the end of 2010 four successful rounds of talks had taken place and the process should be completed by summer 2011. The agreement on EU accession to the Convention will also have to be subsequently ratified by all the current parties (47 countries), as well as the EU; it may therefore take several years for its accession to take force.

In parallel to discussions on accession in the Strasbourg CDDH-UE group, discussions were taking place in Brussels on internal EU rules to implement several provisions of the agreement on EU accession to the Convention and, above all, set up the functioning of two special mechanisms

that are to be created with the EU's accession. These are the "co-defendant mechanism", which is meant to ensure that the entity that committed the act being brought before the European Court of Human Rights have the chance to defend the act with full trial rights, and a mechanism designed to protect the jurisdiction of the EU Court of Justice. This mechanism is to always allow the Court of Justice to judge an EU act before it is taken up by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

## **European Neighbourhood Policy**

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was created in 2004 with the objective of avoiding the emergence of new dividing lines between the EU, newly enlarged by ten countries, and neighbouring countries. The ENP is focused on 16 neighbouring countries, which are Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the Palestinian Autonomous Territories, Syria, Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

The ENP offers these neighbours a privileged partnership based on a mutual commitment to common values, such as democracy, human rights, the rule of law, market economy and sustainable development. By definition the partnership represents above all a bilateral instrument that has also been enriched by an added multilateral and regional dimension of cooperation: the Eastern Partnership, Union for the Mediterranean and Black Sea Synergy.

In 2010 a review of the ENP was launched. At the beginning of 2010 EU member states received a joint letter from High Representative/Commission Vice-President Catherine Ashton and Commissioner Štefan Füle presenting discussion questions on the possible further development of the European Neighbourhood Policy. In the conclusions of the General Affairs Council of 26 July 2010, the HR/VP and European Commission called for a discussion to begin reflecting on the future implementation of the ENP. The Commission asked member and partner countries to send in answers to the posed questions by the end of September 2010. The review was to be completed with a conference of foreign affairs ministers on 1 February 2011.

The Czech Republic sent its reply to the joint letter from Ashton/Füle in a letter by the Czech Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs on 14 September 2010. An addendum to the letter breaking down the main sector priorities (financial instruments, trade, the environment, justice and home affairs, etc.) was sent in December 2010. In relation to the future of the ENP the Czech Republic emphasised the principle of differentiation, taking into account the differing interests and ambitions of the partner countries, the necessity of political will and an active approach to carrying out reforms in ENP countries, as well as the need to analyse the impact of EU assistance on improving the political and socioeconomic situation in partner countries.

During autumn 2010 the European Commission held consultations with member states (the General Affairs Council GAC, the Foreign Affairs Council FAC), the European Parliament, partner countries and civil society representatives. The consultations turned up differences between the

expectations of partner countries and the willingness of EU member states to offer further concessions in various areas (more liberal trade, more investments, better mobility and more funding for reforms).

In January 2011 the European Commission presented a non-paper on the ENP put together along with HR/VP Ashton, which was to serve as a preparation for the ministerial conference. The non-paper concentrated on questions that were brought up by all the participants approached during the review. The only discussion of the non-paper with the member states took place at the COREPER, and with the ENP countries at the level of ambassadors to the EU in Brussels. The ministerial conference was cancelled at the request of the Arab partners for time reasons.

### ***Eastern Partnership***

The Eastern Partnership, as one of the components of the European Neighbourhood Policy, is focused on six east European countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine). The Czech Republic declared the Eastern Partnership as one of the priorities of its foreign policy. It continued to endeavour for maximum use of the bilateral and multilateral dimensions to fulfil its goals.

The most significant political forums in 2010 were the informal meeting of foreign affairs ministers from the countries of the Eastern Partnership 24 May 2010 in Sopoty and the formal session of foreign affairs ministers on 13 December 2010 in Brussels. These meetings provided the basis for further consultations on the future of the Eastern Partnership within the European Neighbourhood Policy and for preparation of the Eastern Partnership summit in Budapest, planned for May 2011. One of the testimonials to the Czech Republic's active approach was the high-level seminar on the Eastern Partnership that Spain hosted with the help of the Czech Republic and Poland in January 2010 in Madrid.

Another important meeting was the Annual Meeting of the Civil Society Forum on 17–18 November 2010 in Berlin, attended by representatives of non-governmental organisations from the countries of the Eastern Partnership. The inclusion of civil society in the Eastern Partnership was among the priorities of the Czech Republic. For this reason the Czech Republic supported the demands of the civil society representatives, primarily brought up through the Civil Society Forum.

The European Commission played an important role in implementing the tasks assigned by member states, led by the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy and in cooperation with the established European External Action Service.

At the bilateral level, 2010 was a period of further development of the EU's relations with partner countries, which for the majority of countries was focused on negotiating Association Agreements between them and the EU. Talks took place on the possibility of setting up a deep and comprehensive free trade area as part of future Association Agreements. On questions of mobility, the discussions focused on the topic of visa facilitation, which was connected to negotiations on readmission agreements.

At the multilateral level there were discussions on continuing and expanding the activities of the four thematic platforms of the Eastern Partnership: 1. Democracy, good governance and stability; 2. Economic integration and convergence with EU policies; 3. Energy security; 4. Contacts between people. In 2010 the third and fourth round of talks on these platforms took place, and the Czech Republic took active part. The thematic scope of some platforms was expanded and through them the details of projects were elaborated, including the "flagship initiatives" of the Eastern Partnership (e.g. in the energy sector or support for small and medium enterprises). Under the financial instrument of the European Neighbourhood Policy, the Eastern Partnership was given support of EUR 600 million for the period 2010–2013. An important component of the EU's enhanced cooperation with its eastern partners is the planned *Comprehensive Institutional Building Programme (CIB)*, the implementation of which should be commenced in 2011.

The working group under the coordination group at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic continued in coordinating the country's approach in implementing the Eastern Partnership. Aside from coordinating the Czech Republic's participation in individual platforms and other formats, the focal point of its activity is support for involving the Czech Republic in Eastern Partnership projects. Three meetings of this working group took place in 2010 under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Czech Republic's bilateral contributions consisted of passing along experience to partner countries in the form of seminars. Among the main activities in this area were a seminar on the reform of public administration at the local and regional level, organised by the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs in November 2010 in Prague and attended by representatives from all partner states. The Czech Ministry of Justice, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, held a seminar on justice reform and cooperation in December 2010. This seminar was also attended by experts from all six partner countries. A seminar was held at the Czech Finance Ministry in December 2010 for a study delegation of employees from the Moldovan public administration on the issue of partnership between the public and private sector.

### ***Union for the Mediterranean***

The Union for the Mediterranean, founded on the basis of a French initiative on 13 July 2008 at a summit in Paris, was created in connection with the Barcelona Process. It has 43 members, including the 27 European Union member states, and should become a platform to strengthen cooperation between countries in the Mediterranean region. The Paris summit identified six priorities for cooperation: de-pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, the development of maritime and land highways, civil protection, the Euro-Mediterranean University, the Mediterranean initiative to promote enterprise and the development of alternative energy resources.

Despite the originally declared focus on technical projects, the Union for the Mediterranean has become a political project. In 2010 its activity was negatively influenced by the situation in the

Near East, from which Arab countries derive how open and constructive they are. The highly ambitious programme of thematic (sectoral) ministerial conferences were to a large extent marked by the unresolved Israeli-Palestinian conflict; to date no final declaration has therefore been adopted. The low interest of member states in taking part in these conferences is an enduring problem. For the same reason, the Summit of heads of states and government has already been postponed twice.

Work has, however, continued at the expert level. Preparations of the secretariat and the technical body responsible for projects were completed in the second half of 2010. In March 2010 the statute for the secretariat was adopted and the Jordanian candidate Ahmed Masa'deh was approved in the function of the Union's secretary general. Barcelona was chosen for the secretariat's headquarters. In November 2010 the secretariat's budget was adopted.

In 2008 the European Commission proposed a joint presidency of the Union, keeping the standard method of the EU being represented by the presiding country. This principle was however later violated and, during the Czech Republic's Presidency of the Council of the EU, the Union for the Mediterranean was co-chaired by the Czech Republic and France. This state also continued for the Swedish, Spanish and Belgian Presidencies. After the Lisbon Treaty came into effect, a discussion was launched on a new model for co-presiding over the Union for the Mediterranean for the EU.

## **The Czech Republic and the Common Security and Defence Policy**

The year 2010 was a year of reflecting on the new post-Lisbon environment for the *Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)*, in particular progressively implementing the new elements relevant for the CSDP and settling the new post-Lisbon forms of the EU crisis-management structures and authorities and the ties between them. Against the backdrop of this institutional rebirth, work continued on developing the civilian and military capacity for dealing with crises, as did EU civilian missions and military operations in a number of places in Europe and the world.

Development of the CSDP is one of the priorities of the Czech Republic's foreign security policy. In contributing to the development of abilities and effective EU structures in the field of crisis management, the Czech Republic took care to ensure maximum efficiency and complementarity with NATO, as the Czech Republic has only one armed forces for meeting its obligations to both organisations.

### ***Implementation of the Lisbon Treaty***

The entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty brings with it a new institutional organisation of individual CSDP crisis management bodies, with the key moment being their gradual integration into the newly created *European External Action Service (EEAS)*. The expected outcome of these changes is streamlined activity of individual CSDP bodies and improved communication between them. The CSDP should also be a more effective and more visible tool of EU foreign policy, fully in



accordance with the EU's ambition to be an active world player in the field of security, capable of facing current security risks and challenges and the growing demand for EU crisis-management expertise. Several changes of a formal character were gradually implemented (e.g. naming of permanent chairs of CSDP working groups where member states are represented) and on 9 December 2010 a meeting of the *Foreign Affairs Council (FAC)* took place in the independent format of EU defence ministers.

Aside from activities related to the new institutional set-up of CSDP bodies, the EU, specifically the Spanish and Belgian Presidencies, made efforts in 2010 to reach a consensus among member states on the method of practical implementation of new provisions contained in the Lisbon Treaty. This primarily refers to the provisions of *Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)* in developing abilities and other elements – the mutual defence clause, the possibility of assigning a certain task to a group of countries and the solidarity clause. Over the course of 2010 the debate was essentially limited exclusively to the issue of PESCO, in the form of seminars. Despite the considerable efforts of both Presidencies, no results were attained. In light of the differing visions and expectations of the various EU member states, clashing opinions and discord remained not only about the usefulness and need of permanent structured cooperation as such, but also about the functional principles and how to formally address the future approach. In general there is a consensus on the need for maximum inclusivity under PESCO and the need for it to have added value in order to fulfil the function of a wider framework for making cooperation on capability development easier (with attention so far being largely focused on military capability), fully in line with the position represented by the Czech Republic.

### ***Development of civilian and military capabilities***

The development of civilian and military capabilities under the long-term plans and goals (*Civilian Headline Goal 2010* for civilian and *Headline Goal 2010* for military capabilities) continued during 2010 and the implementation of these goals will carry on. The focal point of the civilian segment was the issue of human resources for CSDP civilian missions, i.e. the whole range of aspects related to the selection, training and equipping of civilian experts and refining the relevant mechanisms and instruments for sending out civilian experts at the national and EU level. The Czech Republic sees the civilian sphere as the EU's greatest added value in crisis management, and believes it should be further developed and expanded.

In consideration of the budget restrictions (and the stricter financial framework for developing military capabilities), emphasis in the military segment was placed on maximum cooperation between member states and searching out measures that increase interoperability. To this end, the need for further expanding the principles of sharing and pooling were emphasised, as was specialisation by individual member states. Application of these principles should allow for rational use of the given volume of resources and forces in EU member states, while the *European Defence Agency (EDA)* should play an important coordination role.

An important aspect was the launch or continuation of work on several key concepts with a direct impact on the development of capabilities. This primarily refers to the concept of a *Comprehensive Approach*, which is one of the Czech Republic's priorities in the CSDP. This concept is also cultivated in NATO and therefore presents promising potential for mutual cooperation. This also refers to the process of identifying synergies in the field of developing civilian and military capabilities (*Civ-Mil Synergies*). A very important process that the Czech Republic counts among its priorities is that of the developing the military capabilities of EU-NATO cooperation. In this regard progress was made, particularly in terms of the fight against improvised explosive devices and healthcare support (joint *non-papers* containing cooperation proposals were drafted). The EU plans to continue in this cooperation and search out other possible areas for concrete EU-NATO cooperation (e.g. protection against chemical and biological weapons). Cooperation continued between NATO's *Allied Command Transformation (ACT)* and EDA.

### ***Cooperation with other international organisations and partners***

Cultivation of relationships with other important international organisations (particularly NATO, the UN and the AU) and strategic partners in order to handle the crisis continued to be a repeatedly emphasised priority of EU foreign policy in the spirit of the principle of a multilateral approach to dealing with issues of global security. From the point of view of the Czech Republic, the dynamic of EU-NATO relations, in particular the improvement and deepening thereof, had a particularly pivotal significance. Despite efforts and personal involvement from the top representatives of both the EU and NATO, Catherine Ashton and Anders Fogh Rasmussen respectively, with the Czech Republic giving its unequivocal support, mutually addressed proposals, and the fact that relations between the two organisations held top positions on the agendas of several key meetings and summits in 2010 (the NATO Summit in Lisbon, the European Council, the EU-US Summit), no visible progress was made on the current level of relations between the EU and NATO.

### ***EU missions and operations***

The Czech Republic continued to participate in CSDP missions and operations in 2010, with the aims of this participation corresponding to the geographic priorities of the Czech Republic's foreign policy. These priorities above all include the Western Balkans, Afghanistan, Iraq, the Near East and Eastern Europe.

### ***EU civilian missions***

The EULEX Kosovo mission (*EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo*) was commenced in February 2008 and was fully operational by April 2009. The mission is focused on supporting Kosovan authorities with police, justice, customs issues, civilian administration and protection of cultural heritage. On 8 June 2010 the mission's mandate was extended by a further two years until 14 June 2012; the total length of the mission will depend on the results achieved and the potential necessity for further EU involvement in the region. As of the end of 2010 there were roughly 1700 international experts and 1100 local employees in the mission. Most EU member states are taking part in EULEX, along with Croatia, Canada, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and the USA. The

mission in Kosovo is a pivotal one within the CSDP from the point of view of the Czech Republic; it is the EU civilian mission with the largest Czech contingent. Around 30 Czech experts were operative in Kosovo for most of 2010, primarily focused on the police (but also on justice expertise in the form of a public prosecutor).

EUPM (*EU Police Mission*) in Bosnia and Herzegovina was launched 1 January 2003 as the EU's first police mission with an original mandate of three years. At Bosnia and Herzegovina's request the mission was extended with a modified mandate and currently its mandate is valid until 31 December 2011. The goal of the mission is to support the creation of an effective multi-ethnic police system in Bosnia and Herzegovina through consulting, exercising and training members of the police force. The revised mandate from 2009 places great emphasis on the fight against corruption and organised crime. At the end of 2010 the mission numbers around 120 international experts and about 150 local employees. This number includes five police experts from the Czech Republic.

EUMM Georgia (*EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia*) commenced its activities in October 2008. The mission's mandate was extended in 2009 until September 2010 and then in 2010 for another twelve months until 14 September 2011. The mission's objective is to contribute to stabilising the security situation in Georgia and the surrounding region in accordance with the six-point plan. The mission's main tasks include monitoring and supporting overall stabilisation according to the six-point plan, following the situation of the withdrawal of Russian troops and activities related to renewing affected areas (including the problem of persons displaced by the conflict). With the UN and OSCE missions over, the EUMM is the only international monitoring mission in the region. It is made up of police experts and legal and humanitarian specialists totalling 300 international experts. Twenty-six EU countries are participating in the mission, including the Czech Republic, which in 2010 contributed at first ten then, following an increase, thirteen experts from various fields.

EUBAM Moldova (*EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine*) began its activity in December 2005. This mission is not part of CSDP activities, but is financed and run by the European Commission. The mission has a two-year mandate that has been extended twice – in 2007 and 2009 – with the current mandate valid until 30 November 2011. Its main tasks include professional assistance and training of border guards and customs officials directly at border crossings, boosting an integrated approach to border administration, in particular cooperation between border and customs authorities, support for cooperation and exchange of information between Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities, provision of professional advice to central administrative authorities when carrying out administrative and legislative reforms related to border and customs issues, etc. As of the end of 2010 there was also one Czech customs official taking part in the mission.

EUJUST LEX Iraq (*EU Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq*) for supporting criminal justice reform in Iraq was launched in July 2005. Until mid-2010 the mission took the form of educational courses organised in EU member states and the mission headquarters was located in Brussels. In June 2010 however the Council of the EU agreed, along with a decision to extend the mission by two years to 30 June 2012 (depending on developments in the security situation), to move the training activities and the mission headquarters directly to Iraq. At the end of 2010, the site of the new – likely transitional – mission headquarters was being selected, as were potential sites for training centres. One Czech police officer was working as a coordinator in the liaison office at the end of 2010 and another Czech expert was working as a course coordinator in Brussels.

EUPOL Afghanistan (*EU Police Mission in Afghanistan*) commenced in June 2007. In May 2010 the mission's mandate was extended by a further three years until 31 May 2013. The main focus is police reform at the central, regional and provincial level. Emphasis is placed on close cooperation with other organisations operating in Afghanistan (NATO, the UN). As of the end of the year the mission totalled approximately 300 people, with efforts being made to achieve the planned total of 400. The Czech Republic supports greater EU involvement in Afghanistan, including the CSDP mission. For this reason there were as many as eight Czech police experts taking part in the mission in 2010.

EUPOL COPPS in the Palestinian Territories (*EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories*), founded on the basis of an agreement between the Palestinian Authority and the EU, was launched in January 2006. The mission's main objective is to assist in implementing the "Palestinian Civil Police Development Plan". On the EU's part the project also includes training and provision of equipment for Palestinian police. At the end of 2010 there were considerations on the possibility of expanding the scope of the mission, which in the future could also assist in training Palestinian border guards for Gaza. The question will be the subject of further talks in the upcoming year. On 17 December 2010 the mission's mandate was extended by the Council of the EU by 12 months until the end of 2011. The Czech Republic took part in the mission in 2010 by sending one police expert.

EUBAM RAFAH (*EU Border Assistance Mission at the Rafah Crossing Point*) began operations in November 2005 with a year-long mandate that has been repeatedly extended. The goal of the mission is to actively monitor, verify and evaluate the activities of the Palestinian police and customs officials in administering the crossing point. The mission has been suspended for four years now, however, and merely maintains its operating ability, supporting the activities of the EUPOL COPPS mission. Its mandate was extended for a year in May 2010 and is now valid until 24 May 2011. The Council of the EU has repeatedly declared the EU's preparedness to renew the mission's activity at a moment's notice if the situation permits it.

The EU SSR Guinea-Bissau mission (*Security Sector Reform*) was ended in this African country on 30 September 2010 after its mandate expired. EU SSR Guinea-Bissau began in June

2008 and both military and civilian advisers took part in it. Its task was to provide support and counselling to local authorities in reforming the security sector, including the army, police and justice system, and to help plan restructuring thereof. As a result of political instability in the country and failure by the Guinean army to uphold the constitutional order, the Council of the EU decided in July 2010 to terminate the mission once its mandate ran out.

### ***EU military operations***

EUFOR Althea is an EU military operation that was launched in December 2004 based on a mandate from UN Security Council Resolution 1575, which allowed the placement of EU forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The operation's ongoing task is to ensure fulfilment of the Dayton/Paris accords and contribute to a stable and safe environment in the country. EUFOR Althea is part of the EU's long-term strategy to support democratic advancement in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the goal of preparing the country for possible membership in the European Union. The operation makes effective use of the Berlin+ mechanism, which allows cooperation between the EU and NATO using the Alliance's resources. In 2010 it was decided that the tasks of the operation would be expanded and fulfilment of non-executive tasks in capacity building and training would commence. A review of the military planning documents was also performed and the size of the operation was reduced to about 1400 soldiers at the end of the year. The Czech Republic joined in the operation once again in 2010 by sending two military experts to the non-executive training section.

The NAVFOR Atalanta operation is the first EU maritime operation and was launched in December 2008 along the coast of Somalia, originally with a year-long mandate. This has been repeatedly extended and is currently valid until the end of 2012. The operation concentrates on protecting vessels that are part of the World Food Programme, which ensures food deliveries and provides aid to refugees in Somalia, as well as other endangered vessels passing through the northwest Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden. Operation Atalanta is also a component of the internationally coordinated activities against piracy around Somalia (including, *inter alia*, the *NATO Maritime Group*). An ongoing problem that the EU mission must deal with is the issue of what to do with apprehended pirates and the associated legal matters. At the beginning of 2010 the Czech Republic joined in the operation by sending three members of the Czech Army to the mission's operational headquarters in Northwood, Great Britain.

The *EU Training Mission Somalia* is an EU mission taking place in Uganda to train Somali security forces. In connection with UN SC Resolution 1872, this mission aims above all to reinforce the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and its institutions. The mission takes place in close coordination with other partners, including the Ugandan government, the African Union (and its mission in Somalia – AMISOM), the UN and the USA. EUTM Somalia was launched 7 April 2010 and its mandate, made up of two six-month training cycles, should be completed over the course of 2011. The mission's assignment is to support the basic training of soldiers and provide specialised training for non-commissioned officers and lower officers.

## **EU development cooperation and humanitarian aid**

### ***Development cooperation***

In the area of development cooperation, the first half of 2010 was dominated by the EU's preparation for the UN summit on the *Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*, which took place in September in New York.

Two sessions of the EU Foreign Affairs Council in the format of regional development ministers dealt with the EU's preparations for the summit on MDGs. At the meeting that took place on 10 May 2010 in Brussels, the Czech Republic's delegation was led by First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Helena Bombasová. Also evaluated were the EU's further steps in rebuilding Haiti and the functioning of the European External Action Service (EEAS) from the point of view of development issues. At the meeting that took place 14 June 2010 in Luxembourg, the Council adopted the final EU joint position for the UN summit of the Millennium Development Goals. Another part of the Council's conclusions on the MDGs was the Gender Equality Action Plan.

Of the other EU talks on development topics, an important one for the Czech Republic was the donor *Consultative Group Meeting of the Moldova Partnership Forum*, which took place 24 March 2010 in Brussels. The Czech delegation was led by Miloš Lexa, Ambassador at Large for the Eastern Partnership, who presented the Czech foreign development cooperation realised to date in Moldova, which is one of the priority countries for the Czech Republic's development cooperation.

In autumn, an important development event from the point of view of the Czech Republic was the visit of the Commissioner responsible for development cooperation, Andris Piebalgs, to the Czech Republic on 7 October 2010. The Commissioner met with members of the Committee for European Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Czech Chamber of Deputies, with Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Tomáš Dub, with representatives of other ministries as part of a meeting with the Council for Foreign Development Cooperation and with the director of the Czech Development Agency in the presence of representatives from the non-profit sector. The talks primarily related to the future of European Union development cooperation and more pronounced involvement of the new member states in forming and implementing EU development cooperation, including the possibility of using the experiences with transformation that the Czech Republic and other countries have at their disposal.

On 9 December 2010 a meeting of the EU Foreign Affairs Council took place in Brussels in the format of development ministers. At this meeting, the European Commission presented its Green Paper "EU development policy in support of inclusive growth and sustainable development". This aims to increase the impact of the EU development policy, which was published on 11 November 2010. Those attending the talks also reflected on another Green Paper that was running parallel to the consultation process, specifically the Green Paper on the Future of Budget Support. The Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised a broad consultation process on both documents and sent the European Commission its position by the given deadline. Aside from both Green

Papers, the development ministers also dealt with the perspectives for development cooperation with Afghanistan and the situation in Haiti. They also assessed the possibilities for using innovative sources of development funding and approved the Council Conclusions on the transparency of the development policy.

### ***EU humanitarian aid***

In accordance with the Lisbon Treaty, which entered into force in January 2010, the area of humanitarian aid was shifted into shared competency. This shift was likewise reflected in the newly formed European Commission, where a new independent portfolio for humanitarian aid, crisis management and international cooperation was created.

In its Humanitarian Aid Operational Strategy for 2010, the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid (DG ECHO) identified these horizontal priorities, with which the Czech Republic also agrees: respect for international humanitarian law and the humanitarian space, disaster-risk reduction and strengthening the coping capacities in disaster-prone regions, respect for humanitarian principles in military involvement. Territorially, DG ECHO earmarked 54% of its humanitarian budget for humanitarian needs in Africa, 16% for Asia and 14% for the Near East. Sectorally, food aid dominated, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa (27 % of the budget). Part of the budget (10%) was dedicated to disaster prevention in high-risk regions (western and eastern Africa, central and southeast Asia, the Caucasus, Central America).

A fundamental humanitarian topic in 2010 within the EU was the reaction to January's earthquake in Haiti. The EU (member states and the European Commission) promised EUR 1.235 billion in aid for Haiti for the years 2010–2013. This amount also includes aid provided by the Czech Republic in 2010. The EU also reacted to the cholera epidemic that hit Haiti in autumn 2010 by providing humanitarian aid with an emphasis on preventative hygienic measures.

Specific aid in Haiti was followed up by a comprehensive evaluation of the EU's ability to react to large-scale disasters (the Haiti Lessons Learnt process). In June, High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid Kristalina Georgieva submitted suggestions for possible improvement of EU's coordination, visibility and capacity to act. These suggestions were further developed in the autumn European Commission Communication on humanitarian and civil aspects of improved disaster response, which culminated in the adoption of the Council Conclusions in December 2010. The core of the adopted proposals was the creation of a coordination and planning centre under DG ECHO. At the same time, talks were also taking place on the creation of a comprehensive crisis dimension under the newly established European External Action Service in 2010.

The Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) also dealt with other large disasters (Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Sudan, west Africa, Yemen) and in the food segment especially with renegotiating the Food Aid Convention. In spring 2010,

COHAFA prepared Council Conclusions on the provision of food aid and an overview of the principles and pitfalls of nutritional care.

In autumn 2010 a mid-term evaluation of the Consensus on Humanitarian Aid Action Plan was launched in the COHAFA working party at the behest of the European Commission. The Czech Republic actively took part in the evaluation and above all emphasised the need for further building on the capacities of the EU-12, focusing on disaster prevention worldwide and strengthening the ties between humanitarian and development activities.



## **2. The Czech Republic and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation**

### **Bilateral meetings between members of the Czech government and NATO SG and visits to the Czech Republic**

- Prime Minister P. Nečas  
16 September 2010, Brussels.
- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg  
13 September 2010, Brussels.
- Czech Minister of Defence A. Vondra  
14 October 2010, Brussels.
- Czech Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence M. Barták  
5 February 2010, Istanbul.
- Visit by NATO SG A. F. Rasmussen to Prague  
5 March 2010

### **Summits and ministerial meetings in 2010**

- Summit meeting of Heads of State and Government:  
19 – 20 November 2010, Lisbon.
- Meeting of Foreign and Defence Ministers:  
14 October 2010, Brussels.
- Meeting of Foreign Ministers:  
22 – 23 April 2010, Tallinn.  
22 September 2010, NATO–Russia Council, New York.
- Meeting of Defence Ministers:  
4 – 5 February 2010, Istanbul.  
10 – 11 June 2010, Brussels.

## **Political themes**

### ***NATO's new Strategic Concept***

A key political event of 2010 for the Alliance was the approval of a new *Strategic Concept* at the Lisbon Summit in November 2010. This replaced the preceding Strategic Concept, adopted at the Washington Summit in April 1999.

The Strategic Concept is the highest ranked political document and determines the strategic course of NATO for the next roughly ten years. The decision to put together this document was made at the Strasbourg/Kehl NATO summit in April 2009, with the background documentation to be drawn up by a group of experts under the leadership of the NATO Secretary General. This twelve-member group, led by Madeleine Albright, handed over its recommendations under the title *NATO 2020: Assured Security; Dynamic Engagement*. The work of this group covered two of the three preparation phases of the new concept and the Czech Republic took active part in both. In the first "*reflection*" phase, the Czech Republic organised one of the supplementary seminars in January 2010 in Prague. In the second "*consultation*" phase in April 2010, two of the expert group, Giancarlo Aragona and Marie Gervais-Vidricaire, visited Prague for consultations on the positions, preferences and expectations of the Czech Republic. The actual text of the new Strategy Concept was settled among the allies at the third "*drafting and final negotiation phase*", in which the Czech Republic also took active part.

NATO's new Strategic Concept, entitled *Active Engagement, Modern Defence*, confirmed that the Alliance's greatest responsibility is protecting and defending the territory and citizenry according to Article 5 of the Washington Treaty. For this reason, the Alliance decided to build a missile defence shield and confirmed that it will remain a nuclear alliance until there are no longer nuclear weapons in the world. In the modern security environment, distinguished by the growing weight of new threats, the Alliance will continue to fulfil three main tasks – collective defence, crisis management, and cooperative security. To this end it will take steps that react to both the development of current threats as well as new ones that emerge.

The Czech Republic managed to push through all its fundamental positions in the Strategic Concept, and is therefore satisfied with the result. The Czech Republic appreciated both the structure and the thematic balance of the document, as well as the fact that the text is comprehensible for the public.

### ***Ballistic missile defence***

More than 30 countries in the world are developing or have the ability to use ballistic missiles for conventional attacks or even for deploying weapons of mass destruction. Although NATO does not fear an imminent attack from any particular country, the threat of ballistic missiles is real and is growing. The Alliance's activities in the field of ballistic missile defence (BMD) to date were fundamentally expanded at the Lisbon Summit with a breakthrough political decision on creating BMD capabilities to defend the territory and citizenry of the NATO countries in Europe. This

completed the NATO BMD feasibility study that was launched at the Prague NATO summit in November 2002.

The basis for the NATO territorial BMD will be an adjustment of the already implemented *Active Layered Theatre Ballistic Missile Defence (ALTBMD)*, which will provide command and operation. Sensors and missile defence systems will be provided by the allies, with the most vital contribution coming from the USA in the form of the *Phased Adaptive Approach (PAA)*.

The Lisbon Summit decision on a territorial BMD included a reiteration of the Alliance's readiness to cooperate with Russia and other Euro-Atlantic partners. In general Russia rejects such cooperation on territorial BMD, which Russian President Dmitry Medvedev confirmed in Lisbon at the NATO-Russia Council summit. At the same time, top NATO and Russian politicians decided in Lisbon on renewing cooperation in the field of BMD theatre, which Russia suspended in 2008. These decisions were framed by a joint assessment of the threats of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction that the NATO-Russia Council put together in 2010. Although the two sides do not entirely agree on some aspects of the threats, the joint assessment provides the basis for future negotiations and practical cooperation in the field of BMD.

The Czech Republic was highly active in intra-Alliance negotiations in accordance with its long-term position supporting the creation of territorial BMD under NATO.

### ***Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction***

NATO is continuing in building up its ability to deal with the results of an attack using weapons of mass destruction. In 2010 discussions took place on further development of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence in Vyškov and adding *Reachback and Fusion* analytical and monitoring abilities there.

In its new Strategic Concept, NATO confirmed the role of nuclear deterrence and its preparation to work on creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons in accordance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. NATO will take all steps in the field of nuclear disarmament on the basis of the principle of reciprocity and transparency and as long as nuclear weapons exist it will maintain sufficient means for effective nuclear deterrence and to secure the safety of its members. Issues of nuclear non-proliferation, other weapons of mass destruction and the threat of proliferation of ballistic missiles are the subject of dialogue between NATO and its partners, within the NATO-Russia Council, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and in other partner formats.

On 24–25 June 2010 the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the NATO secretariat, organised the 6th Annual Conference on Weapons of Mass Destruction, Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, which allowed discussion on the threats presented by ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons, including discussion of the results of the 8th Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and the new Strategic Concept.

The Czech Republic had a high profile in the area of defence and protection against weapons of mass destruction. The importance of the issue of non-proliferation will continue to grow in the Alliance's agenda. The Czech Republic places emphasis on the exchange of information and experience among allies, as well as with partners. Preparations were also made for a conference on the detection and identification of weapons of mass destruction that the Czech Republic is organising in Prague for the beginning of 2011.

### ***Cybersecurity***

Cybersecurity has become one of NATO's priorities, as the new Strategic Concept confirmed. If the Alliance is to be capable of handling the cybernetic dimension of current conflicts and threats, it must include this dimension in its plans and boost its ability to detect, uncover and neutralise cyberattacks and minimise their impact on critical NATO infrastructure. For this reason NATO is putting together a cybersecurity strategy as assigned at the Lisbon Summit, as well as an action plan for implementing it, with a deadline of June 2011. The primary goal is to concentrate all NATO components under a centralised system of protection and to have the *NATO Computer Incident Response Capability (NCIRC)* fully operational by 2012.

### ***Comprehensive Approach***

The *Comprehensive Approach (CA)* is a concept for planning and leading NATO stabilisation operations that not only focuses on the military dimension of the operation, but also takes into account the whole range of tools required for sustainable resolution of the crisis situation (i.e. not only military but also civilian) and effectively coordinates the Alliance's efforts with other entities operating in the region. The essence of the approach is to ensure as close cooperation as possible between the Alliance and government and non-governmental organisations operating in the area of the operation, starting in the planning phase. The basis for the Alliance's efforts in its comprehensive approach is the *Comprehensive Approach Action Plan*, which was adopted at the NATO summit in April 2008 and which contains concrete practical proposals for implementing this concept. The plan has gradually been being implemented and the Alliance regularly evaluates its implementation.

Particularly in light of its experiences from the ISAF mission in Afghanistan, the Alliance decided to create limited NATO civilian capabilities for situations where other entities are not able or willing to fulfil the civilian tasks required to achieve a sustainable solution to the crisis. In such situations the Alliance should be able to use and coordinate both the military and civilian faculties that individual countries provide for Alliance missions. NATO will thus to a certain extent acquire the possibility of filling in the gaps in international stabilisation and reconstruction efforts caused by the lack or insufficient presence of other international actors in a given crisis zone.

In 2010 the *Comprehensive Approach Specialist Support (COMPASS)* database of civilian experts began to operate in the areas of politics, reconstruction and stabilisation and media, which can be utilised during the planning and implementation of NATO operations. At the end of the year

the database contained a total of 169 civilian experts from nine allied countries. The Czech Republic contributed four experts to this database. In general the Czech Republic has been involved in the conceptual field of the Comprehensive Approach from the very beginning.

### ***Russia***

In 2010 the working relations between NATO and Russia were normalised, above all through the fulfilment of the tasks assigned by NATO-Russia foreign ministers in December 2009. The activities of the *NATO-Russia council (NRC)* focused on setting up new working structures and defining the new mandates of the merged committees and working groups. In addition to this, a large part of the NRC's activity was taken up by putting together the *Joint Review of the 21st Century Common Security Challenges*. The final document, presented to the Lisbon Summit of the NATO-Russia Council in November 2010, contains both an analysis and proposals for concrete practical cooperation in five areas – the fight against terrorism including the vulnerability of critical infrastructure, piracy, Afghanistan, natural or man-made disasters and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their carriers.

In terms of concrete results, however, no expansion of practical cooperation on the NATO-Russia Council outside the already existing areas took place in 2010. The NATO-Russia Council continued to play an important role as a political forum for discussion. Despite consensus on a number of areas of common interest, there remains a fundamental difference of opinion between NATO and Russia on several issues. A typical example is the situation in Georgia and fulfilment of the Russian commitments from 2008.

The Czech Republic was highly involved in the spirit of a two-pronged approach, comprised of the NATO-Russia Council dimension and the purely NATO dimension. One practical contribution of the Czech Republic to cooperation under the NATO-Russia Council was a voluntary donation of approximately CZK 235 000 for a NATO-Russia council focused on anti-drug training for Afghanistan, Central Asia and, since the NATO-Russia Council Lisbon Summit, also Pakistan (*NRC Project on Counter – Narcotics Training of Afghan, Central Asian and Pakistan Personnel*). In October 2010 the Czech Republic also organised a seminar in Prague focused on military interoperability in concrete logistic areas (water resource management).

### ***Ukraine***

The Alliance's relationship with Ukraine went through a fundamental transformation in 2010 in connection with the change in the country's foreign policy orientation and the adoption of a law placing the country outside of political-military groups, including NATO. The form of further cooperation in the new context was the main focus of talks at the *NATO-Ukraine Commission (NUC)* and a number of other formats. Ukraine expressed interest in developing a constructive partnership with the Alliance and above all in practical cooperation. It continued in fulfilling the *Annual National Programme (ANP)* and assured the Alliance of its ongoing participation in all the main military operations (KFOR, ISAF, NTM-I, *Active Endeavour*) as well as in the new NATO

*Response Force (NRF)*. It also came up with proposals for cooperation in new areas, e.g. in the field of cyber defence. In November 2010, Ukraine set up a new coordination system for cooperating with NATO under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

With regard to Ukraine, the Czech Republic pushed for a policy of active partnership and keeping the Alliance's doors open, with support for transforming Ukrainian security forces.

## **Georgia**

In 2010 Georgia welcomed the declaration of the Lisbon Summit confirming the Bucharest Summit's decision on its future membership in the Alliance. The necessary preparations are continuing, primarily as part of the *Annual National Programme (ANP)*, the fulfilment of which the allies evaluated positively for 2010. Political dialogue on the *NATO-Georgia Commission (NGC)* was dominated by security issues in the first half of the year, while the second half was dominated by internal developments in Georgia, in particular the ongoing reforms and the national strategy on South Ossetia and Abkhazia. In 2010 the Alliance opened a liaison office in Tbilisi. A specialised Georgian school in the city of Sachkhere was added to the list of training centres under the *Partnership for Peace (PfP)* programme. Georgia's contribution to the ISAF operation was of great importance; 900 Georgian soldiers are operating there. In 2010 Georgia also increased its activities in training Afghan armed forces and building up the abilities of Afghan administration.

The Czech Republic continues to support Georgia's aspirations for membership in the Alliance and has a thorough policy of support for the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty. In October 2010 the first phase of a project for handling unexploded munitions and land mines was launched, including the construction of a rehabilitation centre (*Explosive Remnants of War Clearance and Medical Rehabilitation Support to Georgia*). The project is financed by a trust fund that the Czech Republic founded and runs along with Lithuania and Estonia. The Czech Republic was also active in putting on courses in the field of logistics and supplying Georgian armed forces.

## **Partnership formats**

The new Strategic Concept considers partnership an important instrument that helps the Alliance fulfil its goals and strengthens international security. The strategy now defines the goals of the partnership policy and provides the direction for its reform, which NATO has been discussing since the start of 2010.

Some of the changes are focused on cooperation with existing partner countries with the goal of simplifying procedures and harmonising partnership instruments for all institutionalised partnership formats: the *Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council/Partnership for Peace*, *Mediterranean Dialogue* and the *Istanbul Cooperation Initiative*, as well as the existing partners outside these formats. The first step was founding the *Partnership and Policy Committee*, which integrates all aspects of partnership application. In autumn 2010 work was then begun on consolidating the partnership instruments and mechanisms in the form of a consistent procedure for processing individual cooperation programmes and a unified offer of activities.

At the strategic level the partnership reform focuses on deepening the political dialogue and cooperating with existing and new partners on NATO priorities, such as energy security, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and crisis management. A no less important objective of the reform is to expand the circle of potential contributors to current and future Alliance operations.

An accented aspect of the reform is flexibility and the possibility to meet with the partners that are relevant for important topics in flexible formats according to the current need. Countries outside the partnership formats will also apparently be given more space. These are above all the countries with whom NATO already cooperates bilaterally: Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand (hitherto known as "Contact Countries"), Pakistan, Iraq and Afghanistan. It is however expected that this group of "global partners" will gradually expand.

The Czech Republic supports streamlining the system of partnerships so that it does not discriminate any partners according to its membership in a certain group and supports partnership on the basis of reciprocity, mutual benefit and pragmatism. However, it also supports maintaining the long-term political goals of partnership, in particular building stability in the Euro-Atlantic area through support for political and military reforms, multilateral political dialogue and building trust among partners.

### ***Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council***

Within the Council and the Partnership for Peace programme, work continued on developing common policies and procedures on common challenges, such as training and education, the role of women in conflict resolution and the initiative for building an anti-corruption environment at defence ministries. On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the adoption of UN SC Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, the Council discussed a NATO report on the implementation of this resolution and adopted the recommendations therein for the future. In the spirit of unifying the Alliance's approach to partnership formats, the policy on UN SC Resolution 1325 was also opened to the countries of the Mediterranean Dialogue (MeD) and the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI).

### ***Mediterranean Dialogue***

In general, relations within the *Mediterranean Dialogue (MeD)* were marked by the impact of Israel's military intervention in the Gaza Strip in January 2009. The Arab partners in the MeD (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia) continue to be unprepared to meet at a higher level. In connection with this, the meeting of the *Atlantic Policy Group* in the MeD format was postponed for a second time. At the working level, however, cooperation continues. In 2010 a meeting with the MeD took place at the level of ambassadors in connection with discussions on the planned new NATO Strategic Concept.

Over the course of 2010 *Individual Cooperation Programmes (ICPs)* were approved with Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia. Within the MeD, ICPs have now been signed with all countries

except Algeria. In December 2010 the Alliance approved the inclusion of the *Cairo Centre for Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA)* in the network of partner training centres. CCCPA thus became the first training centre in the countries of the Mediterranean Dialogue.

In spring 2010 the Alliance approved expansion of Israel's involvement in operation *Active Endeavour*, for which Israel will contribute a warship. It is currently being certified and it is not clear when it will be actually deployed.

The Czech Republic has long supported individualised cooperation in the MeD format. On the basis of a cooperation agreement the Czech Republic sent a demining team to Jordan from May to August 2010, which took part in demining the Jordan River Valley as part of exercises with the help of two specialised "Božena" units.

### ***Istanbul Cooperation Initiative***

Closer cooperation between the countries of the *Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI)* and NATO continues to be hampered by the absence of two influential countries in the region, Saudi Arabia and Oman, in this format. Another aspect influencing cooperation are the unfulfilled expectations from the countries of the ICI on, for example, receiving security guarantees from NATO in the case of a conflict in the region. In 2010 a falling interest in practical cooperation could also be seen.

Two meetings at the level of ambassadors took place in 2010. At the March meeting, the representatives of the ICI countries cited the existence of intersecting interests between NATO and the ICI (proliferation of WMDs, the Iranian nuclear programme, the fight against piracy and terrorism, stabilisation of Afghanistan and Iraq, the safety of energy infrastructure). At the same time they reiterated that the Middle East peace process remains a priority for the ICI countries. The second meeting of ambassadors in September discussed the preparations of the new NATO Strategic Concept. At the close of the year, Qatar confirmed that it will host the traditional NATO-ICI ambassadorial conference, which will take place in Doha in February 2011. The conference should be a chance to discuss a new strategy of long-term goals and commitments for the region that correspond to the real needs of ICI partners.

### ***Western Balkans***

The current state of Euro-Atlantic integration of individual countries of the Western Balkans region is best summarised by the conclusions of the Lisbon Summit. The summit declaration once again emphasised in relation to the whole region that the stability of the Western Balkans remains important for European security, and furthermore confirmed that the Alliance's *Open Door Policy* still applies to all countries prepared to share the values on which NATO is based.

In relation to the individual countries of the region, the declaration concentrated on individual matters. Macedonia/FYROM still did not manage to resolve the conflict over its name in 2010, an issue that continues to force the country to shuffle its feet in front of the Alliance's gates. In their closing Declaration, the allies reiterated their commitment from the summit in Bucharest



(2008), that the country is invited to join as soon as the conflict over its name is resolved. In the case of Montenegro, the Declaration praised its active participation in the first round of the *Membership Action Plan (MAP)*. Bosnia and Herzegovina has not yet managed to meet the condition set at the meeting of Alliance foreign affairs ministers in Tallinn in April 2010 (to find an agreement on the issue of reregistration of immovable military property). Only after it is fulfilled will the *North Atlantic Council (NAC)* decide on starting the first cycle of the Membership Action Plan. In the Declaration, the allies also praised Serbia's improving cooperation with the Alliance; Serbia has stated that it will intensify partnership cooperation with NATO, but it still does not have any ambitions to become a full-fledged member.

### ***Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina***

Montenegro successfully launched the first cycle of its Membership Action Plan (MAP) when it submitted its first Annual National Plan specifying its activities under this programme. The country is continuing with reform and development of its defence sector in accordance with the required Alliance standards.

Bosnia and Herzegovina recorded some success in its progress toward NATO in 2010, being conditionally invited to an MAP at the meeting of Alliance foreign ministers in Tallinn, Estonia in April 2010. First, however, it must fulfil a condition on the registration of state military property before it will be able to submit its Annual National Plan and thereby begin the first round of the MAP. Until that time it will continue in fulfilling the existing framework for its cooperation with the Alliance – the *Individual Partnership Action Plan*. Implementation of reforms and further progress in the country was then put on hold by the holding of general elections and the subsequent formation of a new Bosnian government and parliament, which spilled over into the start of 2011. The NATO regional headquarters in Sarajevo is still functional, with its main tasks including support for the European Union's EUFOR ALTHEA mission and assistance in reforming the defence sector.

### ***Macedonia / FYROM***

For Macedonia/FYROM the year 2010 did not bring any progress toward NATO. The Alliance merely once again confirmed its decision from the Bucharest Summit in April 2008 that Macedonia will be invited to NATO as soon as it finds an acceptable compromise for resolving the controversial issue of its name.

In 2010 the NATO regional headquarters in Skopje changed into a Liaison Team, the main task of which is to support the country's defence reforms, focusing on its future membership in the Alliance.

### ***Serbia***

The year 2010 brought Serbia its long-awaited *Security Agreement* certification on the protection of classified facts with NATO, which allowed Belgrade to perform full-fledged work in the Partnership for Peace programme and to launch preparations for the official opening of a

partnership mission with the Alliance. Aside from the officially named Serbian Ambassador to the Alliance, this will now also include two members of the military section. Serbia also signalled an interest in beginning to cooperate with NATO under an *Individual Partnership Action Plan*, which could take place in 2011.

The NATO Military Liaison Office continued to operate in Belgrade. In 2010 the office was led by Czech Jan Kaše.

The Czech Republic completed a two-year cycle as the NATO *Contact Point Embassy* in Belgrade and pushed through an extension for another two years, 2011–2012. Its efforts continue to focus on the area of public diplomacy, cooperation with the non-governmental sector in planning and financing projects related to NATO and passing along the Czech Republic's experiences from the PfP programme. The head of the Permanent Delegation to NATO Martin Povejšil also made a visit to Serbia, where he took part in a number of debates and lectures on the theme of current issues in the North Atlantic Alliance.

### ***Energy security***

In the first half of 2010 the topic of energy security was discussed in the Alliance in connection with developments after the second Ukrainian-Russian gas crisis in 2009 and in connection with the assessment of risks and threats to energy security and energy infrastructure in specific regions. In the second half of 2010, attention was devoted to this topic in connection with preparations for the new NATO Strategic Concept and the regular report on implementation of NATO's role in energy security, which was presented at the Lisbon Summit. In autumn 200 a seminar was held with partners from the EAPC on protecting critical energy infrastructure.

NATO's new Strategic Concept reflects the varying degree of ally dependence on foreign suppliers and carriers of energy for securing their energy needs. For this reason the Alliance defines one of its goals as developing capabilities that will contribute to the energy security of all allies, including protecting key energy infrastructure and transit areas and routes. The main instruments should be cooperation with partners and consultation between allies on the basis of strategic evaluation and crisis planning in the regions. The Lisbon Summit confirmed that NATO will continue to devote attention to the topic of energy security.

## **Operations and missions**

### ***Afghanistan – ISAF***

The Alliance is present in Afghanistan through the *International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)*, which is operative there on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 1386 of 20 December 2001. The ISAF mandate is regularly extended, with Resolution 1943 of 13 October 2010 being in force as of 31 December 2010. At the end of 2010 there were over 130 000 soldiers from 48 countries active in the ISAF operation.

The ISAF operation continued to be NATO's largest and most important operation in 2010. Its primary goals are to ensure security and stability in Afghanistan, to help in building the Afghan security sector (esp. through NTM-A (*NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan*)) and to expand the influence of the Afghan central government in the regions. The ISAF is also a significant contribution by the Alliance to the fight against international terrorism.

In 2010 the Alliance entered its eighth year of activity in Afghanistan with a new strategy based on a comprehensive evaluation of the mission carried out by the ISAF commander during the second half of 2009. This strategy, inter alia, changed the philosophy of ISAF military operations with the main priority becoming ensuring security and the fundamental conditions for life for as large a proportion of the Afghan population as possible. The new strategy's increase to the number of units by almost 50% over the current state (from around 85 000 to 125 000) allowed the ISAF and Afghan national security forces to take the initiative and launch extensive offensives in areas traditionally ruled by the Taliban, particularly in the southern provinces of Helmand and Kandahar. Military operations also took place in other parts of the country with the goal of ensuring security in the most heavily populated areas. A significant positive factor was the unprecedentedly high participation of Afghan security forces in carrying out military operations, which reflects their increasing quality and numbers. On the other hand, the increased tempo of fighting and the increase in international military presence was matched by a record high number of ISAF victims, which exceeded 700 for the year.

Afghanistan also dominated political and diplomatic talks. The large international conferences in London (January) and Kabul (July) confirmed the international community's long-term commitment to help Afghanistan, as well as the specific commitments of the Afghan leadership, in particular in the field of good governance and the fight against corruption.

Against the background of the quickly growing numbers and abilities of Afghan security forces, NATO along with Afghan representatives finished negotiating the form of the planned process for handing over responsibility for security to Afghan hands (the 4th phase of the ISAF mission – *Transition*). According to a decision from the Lisbon Summit this process will be launched in the first months of 2011 on the territory of several selected provinces with a relatively high level of security, development and good governance. Which provinces will be selected as the first will be decided on the basis of a recommendation from the *Joint NATO-Afghan Inteqal Board (JANIB)*. The handover will take place exclusively according to fulfilment of the stipulated conditions and not according to an artificial timeframe. It is nevertheless expected that it will be completed by the end of 2014, when Afghan security forces should have security in the whole country under control with only indirect support from ISAF.

The process of handing over responsibility for security does not mean the international forces will leave, only that the nature of their presence will change. Afghanistan will require long-term support from the international community. For this reason a Declaration on an Enduring

Partnership between NATO and Afghanistan was signed at the Lisbon Summit, affirming NATO's long-term commitment and establishing a framework for cooperation beyond the horizon of the *International Security Assistance Force*. The exact content of this cooperation will be settled in 2011 and will be based on the existing *Afghan Cooperation Programme (ACP)*.

Despite the worsened security situation, politically important elections to the lower chamber of the Afghan parliament (*Wolesi Jirga*) took place in September 2010, with security being provided primarily by Afghan security forces.

The processes of reintegration and reconciliation became part of the long-term solution to the situation in Afghanistan. The reintegration process ensures acceptable living conditions for former members of the opposition forces who renounce violence and decide to respect Afghan laws and the Constitution. The reconciliation process consists of the effort to negotiate peace with opposition leaders and takes place under the auspices of the *High Peace Council*, set up in September 2010.

Narcotics production was a significant source of financing for the opposition forces in 2010, with the area of cultivated land remaining the same as in 2009. Production itself however fell by nearly half, above all as a result of crop diseases and adverse weather conditions. In spite of this, Afghanistan remains the largest producer of opium in the world.

In 2010 the Alliance continued in developing relations with Afghanistan's neighbours and other regional partners, with Pakistan maintaining the most important position among them. Military dialogue and cooperation between the ISAF and Afghan and Pakistani army continued as part of the Tripartite Commission. NATO reacted to the extensive floods in Pakistan in August 2010 by transporting humanitarian aid to the country and donating specific materials (water filtration units and pre-fabricated bridges).

The Czech Republic deployed its largest military contingent abroad to date to Afghanistan over the course of 2010 (the parliamentary mandate allows deployment of up to 535 persons). The country actively took part in both the Alliance's ISAF operation and the EU's EUPOL Afghanistan police mission. As part of the ISAF operation, Czech Army units worked at the international airport in Kabul, where they trained Afghan helicopter pilots. Czech Army units also provided training and support for Afghan Army units through the *Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team (OMLT)* in the province of Wardak in the eastern part of the country. In the same region, in the province of Paktika, the Czech Army helicopter team provided air transport for the needs of the ISAF – East regional headquarters. The largest contingent of deployed Czech Army units ensured the security of the Czech *Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT)* in the province of Logar.

PRT Logar, which began operations in 2008, is the largest and most important Czech development project abroad. In 2010, aside from 260 Czech Army personnel, there were 11 civilian experts working under it, dealing with reconstruction activities in the fields of education, healthcare, agriculture, water management, infrastructure, security and support for independent

media and the rights of women. In February 2010, Greece contributed approximately CZK 7 million to PRT Logar projects.

At the start of 2010 the Czech Republic contributed approximately CZK 2 200 000 to the *Afghan National Solidarity Programme* and at the end of the year around CZK 1 700 000 to the *NATO-ANA Trust Fund*.

### ***Kosovo – KFOR***

Following thorough consideration of all the political-security circumstances in Kosovo, KFOR moved to a so-called *Deterrent Presence* in 2009 on the basis of a decision by the North Atlantic Alliance. This is accompanied by a reduction in the number of units deployed and the scope of tasks performed. KFOR's function remains ensuring security in Kosovo on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 1244. KFOR's role in dealing with incidents consists of being a third line behind the Kosovan police and the EULEX international police mission. The first phase of reduction in numbers was completed at the end of January 2010, when KFOR reached a count of 10 000 persons. In autumn 2010 a further phase of reductions was approved, with KFOR to drop to 5 500 persons as of the beginning of 2011. The concept for KFOR's activity was also adjusted – there will continue to be two battle groups – one with stationary tasks (protection of important monuments and borders) and the other with "mobile" tasks over all of Kosovo.

In connection with the operation's transformation, the profile of the Czech Army's involvement in Kosovo has also changed. As of 1 October 2010 the Czech Republic has taken over the battalion of operational reserves, which is prepared in the Czech Republic and can be moved to Kosovo if needed. An operational team counting 70 persons currently remains at the Šajkovac base, securing the equipment stored there and the functioning of the base in case the Czech operational battalion needs to be deployed.

### ***Operation Active Endeavour***

Operation *Active Endeavour* (OAE) in the Mediterranean Sea was launched in 2001 as the Alliance's response to the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001. It is an Alliance operation led according to Article 5 of the Washington Treaty. Alliance ships in the operation are to monitor and check boats that are moving through the Mediterranean Sea and are suspected of cooperating with terrorists. OAE in the Mediterranean Sea continued in 2010 as well. In April 2010, Georgia joined the operation, and Ukraine also renewed its participation. The question of renewing Russia's participation remains open; the country confirmed its interest in doing so at the Lisbon NATO-Russia Council summit.

### ***NATO Training Mission - Iraq***

In 2010 the Alliance continued in supporting the training and education of Iraqi security forces as part of the *NATO Training Mission – Iraq (NTM-I)*. At the end of the year the North Atlantic Alliance approved the Structured Cooperation Framework on the basis of which it offered Iraq a package of civilian and military activities. The *NTM-I Periodic Mission Review* was also approved,

tasking the military authorities with carrying out a special evaluation of the mission, which is to help defence ministers decide in June 2011 on the potential continuation of NTM-I beyond 2011. NTM-I is evaluated as successful, politically visible and above all effective from the point of view of low operational costs. Lack of funding in the *NTM-I Trust Fund*, from which the mission is financed, remains a long-term problem. While NTM-I is focused on training directly in Iraq, the newly approved Structured Cooperation Framework defines activities that take place outside Iraq (primarily in NATO training and education centres). The Czech Republic did not take part in the NTM-I training mission in 2010.

### ***Counter-piracy operations***

NATO continued with its counter-piracy operation *Ocean Shield* in 2010 as part of international efforts to fight against piracy in the coastal waters off Somalia. NATO coordinates its efforts at the working level with other actors in the region, particularly the EU NAVFOR ATALANTA operation and the international group CTF 151. At the close of 2010 the Alliance decided it was necessary to perform a strategic evaluation of *Ocean Shield* to take into account other possibilities for continuing the operation depending on the situation in the region and NATO's overall capacity.

### ***Support for developing the capabilities of the African Union and its operation in Somalia***

In 2010 the Alliance also continued its logistical support for the *African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)*. This assistance consisted predominantly of securing strategic air transport for the rotating units, accompanying UN vessels supplying AMISOM to the harbour in Mogadishu and training AMISON and building up the AU's capacities. The current AU leadership expressed interest in more structured cooperation with NATO.

## **NATO transformation and reform**

### ***Developing capabilities***

One of the concrete results of the Lisbon Summit was the defence "transformation package", the goal of which is to react to the most burning capability needs arising from the requirements of ongoing operations and possible new threats and to the identified needs for acquiring new capacity. A set of ten capabilities is defined in direct relation to the realistic estimate of future available resources. These include territorial missile defence, protection against improvised explosive devices in operations and protection against cyberattacks. The individual elements contained in the package are part of wider reform efforts, after which the Alliance should be more capable, more agile, able to manage events (and not just react to occurring crises) and "cheaper" for member states. In its essence, the package does not entail any new (financial or capacity) commitments by the allies, nor expansion of the spectrum of abilities covered from the common funds. It is based on existing plans and programmes in various phases of realisation, financing and implementation.

The Czech Republic traditionally contributed to the development of military capabilities. It is a member of the multinational programme *Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS)*. At the end of

2010 the Czech Republic's accession to the *Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS)* was completed. Above all, the Czech Republic joined in improving protection against improvised explosive devices and increasing tactical preparation capabilities, in which it plays a leading role in the *HIP Helicopter Task Force*, the goal of which is to increase the deployability of Mi-17 helicopters.

### ***Command structure reform***

Reforms of the NATO Command Structure continued in 2010. The Alliance put together and approved a new command structure model setting the staff ceiling at 8950 persons with the number set to fall after further savings. The current model has roughly 13 000 persons. The new model has not yet addressed the geographic placement of individual command structure elements; those decisions are to be made in 2011. It is expected however that the current two strategic headquarters will be maintained – the *Allied Command Operations (ACO)* and the *Allied Command Transformation (ACT)* – as will their roles.

### ***Reform of Alliance agencies***

The current 14 NATO agencies, spread over seven countries, employ more than 6000 people. One type are agencies founded in order to handle several common capabilities under programmes that some or all allies take part in. The other type are agencies providing support and services and agencies providing communication and information support. Several years' effort to reform the agencies culminated in 2010. The proposal approved at the Lisbon Summit would see the agencies merged into three and then later into two. The main task of NATO agencies is to provide support for operations and manage the Alliance's critical capabilities. The goal of the reform is to achieve savings through maximum efficiency, improving the quality of management and transparency, eliminating duplication and making use of synergy. The agency reform is closely tied to the command structure reform and both reforms are interconnected. Over the course of 2011 NATO will deal with the spread out nature of the agencies and their components in connection to the elements of the command structures and will begin the process of combining them.

### ***Financial reform***

The Alliance's reform efforts include reforming joint funding with the goal of increasing transparency and improving management of the common resources. This consists of a set of measures including a harmonisation system with a new NATO defence planning process that entered its first cycle this year and the creation of a new requirement planning system for Alliance operations and missions that represented the highest proportion of needs recently.

The structure of NATO's joint financing is made up of the civil budget, the military budget and the NATO security investment programme (NSIP). The civil budget serves to finance activities at the NATO headquarters in Brussels. The military budget serves to finance NATO joint command structures and NATO operations and missions. The NATO security investment programme is used to finance investment projects to support Alliance military capabilities.

Another part of the joint resources reform was addressing the growing disproportion between military demands, in particular for operations, and the available resources. In connection with this the Alliance approved an extraordinary increase in funds in the NSIP in March 2010 in order to cover the 2010 deficit.

The Czech Republic contributed significantly to discussions on organising the first conference on resources, which took place in autumn 2010 in Prague.

### ***Changes at NATO headquarters***

An initiative of the NATO Secretary General took place in 2010 to reduce the structure of Alliance committees and working groups from more than 400 to less than 200. A new division at the NATO secretariat called *Emerging Security Challenges* was also formed.

Changes were completed on the posts of NATO Assistant Secretaries General. With the departure of Jiří Šedivý from the position of NATO Assistant Secretary General for Defence Policy and Planning in autumn 2010, the Czech Republic no longer holds any managing function at the NATO secretariat.

### **Public diplomacy**

NATO's public diplomacy in 2010 actively steered toward preparing an appropriate media strategy for supporting the Lisbon Summit. In the first half of the year the main topic of the *Committee for Public Diplomacy* was the awarding of *Contact Point Embassies* for the 2011-2012 two-year cycle. At the beginning of the year the Alliance approved rules that simplified the process for selecting the country for this role. The whole selection process was complete in June 2010. The Czech Republic is carrying out the role of contact point embassy in Serbia for the second time in 2011-2012.

The Czech Republic's permanent delegation continued in its active approach to informing the public about goings-on in NATO. Over the course of 2010, the Permanent Delegation of the Czech Republic to NATO organised six group visits, primarily by high school and university students.

The Czech Republic also took active part in the joint Alliance video campaign, which focused on a young audience in accordance with the NATO Public Diplomacy Strategy for 2010-2011. The video campaign, entitled *What NATO means for us*, presented the key NATO themes in short videos from the allies: peace, security, dialogue, cooperation, solidarity, partnership, stability, operation, consensus and collective defence. In its video, the Czech Republic presented its activity with the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Logar, Afghanistan.

At the end of the year, the Czech Republic organised an exhibit of large-format photographs documenting the activities of its PRT in Logar at the NATO headquarters. The exhibition also included pictures by Afghan children. The exhibition was opened by the head of the civil part of the PRT Matyáš Zrno along with the head of the Permanent Delegation of the Czech Republic to NATO Martin Povejšil.



### 3. The Czech Republic and regional cooperation

#### Visegrad cooperation

The *Visegrad Group (V4)*, comprising the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, is the most important format for regional cooperation in Central Europe, and is characterised by a substantial intersection of interests and efforts to further expand them. The purpose of this initiative consists of both furthering these interests on the international field and strengthening mutual awareness. In practice this consists primarily of developing specific projects (interdepartmental cooperation, strengthening relations between the citizens of the Visegrad countries, etc.), regular consultation, exchange of information and coordination of positions on important international questions. Since the Visegrad countries entered the European Union, EU matters form a key component of the agenda.

In the first half of 2010 Hungary presided over the Visegrad Group; in the second, Slovakia.

The top foreign policy priorities of the Hungarian V4 Presidency were integration of the Western Balkans into Euro-Atlantic structures, the Eastern Partnership, working together on development cooperation and various formats of collaboration with third countries. On the first two priorities (Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership), expanded foreign minister meetings took place in the format V4+. Aside from that, the Hungarian Presidency also set a number of sector priorities for the V4, the most important of which are the programme for cooperating on the Roma issue and the problem of energy security. Expert working groups were created for both areas.

The motto of the Slovak Presidency is *Efficient Visegrad – Continuity, Cohesion, Solidarity, Awareness*. In practice the presidency, which ends in June 2011, is focused above all on deepening the internal solidarity of the V4, in particular coordinating positions on EU agendas and more specifically on energy policy and activities related to the Eastern Partnership and Western Balkans. The most important foreign policy event organised by the Slovak Presidency was the expanded foreign minister meeting on the issue of integrating the countries of the Western Balkans.

During 2010 – particularly in the second half of the year – it was possible to observe a growth in the intensity of cooperation among V4 countries on several key EU topics. In the summer, a joint letter of the V4 prime ministers was submitted to the Commission President on the European Social Fund, followed by a joint letter to Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger on energy infrastructure projects in Central Europe, in particular the north-south connection. Alongside a number of other joint projects and positions, one major success was agriculture ministers agreeing on the Bratislava Declaration, which comments on the future of the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy.

Meetings of representatives of Visegrad Group countries:

- 15 January 2010 – meeting of agriculture ministers (+ Bulgaria, Romania), Berlin;

- 4 – 5 February 2010 – meeting of culture ministers, Budapest;
- 24 February 2010 – summit of V4+ prime ministers on energy security, Budapest;
- 2 March 2010 – meeting of V4+ foreign ministers on Eastern Partnership, Budapest;
- 24 – 26 March 2010 – meeting of justice ministers, Prague;
- 28 – 29 March 2010 – informal meeting of ministers responsible for cohesion policy (V4+Slovenia), Budapest;
- 29 March 2010 – meeting of regional development ministers (V4+Bulgaria, Romania), Budapest;
- 21 – 22 June 2010 – meeting of chiefs of staff, Balatonőszöd;
- 24 – 25 June 2010 – meeting of agriculture ministers (V4+Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania), Visegrád;
- 20 July 2010 – V4 prime ministers summit, Budapest;
- 14 September 2010 – informal meeting of foreign ministers on the sidelines of the GLOBSEC 2010 conference, Bratislava;
- 16 September 2010 – informal meeting of prime ministers on the sidelines of the European Council, Brussels;
- 30 September – 1 October 2010 – meeting of heads of parliament (Chamber of Deputies+Senate), Papiernička–Č. Kameň;
- 22 October 2010 – meeting of V4+ foreign ministers on Western Balkans, Bratislava;
- 24 October 2010 – informal meeting of foreign ministers of V4+Benelux on the sidelines of the GAC session, Luxembourg;
- 5 – 6 November 2010 – summit of V4 presidents, Karlovy Vary;
- 8 – 9 November 2010 – meeting of agriculture ministers (V4+Bulgaria, Romania), Bratislava;
- 15 November 2010 – meeting of regional development ministers (V4+Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania), Bratislava;
- 25 – 26 November 2010 – meeting of transport ministers, Vysoké Tatry;
- 16 December 2010 – informal meeting of prime ministers on the sidelines of the European Council, Brussels.

Among the most visible and concrete forms of cooperation between V4 countries is the *International Visegrad Fund (IVF)*. The IVF contributes significantly to furthering several of the Visegrad Group's foreign policy priorities. In 2009 a Czech representative took over the function of IVF executive director in accordance with the rotating three-year cycles. As of 2010 the IVF has an annual budget of EUR 6 million (1 million more than in 2009), which is used above all for awarding various forms of scholarships (EUR 1.5 million) and grants, further broken down by standard (EUR 2.2 million), small (EUR 0.5 million), strategic (EUR 0.4 million) and university (EUR 0.3 million).

#### *IVF grants awarded in 2010*

| Programme                         | Small grants   | Standard grants  | Strategic programmes | Flexible projects | Scholarships     | Art programmes | University programmes |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Applicants                        | 434            | 541              | 14                   | 8                 | 660              | 63             | 22                    |
| Supported                         | 133            | 253              | 8                    | 4                 | 187              | 23             | 10                    |
| <b>Total amount allocated (€)</b> | <b>590 362</b> | <b>2 470 328</b> | <b>235 500</b>       | <b>345 000</b>    | <b>1 360 600</b> | <b>103 500</b> | <b>220 000</b>        |

In 2010, as part of the foreign policy priorities of the Visegrad+ programme, four projects in Georgia were approved, and new projects appeared in the programme, for example *Mayors for Roma Inclusion*, internet broadcast of *Gypsy Television*, and others. Completely new programmes are the visual artist residence programme, a scholarship programme for research in the Open Society Archive in Budapest and a scientific cooperation programme with Taiwan.

In 2010 a new system for awarding grants was adopted, which should significantly simplify the fulfilment of conditions, particularly for smaller applicants. More detailed information on the IVF can be found on its website ([www.visegradfund.org](http://www.visegradfund.org)).

## **Central European Initiative**

The Central European Initiative (CEI) is an integration group for the countries of Central, Eastern and South-East Europe that currently has 18 member states. In 2010 under the Montenegrin Presidency, efforts continued to strengthen the role of the CEI, primarily by deepening cooperation with the European Union and regional organisations and institutions active in the CEI region. The main goal of the CEI remains helping the member states from the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe in their transformation efforts to integrate into European structures.

This process was supported by a meeting of CEI member state foreign ministers that took place in Budva on 15 June 2010. The Czech delegation at the meeting was led by Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Vladimír Galuška.

The area of the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe is among the priorities of Czech foreign policy.

The Czech Republic's support for the transforming countries of the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe is attested by the fact that in 1998-2010 the Czech Republic was the third largest donor to the CEI fund (after Italy and Austria), which covers the great majority of CEI activities. Since 2005 the Czech Republic's main contribution (aside from the financial one) to CEI activities is the organisation every year of CEI international conferences in Prague focused on issues of human resources and life-long learning.

In 2010 both Czech entities that submitted applications for co-financing of their projects were successful under the CEI cooperation fund. In November in Prague the national education fund organised a regular international CEI conference on the topic *Identifying Barriers of Lifelong Learning and Their Removal*, the auspices for which were taken on by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Karel Schwarzenberg. A total of 57 experts took part, of those 33 from CEI member states.

As part of the part of the International Bat Research Conference, which took place in Prague on 23–27 August 2010, the Czech Bat Conversation Society (CESON) organised a workshop with a financial contribution from the CEI cooperation fund on the problem of monitoring and protecting bats in the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean, in which 65 experts took part, of those 23 from CEI member states.

In 2010 the civic association *Environment and Wetland Centre*, Prague, with financial support from the CEI, Czech Foreign Ministry and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation continued in a project focused on passing along experience in sustainable development and ecological agriculture in the Blidinje nature park in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In light of the results achieved in 2009 and 2010, realisation of this project will continue in 2011.

In 2010, two two-year projects of technical cooperation were completed that were realised and also partially financed by Czech business, but also co-financed from a special CEI fund for protecting the climate and environment, into which the Czech Republic provided a voluntary contribution of CZK 3 million in 2007 (so far as the only CEI member state).

In Moldova the Czech company s.r.o. GIS-GEOINDUSTRY realised the project *Water resources management strategy definition to reduce pollution of groundwater and protect the sources of drinking water for the city of Bălți*. The aim of the project was to assess the environmental and health impact of military and civilian activities in the Bălți region and propose a comprehensive solution for the identified ecological burden, including a water resource management system, with the goal of reducing pollution in the groundwater and ensuring a sustainable system for protecting drinking water. The feasibility study will serve as the basis for future projects financed by international financial institutions.

In Montenegro the company Vodní zdroje a.s. realised the project *Climate and environmental protection programme focused on monitoring the hydrosphere, preventing pollution and increasing public awareness on the given problem*. The main goal of the project was

to define the conditions for identifying and setting up the hydrosphere monitoring programme in order to ensure environmental protection, drinking water supply and support for implementing the integrated management of water resources. Realisation of the given project is a basic precondition for thematically related projects financed by international financial institutions.

As part of the CEI Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP), Vodní zdroje succeeded with a request for co-financing the project *HYDROdynamical MONTEnegrin ENERGO* in Montenegro. This project is focused technology transfer concerning small hydroelectric power stations mounted on common water supply networks. As part of this project, in October 2010, a study trip to the Czech Republic was organised for a 16-member Montenegrin delegation of experts on renewable energy sources in order to provide experience building small hydroelectric power stations as well as to use the energy production to supply inhabitants with drinking water.

## **Regional Partnership**

The *Regional Partnership* (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Austria, Slovakia and Slovenia) is a grouping that, since its inception in 2001, has focused mainly on cooperation on issues falling within the competence of the ministries of interior (internal security, asylum and consular matters) and culture. In terms of foreign policy, the majority of foreign minister conferences, which are the only platform for cooperation, are devoted predominantly to the Western Balkans region.

In 2010 no conference of foreign ministers took place. The most important event was thus the 12th meeting of the presidents of parliaments from the Regional Partnership, Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia, which took place 4–5 November 2010 in Warsaw. Representing the Czech Republic were the Chairpersons of both chambers of Czech Parliament, Přemysl Sobotka and Miroslava Němcová, with the main topics being issues related to energy security and the Eastern Partnership project.

The field where Regional Partnership cooperation has developed most successfully and has yielded concrete results is cooperation among interior ministers under the Salzburg Forum. Since 2007, the Forum has also been attended by the interior ministers of Bulgaria and Romania, and Croatia has observer status. The last meeting took place 26–28 August 2010 in Salzburg and brought two long-term initiatives: an eighteen-month forum programme and a long-term strategy entitled the Salzburg Forum Vision 2020.

The second important form of cooperation is the *Platform Culture – Central Europe*, which is part of a project by the cultural departments of the foreign ministries from the Regional Partnership countries under the auspices of Austria. This platform is a joint presentation of contemporary Central European culture, particularly in the European Union. On 18–19 November 2010 an event entitled *Celebration of Sounds and Colours*, dedicated to Roma culture in Central Europe, took place in Gent (in connection with the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU).

## **Regional Cooperation Council**

Despite limited finances, the Czech Republic made a financial contribution to the operation of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat in Sarajevo in 2010, thereby demonstrating the importance it ascribes to developing regional structures and coordinated projects for the Western Balkans region.

The Czech Republic actively participated in the quarterly sittings of the RCC Board and the high level meeting of the SEECP (*South East European Cooperation Process*), which provides political guidance for the work of the RCC, in June 2010 in Istanbul. In its presentation it supported inclusive and pragmatic regional cooperation and effective use of available resources with a focus on concrete and achievable goals.

In June 2010 the Strategy and Work Programme for 2011–2013 were approved. The main cooperation axes in the region will be the sectors of economic and social development, energy and infrastructure, justice and home affairs, security cooperation, human capital and parliamentary cooperation.

The Czech Republic supported strengthening regional cooperation in standardisation on the internal market and testing by sponsoring two seminars by the Czech Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing in the region.

## **4. The Czech Republic and other European international organisations and forums**

### **The Czech Republic and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)**

The Czech Republic regards the OSCE as an important part of the European security architecture and supporting its work is one of the Czech government's long-term foreign policy priorities. The Czech Republic has an interest in the OSCE being a flexible organisation capable of adapting to current challenges and tasks. The Czech Republic supports a balance between all three dimensions of the OSCE (the politico-military, economic and environmental and human dimensions) and the observation of the commitments adopted in those dimensions by all participating states. The Czech Republic views the OSCE's role as primarily conflict prevention, post-conflict rehabilitation and the fight against terrorism. Also important is the debate on the future of European security, which is conceived comprehensively in the OSCE in all three dimensions.

As in previous years, in 2010 the Czech Republic continued to be fully involved in the organisation's activities in all three dimensions in cooperation and coordination with other EU member states within the OSCE framework, where EU members account for almost half the participating countries (27 of 56) and their contributions make up roughly two thirds of OSCE funds.

In 2010, Kazakhstan held the OSCE Chairmanship. They followed the example of the Greek Chairmanship and called an informal ministerial meeting in Almaty for 16–17 July 2010, where a decision was adopted to organise an OSCE summit in Astana on 1–2 December 2010. The Czech Republic supported this decision, noting that it is essential that top level meetings have correspondingly important content. In accordance with OSCE rules, the Ministerial Council did not take place due to the summit.

The Czech delegation at the summit was led by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Karel Schwarzenberg. Appearances were made by the representatives of OSCE countries, the OSCE Secretary General, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President, representatives of international and regional organisations and OSCE Mediterranean and Asian partner countries. In the end only a Commemorative Declaration was adopted at the meeting, reconfirming the commitments adopted earlier by the participating countries in all three dimensions. Even the political declaration, the "Action Plan", was not approved at the summit. It was to define the practical steps for renewing faith between OSCE participant countries, particularly in regard to the inability to find a consensus on the issue of the protracted conflicts in Georgia, Moldova and Nagorno-Karabakh. In its interpretative declaration the Czech Republic expressed disappointment in the failure to adopt the Action Plan. In terms of content we consider the summit in Astana a wasted chance.

At the end of the year it was decided that Ukraine would take over the OSCE Chairmanship for the year 2013. Ukraine was the only candidate for this function.

### ***The OSCE politico-military dimension***

Cooperation in the politico-military dimension of OSCE, the goals of which have from the beginning been arms control and increasing security and mutual trust between the participating countries in the area from Vancouver to Vladivostok, is based above all on fulfilling the commitments arising from the three contractual documents – the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), the Treaty on Open Skies (TOS) and the Vienna Document 1999 (VDOC99)

**The Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe** is considered the cornerstone of European security. There are 30 contracting parties from among the OSCE participants. Through radical reduction in the quantity of conventional weaponry and equipment, the Treaty was to eliminate the risk of a massive surprise ground attack and above all stop the arms race in Europe. The key point was Russia's Istanbul Commitments from the OSCE summit in 1999 on the withdrawal of Russian armed forces from Georgia and Moldova, which were a condition for the allies to ratify the Adapted CFE, which replaced the previous bloc approach to counting conventional arms.

Since December 2007 the Russian Federation has not been fulfilling the obligations in the CFE and this state continued in 2010. From a legal standpoint, the Treaty does not allow an

announced moratorium or suspension of meeting obligations as a unilateral step by one of the contracting parties. The result of this suspension is that the Russian Federation does not, for example, provide the other parties with regular information on its armed forces and does not allow inspections. Azerbaijan has also ceased providing regular information on its armed forces, for five years now, without any substantiating explanation. The Czech Republic has fulfilled its commitments from the CFE.

An initiative from the USA, supported by all NATO countries, was put forward to resolve the current situation around the CFE in 2010. It consists of creating a framework for negotiating a modernised system of controlling conventional armed forces in Europe. This initiative became the subject of a number of negotiations between 36 countries (the CFE signatories and the NATO member states), which took place in Vienna. Talks on the new framework agreement have not been completed and will continue in 2011. Regular negotiations also continued on implementation of the current disarmament regime, taking place under the Joint Consultative Group of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

The Czech Republic actively supports international efforts to create a functional system for controlling conventional disarmament in Europe that would contribute to further increasing transparency and trust-building and security.

The goal of the **Treaty on Open Skies** is to increase trust among member states. The main instrument for this is observation flights of the whole territory without exception using aircraft with certified sensors. These flights allow medium-resolution aerial shots, scanning of lines and areas or selection of a place of interest. In practice it can thus compete with satellite probing. In 2010 the treaty was implemented without major problems.

In the **Vienna Document 1999** the OSCE deals with implementation of existing measures to build confidence and security, implementation of the *OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons* and implementation of other documents such as the *Code of Conduct*, *Conventional Arms Transfer*, *Global Exchange of Military Information*, support for fulfilling the *Anti-Personnel Landmines Convention*, etc. The Czech Republic actively takes part in these activities. The Forum for Security Cooperation, which deals with the Vienna Document, adopted a decision in 2010 on modernising the document, and launched discussions on a number of proposals for individual chapters. The Czech Republic contributed to the discussion with two proposals for technical alteration of VDOC99, which were received positively.

### ***The OSCE economic and environmental dimension***

The main OSCE event in the economic and environmental dimension in 2010 was the 18th Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF). The theme of the event was *Promoting good governance at border crossings, improving the security of land transportation and facilitating international transport by road and rail in the OSCE region*. Altogether there were two sessions of the forum (Vienna 1–2 February 2010 and Prague 24–26 May 2010) and one preparatory



conference in Minsk (15–16 March 2010). During the 18th EEF the following topics were discussed: exchange of best experiences in good governance and customs procedures, improvement of management and administration of border crossings and coordination in harmonising procedures in the OSCE region (with focus on Central Asia), support for transport during the economic downturn, transport and transnational threats including terrorism and the smuggling of weapons, drugs and people. Last but not least is also the impact of transportation on the environment and security.

On 13–14 September 2010 the incoming Lithuanian Chairmanship of OSCE organised an expert meeting in Vilnius with the topic of *The role of the OSCE in cooperation on energy security*. This event ties in to the central topic of the 19th EEF, which is *Promoting common actions and cooperation in the OSCE area in the fields of development of sustainable energy and transport*. The interesting, and for the Czech Republic high-priority, topic of energy security was, in the end, only marginally discussed at this event (regional cooperation, mechanisms and contractual frameworks in energy, reliability of infrastructure).

At the beginning of October 2010, a Review Conference on the economic and environmental dimension took place in connection with preparations for the OSCE summit in Astana. The conference covered all the key topics that the EEF took up in this dimension over the past five years, but was above all focused on a review of the commitments of OSCE countries in these areas. In the end, the opportunity to review commitments was not entirely taken advantage of, neither by the individual countries nor by the international and non-governmental organisations, so one of the main benefits of the conference was an exchange of information on the best experiences. The Czech Republic has long lobbied in the OSCE for the events that tie in to the individual forums to focus on reviewing implementation of commitments and for countries to share their experiences. In the case of the topic for the 18th EEF it could, for example, be the planned publication of the *Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings*, which could become a practical summary of this cycle of the forum and thereby contribute to the promotion of security aspects in the economic and environmental dimension.

### ***The OSCE human dimension***

In its human dimension the OSCE organised several conferences and seminars on the human rights commitments of member states in 2010. This primarily refers to the Review Conference, particularly its first part, which took place 30 September – 8 October 2010 in Warsaw, and its third part, which took part 26–28 November 2010 in Astana and immediately preceded the December summit. It was due to the summit that the Review Conference replaced the regular *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM)* in 2010.

As with the HDIM, the objective of the first and third part of the Review Conference was to evaluate fulfilment of the human rights commitments adopted by OSCE countries within the framework of this organisation. The conference thus became a place for representatives of

governments, non-governmental organisations and all involved parties from the countries of the OSCE to discuss the effectiveness of approaches to strengthening protection and implementation of human rights. The negotiations were held in the form of working blocs focused on specific human rights topics (e.g. the issue of minorities). Member states were represented by both diplomats and representatives of the specialised departments.

At the individual working meetings the conference dealt with the following areas:

- Democratic institutions (democratic elections; democracy at the national, regional and local level; citizenship and political rights)
- Fundamental rights and freedoms (freedom of thought, conscience, faith and religion; freedom of association and assembly; freedom of movement; national institutions for protection of human rights and the role of civil society in protecting human rights; the activity of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights – ODIHR and others)
- The rule of law (transparency of legislation; judicial independence; the right to a fair trial; the death penalty; prevention of torture; protection of human rights in the fight against terrorism)
- Humanitarian issues and other commitments (refugees and displaced persons; treatment of citizens from other participating states; human rights education)
- Tolerance and non-discrimination (implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti; minorities; prevention of aggressive nationalism, racism and chauvinism; strengthening of gender equality and implementation of the OSCE action plan and relevant commitments; prevention of hate violence; fight against intolerance and discrimination)
- Freedom of the media (barriers to freedom of speech and freedom of the media, including imprisonment of journalists and violence toward them)
- Intolerance toward immigrants (criminal acts and other incidents motivated by hatred toward a group of inhabitants)
- The fight against human trafficking (with special consideration for child trafficking).

During discussion at the conference, both the official positions of the countries represented and contributions from the non-governmental sector were heard. The chance for non-governmental organisations to openly evaluate and criticise the human rights situation in individual member states is considered one of the main advantages of the conference. The importance of participation by non-governmental organisations was mentioned several times during the conference, primarily in connection with the problematic approach of the Kazakh Chairmanship to registration of two representatives of the Turkmen non-governmental sector at the Warsaw section of the conference.

The Czech Republic was represented at the conference by both diplomats and partially by representatives from other departments. During the various working meetings the Czech Republic was subjected to criticism in several cases in connection with specific problems of the domestic situation and in the field of human rights (for example, the European Court of Human Rights judgment on the case of *D.H. and Others v. Czech Republic*, dealing with the access of Roma children to education, was mentioned, as were issues related to the implementation of the conclusions arising therefrom).

The Review Conference facilitated the acquisition of detailed information from a wide range of authentic sources on the human rights situation in participating states, while at the same time making it possible to record the reactions of official representatives to the contributions from the non-governmental sector. The most distinctive topics were issues connected to the situation of minorities (in particular Roma) and, due to their Chairmanship, also strong criticism of Kazakhstan for failure to respect human rights.

Aside from the Review Conference, several *Supplementary Human Dimension Implementation Meetings* also took place in 2010, as did seminars and conferences focused on specific topics that fall under the issue of human rights. In May a meeting of participating state representatives took place on the participation of women in public and political life and on gender equality. June was dominated by a high level conference on the theme of tolerance and non-discrimination. In July a meeting took place on the education of persons belonging to minority groups, their integration and equal opportunities. In November a meeting of the freedom of confession and faith was held.

Important institutions that were active within the framework of the human dimension in 2010 were the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), which follows the standing of national minorities in OSCE countries, and the Representative on Freedom of the Media, who monitors the situation of journalists and media in individual participating states in terms of their ability to freely perform their occupation. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) deals principally with the issue of election legislation, observation of election processes, support for development of democracy, observance of human rights, the rule of law, tolerance and non-discrimination.

### ***Other OSCE institutions***

The Czech Republic actively sends out representatives as long-term and short-term election observers for the vast majority of OSCE/ODIHR election observation missions. In total this amounted to 84 observers in 2010.

As in previous years, an important part of the OSCE's work in 2010 were its offices, centres and missions (OSCE field missions) in individual participating states in South-East Europe, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The 18 field missions focus on providing assistance to the host countries and their work concerns all three OSCE dimensions. On the last day of 2010

Belarus announced that it will no longer host an OSCE mission and it can therefore be expected that this mission will be gradually shut down in 2011. To a large extent this step by Belarus is a reaction to the critical evaluation of the presidential elections 19 December 2010, which the OSCE branded undemocratic.

The Czech Republic also sends civilian experts to OSCE long-term missions. In 2010 there were six to seven people from the Czech Republic operating in OSCE missions.

The Czech Republic devotes ongoing attention to the activities of the Prague Office of the OSCE Secretariat. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides free office and historical archive space and seconds the head of the mission. The Czech Republic has an interest in further increasing the importance of the office and expanding its activity to the benefit of the whole organisation, by strengthening both its function of archiving historical documents and its role in informing the professional and general public and its conference services, particularly in relation to the annual OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum meeting, attended by roughly 400 experts from all participating states.

## **Council of Europe**

The dominant topic in 2010 was the reform of the Council of Europe (CE) initiated by its Secretary General with the goal of transforming it into a flexible and dynamic organisation that will be better suited to the needs of citizens. The CE's activity is to be restricted to a smaller number of projects that have more added value and specific advantages. The first phase of the reform focuses on improving management, increasing operational abilities and restructuring the secretariat and European Court of Human Rights.

The CE Committee of Ministers met at its top level – the ministers of foreign affairs – on 11 May 2010 in Strasbourg. The Czech delegation was led by Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimír Galuška. The main points of the agenda were reform of the European Court of Human rights, the CE's activities following the conflict in Georgia, CE reform, relations between the CE and EU and the role of the CE in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Czech Republic supported a solution to the conflict in Georgia that would respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and emphasised the need of the parties involved to honour their commitments to the CE.

The reform of the European Court for Human Rights, focused on staving off its collapse under the growing burden of complaints, was launched in February 2010 at a special ministerial conference in Interlaken. The conference adopted an Action Plan laying out the main points of the reform and setting deadlines for their fulfilment; the competent expert authorities began work on preparing concrete proposals. On 1 June 2010, Protocol No. 14 to the European Convention for the

Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms<sup>5</sup>, the goal of which is to simplify procedures in order to lighten the growing load of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). Entrance into force was made possible by ratification of the Protocol by the Russian Federation, which for several years was the last country whose consent was missing. Protocol No. 14 also extended the mandate of the Czech ECHR judge by two years; the selection of a new Czech judge, which was to take place in 2010, was thus postponed until 2012.

The committee of minister delegates adopted the CE's action programme and budget for 2011. The adopted document reflects the efforts to minimise indirect costs (the secretariat, logistics, etc.) and use these funds for activities in priority areas, such as human rights, the rule of law and democracy. The regular budget of the CE totals EUR 211 million, having been increased only 0.2% over the previous year to reflect the rate of inflation. The Czech Republic's contribution slightly exceeds EUR 2 million.

On 7–16 September 2010 the European Committee for Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment paid a visit to the Czech Republic. During this visit it inspected the conditions of treatment of persons held in prisons and psychiatric facilities. A report from their visit in 2009 was made public where it called on the Czech Republic to do away with voluntary surgical castration as part of the protective treatment of sexual deviants.

On 20 October 2010 a top-level meeting took place adopting the Strasbourg Declaration on the situation of Roma. The Czech delegation was led by Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimír Galuška. The declaration condemns the discrimination and stigmatisation of Roma and defines priority areas for the integration of Roma on which European cooperation should focus; it also founds the European Training Programme for mediators and lawyers working with the Roma minority and cites examples of initiatives that have proved themselves in practice.

On 17–19 November 2010 the CE Commissioner for Human Rights Thomas Hammarberg visited the Czech Republic, focusing primarily on the protection of Roma human rights and the fight against racism, xenophobia and extremism. During the visit he also met with government representatives (the ministers of the interior and foreign affairs and representatives of other ministries), as well as representatives of non-governmental organisations. In the press release from the visit he formulated recommendations primarily addressing Roma children in special schools and compensation for sterilisations carried out without informed consent. The publishing of the

---

<sup>5</sup> The Protocol was signed on behalf of the Czech Republic in Strasbourg on 29 June 2005. The Parliament of the Czech Republic expressed its approval of the Protocol and the President of the Republic ratified it. The Czech Republic's instrument of ratification was deposited with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Protocol depository, on 19 May 2006. The Protocol entered into force on the basis of its Article 19 on 1 June 2010 and on the same day also entered into force for the Czech Republic.

official report from the Commissioner's visit to the Czech Republic is expected in the first quarter of 2011.

The Committee of Ministers continued in supervising execution of the ECHR judgment in the case of *D.H. v. Czech Republic* (segregation of Roma children into special schools). In December it took notice with satisfaction that the Czech Republic confirmed definitive adoption of the action plan for integration in education and began with its implementation; at the same time it called on the Czech Republic to fulfil the plan without delay.

Following the parliamentary elections, the make-up of the Czech delegation to the CE Parliamentary Assembly was changed; its new head became MP Václav Kubata.

After the mandate of the Czech member of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (the Venice Commission) Cyril Svoboda and his substitute Eliška Wagnerová ran out, in December 2010 the government named<sup>6</sup> Veronika Bílková, lecturer at the Charles University Faculty of Law, as the new member and Kateřina Šimáčková, judge at the Supreme Administrative Court, as her substitute. The Venice Commission is an independent advisory body to the CE on constitutional issues, which helps member states of this organisation in creating or modifying legislation.

## 5. The Czech Republic and the United Nations (UN)

As one of its founding members, the Czech Republic takes active part in the activities of the UN. As in previous years, in 2010 the Czech Republic duly fulfilled its financial obligations to the UN in a timely manner, took part in selected peace missions according to its abilities and provided a number of voluntary contributions for specific UN projects.

### **Principle UN bodies**

#### ***UN Security Council***

In 2010 the UN Security Council (hereinafter SC) adopted 58 resolutions, issued 30 presidential statements and discussed more than 80 topical reports of the UN Secretary-General (hereinafter SG). The SC dealt with issues of international criminal justice and traditionally devoted significant attention to the African continent and the Near and Middle East. The non-permanent members of the SC in 2010 were Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Gabon, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Turkey and Uganda.

In the first days of 2010, the SC reacted to the humanitarian crisis that hit Haiti after the major earthquake on 12 January 2010 with an open debate and resolution. The earthquake had exceptionally tragic consequences for UN workers in Haiti as well – many members of the UN

---

<sup>6</sup> Government Resolution No. 887 of 7 December 2010

MINUSTAH stabilisation mission died in the ruins, including its leader. The SC returned to the situation in Haiti with a resolution in June as well.

Also at the beginning of 2010 the Security Council addressed issues of cooperation with regional and subregional organisations in dealing with questions of peace and security; in the following months it addressed, for example, the situation in Western Africa and Central Asia. Over the course of the year, the SC repeatedly and in greater detail discussed the unstable situations in Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire, Nepal and Somalia. Resolutions were also adopted over the course of the year on the situation in Chad, Central African Republic, East Timor, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, the Near East and Iraq.

Among the regular items on the SC programme were cross-sectional thematic debates. In 2010 the SC's attention, as in previous years, was primarily focused on the causes and consequences of armed conflicts, including their effect on civilians, and on the issue of post-war peace-building. Czech representatives spoke on the topic of the SC's working methods and post-conflict peace-building.

The 10th anniversary of the adoption of SC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security also resonated the whole year long. Commemorative events culminated in October, when the SC held a public debate on the topic, crowned by a presidential statement. The talks included US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Under-Secretary-General for UN Women Michelle Bachelet.

Over the course of 2010 informal intergovernmental negotiations on SC reform continued. They dealt with the following areas: increasing the number of SC members, use of the right of veto, selection of new members and SC working methods.

### ***64th session of the UN General Assembly***

From the beginning of January to 13 September 2010, the 64th session of the UN General Assembly (hereinafter GA) continued under the presidency of Ali Abdussalam Treki of Libya. Among the main topics in this part of the UN GA were the issues of disarmament, human rights, UN reforms and implementing anti-terrorism measures, sustainable development, climate change and many other development topics in connection with preparations for the conference in September on implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in New York.

The spring part of this session of the GA, when the main committees meet (with the exception of the budget committee), has in recent years been traditionally dedicated to reform issues. Within the meaning of the conclusions of the last UN summit in 2005, the main reform topics include: SC reform, revitalisation of the GA and last but not least ensuring better coherence of the functioning of the UN system for providing development assistance.

At the conclusion of the 64th session of the GA, a resolution was adopted on the revitalisation of the General Assembly, emphasising the institutional memory of the office of the Office of the President of the GA; the Fifth Committee will discuss potential associated budget

changes in the context of regular budget deliberations. Without any progress on the substance of the Security Council reform, an oral decision was passed on the urgent continuation of intergovernmental negotiations as part of the 65th session.

One of the break-through moments of the 64th session of the UN GA is considered to be the unanimous adoption of a resolution on system-wide coherence, which has been one of the main components of UN GA reform since 2005. A fundamental change the resolution brings is the creation of a new entity in the UN system entitled *UN Women*, a UN division for gender equality and the empowerment of women formed by merging the mandates of the current parts of the UN system that dealt with women's issues: the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women (OSAGI, founded 1997), the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW, founded 1946), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, founded 1976) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW, founded 1976). The resolution plans for a half-year transition period with the new entity to become operational as of 1 January 2011.

During the first half of 2010, preparations were underway for the summit on the Millennium Development Goals. After agreeing on the organisational form of the summit, in May negotiations began on the final document by which UN member states would confirm their resolve to achieve the development goals by 2015. As part of the preparations for this summit, a dialogue took place in March about the financing of development that above all put emphasis on the necessity of meeting commitments for official development aid and the need for reforming the international financial architecture. In June a top-level meeting of private sector representatives (the heads of important international companies) followed with representatives of UN member state governments, under the auspices of the UN SG. The purpose and objective of this meeting was to contribute to an exchange of experiences and information about involving the private sector in fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals and about the support governments provide for this process.

On 9 August 2010 the 2nd informal interactive UN GA debate on implementation of the "responsibility to protect" took place, focusing on *early warning* and *assessment*. The debate confirmed the support of large UN member states for the concept, but on the other hand also showed that countries are not yet prepared to approve the SG's plan to create a joint office of his own special representatives for the responsibility to protect and prevention of genocide. The Czech Republic gave a national speech during this debate.

On 9 September 2010 a resolution was approved by consensus in the UN GA on the ICJ's opinion on the conformity of Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence with international law. After intricate negotiations, the original Serbian proposal was adjusted and a common proposal by the EU member states and Serbia was submitted in which the UN GA positively accepts the ICJ opinion and welcomes the EU's preparedness to mediate a dialogue between the two sides.



On the occasion of World Water Day, an interactive high-level dialogue took place in New York on 22 March 2010 on the decade *Water for Life 2005–2015*. As part of the 64th GA the traditional debate on fulfilling commitments in the field of HIV/AIDS also took place in the spring.

At the start of 2010 the Czech Republic began its three-year membership in the Committee for the *UN Population Award*, which falls under the *UN Population Fund (UNFPA)*. Every year this committee decides on awarding this prize to institutions and individuals who have contributed in a significant way to increasing the awareness of population questions and to their solution. In 2010 the award went to William and Melinda Gates from the USA and the *Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development* from Thailand.

At the initiative of Italy and Mexico, the UN GA President called a high-level GA session for 17 June 2010 on transnational organised crime (TOC) to mark the 10th anniversary of the Convention against TOC.

On 30 July 2010 the UN GA passed a resolution by consensus on the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking (hereinafter the AP), including an action plan in the annex to this resolution. The AP was then formally launched as part of the one-day high-level session of the 65th UN GA.

The spring part of the GA is traditionally devoted to current problems in the world. A classic example was the GA session on the situation in Haiti after the tragic earthquake that caused massive loss of life there. The session took place 22 January 2010 and a resolution was passed calling for acute humanitarian aid and support to rebuild the country.

On the days 19–20 August 2010 a special session of the UN GA took place on the humanitarian situation in Pakistan, hit by unprecedented floods. The session was attended by the UN SG, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Many other countries were also represented at a high level. Speeches expressed solidarity and concrete promises of humanitarian aid. In conclusion a resolution was adopted by consensus.

In the first half of 2010 the EU continued in negotiations on adjusting the Union's status in the GA in accordance with the Lisbon Treaty. On 14 September 2010, in literally the last minutes of the 64th session, the UN GA decided in procedural voting to postpone the proposed resolution on the status of the EU.

In the spring part of the 64th GA session, the administrative and budgetary committee (the Fifth Committee) held its traditional two sessions. The first session dealt with less problematic issues. The second session had a considerably more complicated run, dealing traditionally with the financing of UN peace operations. After discussing the relevant points, the budget for peacekeeping missions was passed at a total amount of USD 7.2 billion.

Over the course of the second session, break-through agreements were made on several very complicated components, in particular the approval of the newly submitted concept on *global field support services*, which in the future should bring greater efficiency in managing and serving

peacekeeping missions and thereby also financial savings. Similar success was not however achieved in discussing the point concerning closed peacekeeping missions; consensus here was not reached due to the absolute unwillingness of the G-77 to decide on the matter at all. It was therefore not possible to make use of the funding sitting in the accounts of these missions, not even by transferring them to the accounts of active missions, nor by returning them to the state budgets of the countries that had already fully paid their contributions to the closed missions.

Over both sessions the Fifth Committee adopted a total of 23 resolutions by consensus and one resolution by voting; it also adopted a total of seven decisions, of which one was an oral draft decision.

### ***65th session of the UN GA***

From 14 September to 24 December 2010, the main (autumn) part of the 65th session of the UN GA took place in New York. Joseph Deiss of Switzerland was elected as its President. The Czech Republic was represented by a delegation led by President Václav Klaus accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Karel Schwarzenberg. The main events of the GA were, from the Czech Republic's perspective, the general debate and the UN summit on fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals.

The general debate of the 65th UN GA was held on 23–29 September 2010 and was attended by more than 190 UN member states at the level of heads of state, prime ministers and foreign ministers. Czech President Václav Klaus spoke on behalf of the Czech Republic and in his speech he emphasised that the Czech Republic is and will continue to be an active member of the UN. He also commented on the impact of the global financial crisis and expressed support for the UN SC reform. Among the other topics and global issues raised in speeches were climate change, the situation in the Near and Middle East, the fight against terrorism and the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg took part in events under the EU ministerial week on the sidelines of the general debate, and also in the NATO-Russia Council session. The commencement of the GA was, as in previous years, an opportunity for the president and foreign minister to hold many bilateral meetings.

During the autumn part, the GA passed a total of 262 resolutions, of which 51 were for points discussed directly on the GA floor without prior approval in one of the six main committees. Over the course of negotiations on important resolutions on humanitarian aid, the EU managed to settle texts that covered the basic requirements for ensuring access to the victims of humanitarian disasters and greater emphasis on the safety of humanitarian workers. Of the territorially focused humanitarian resolutions, mention must be made of the resolution passed on humanitarian aid to Haiti, which is still dealing with the impact of last year's devastating earthquake.

As every year, elections were held as part of the autumn part of the 65th GA on new members to the UN SC and other bodies. The new non-permanent members of the SC for the term

of 2011 to 2012, elected by secret ballot, are India, Republic of South Africa, Colombia, Germany and Portugal.

At the end of 2010 the Czech Republic's candidacy for presidency of the Executive Board for the UN Development Fund and UN Population Fund for 2011 was supported by a regional group of Eastern European countries (*note: the Czech Republic's new Permanent Representative to the UN Edita Hrdá was elected president of this body on 12 January 2011*). With an annual budget of over USD 5 billion, this organisation enjoys considerable attention from donors and beneficiaries of development assistance.

### ***Work of the main committees***

The agenda for the ***Disarmament and International Security Committee*** (First Committee) traditionally included a wide range of issues related to the eradication of the threat of weapons of mass destruction, the control of conventional weapons and confidence-building measures. The meeting took place in an atmosphere that was positively influenced by the progress made at the 8th Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the new treaty between the USA and Russia on reducing nuclear weapons stocks.

The main common motif for committee sessions and the point of many discussions that ranged across regional and political spectrums, was to search for a consensus on unblocking the work of the Conference on Disarmament. Austria submitted a resolution on continuing with the agenda from the high-level session on the Conference on Disarmament, which was passed without voting. A new resolution called *Women, Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation* was presented by Trinidad and Tobago and was also passed without voting. It was co-sponsored by the countries of the EU, including the Czech Republic.

Altogether the committee adopted 56 resolutions and three procedural decisions. In voting by EU members, this committee still has the largest number of cases of a disunited position. Of 26 resolutions voted on, EU states voted unanimously in only 14 cases. The Czech Republic co-sponsored 16 resolutions.

The ***Economic and Financial Committee*** (Second Committee) worked on a number of topics related to sustainable development, macroeconomic and political issues, globalisation, climate change, the eradication of poverty, agriculture and food security and problems facing the least developed countries. Thematically the committee sessions placed particular emphasis on the issue of sustainable development. On this point of the agenda, 20 resolutions were passed, including several new ones. The committee also decided, for example, on holding a high-level conference on the issue of desertification and soil degradation, to take place 20 September 2011 in New York.

Among the newly discussed resolutions were Lithuania's initiative on the impact on the environment of chemical and toxic waste from munitions dumped at sea, which was the only draft resolution submitted by an EU member state. In connection with the upcoming UN Conference on

Sustainable Development, which is to take place in May 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, a representative of the Czech Environment Ministry became a member of the preparatory committee for this conference for the Eastern European regional group and actively took part in its work.

In total, the committee adopted 39 resolutions, with only four voted on. The vast majority of resolutions were submitted by the G-77 group. The achievement of compromises in this year was considerably helped by the conclusions of the September summit on the Millennium Development Goals and the productive October session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Czech Republic played an important role on topics of sustainable development.

The ***Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee*** (Third Committee) adopted 58 resolutions, of those 43 by consensus and 15 by voting. In order to settle those resolutions there were 208 informal meetings. Dialogues with 36 special rapporteurs and chairs of treaty bodies were held; the committee also held a dialogue with the High Representative for Human Rights, the president of the UN Human Rights Council, and for the first time also with the new executive director of *UN Women*.

Above and beyond its annual activities the Czech delegation attempted to be more involved and visible in the committee's negotiations and accompanying activities in accordance with the pre-election campaign strategy for the Human Rights Council (elections to take place in May 2011). The Czech Republic was also one of few countries to take on negotiating two resolutions in the name of the EU. These were the resolution on obstetric fistula, submitted by the regional group of African countries, and the resolution on the trafficking of women and girls, submitted by the Philippines.

Among the traditionally most controversial resolutions, the adoption of which was also complicated in 2010, were resolutions on a moratorium on the death penalty, resolutions on the human rights situation in various countries, resolutions mentioning non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and all resolutions on religion or racism.

The ***Special Political and Decolonisation Committee*** (Fourth Committee) discussed a number of draft resolutions at its sessions related to the Palestinian question, as well as the issue of decolonising non-self-governing territories, issues related to the work of the UN Secretariat in the field of providing information, the effects of atomic radiation and peaceful use of outer space.

Discussion of the Palestinian issue at the autumn part of the 65th GA was positively influenced by the direct peace talks and the efforts to maintain them, which ended in December 2010. In talks on decolonisation issues related to 16 non-self-governing territories that exist in the world today, a resolution was adopted above and beyond those adopted every year on the 50th anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as was a resolution declaring the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Of the other topics, the point of debate on the Effects of Atomic Radiation drew a fair amount of attention.

The committee passed 24 resolutions and two decisions; eight resolutions were adopted by consensus and 16 by voting. The EU voted unanimously in ten cases; the EU did not have a common position, as in the past, on the six decolonisation resolutions.

The ***Administrative and Budget Committee*** (Fifth Committee) discussed, during the autumn part of the 65th GA, issues related to the smooth financial flow of the UN, international tribunals, political missions and peacekeeping missions, in particular in relation to human resource management, unifying conditions for service in the "UN Common System". Further issues included modernisation of the outdated information and communication system and a review and streamlining thereof. The committee placed similar emphasis on increasing liability in implementing the organisation's mandates for mobilisation of staff abilities. During its autumn main session it passed a total of 22 resolutions, for the most part by consensus, and seven decisions.

The key points of debate at the ***Legal Committee*** (Sixth Committee) were, over the course of the autumn session, the resolution on the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction, the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, the resolution of the Report of the International Law Commission from its 62nd session and the resolution on the status of the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions from 1949. The committee adopted a total of 17 resolutions.

The GA has been occupying itself with the resolution on the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction since 2009. This is the African Union's reaction to the approach of several EU member states who have begun criminally prosecuting current and previous African state representatives for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. In its speech the Czech Republic proposed (along with several other EU member states) that this question be dealt with by the International Law Commission; this proposal did not however acquire sufficient support.

Under the item *measures to eliminate international terrorism*, negotiations on a proposal for a convention on this issue have been conducted unsuccessfully since 1996. No progress in these talks was made during the autumn session either.

The resolution on the status of the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions from 1949 is discussed every two years. The committee took up the UN SG's Report on implementation of international humanitarian law. The Czech Republic was among the eight EU countries that sent in a contribution to this report. The resolution on this point is of symbolic importance for the Czech Republic, which considers supporting respect for international humanitarian law a priority.

### ***UN Economic and Social Council***

The UN Economic and Social Council (hereinafter ECOSOC) formulates political recommendations for member states and the whole UN system concerning socio-economic living standards and employment, addressing socio-economic and healthcare problems of international scope and cooperation in culture and education, with strong support for human rights and fundamental

freedoms. ECOSOC also has the right to initiate studies and analyses on the given topics, take part in preparation and organisation of international conferences in the field and to coordinate implementation of their conclusions.

On 28 June – 2 July 2010 a high-level meeting of ECOSOC took place in New York, made up of the coordination segment (6–8 July 2010), the operational activities segment (9–13 July), the humanitarian segment (14–15 July) and the general segment (16–22 July). The Czech Republic, which is not a member of ECOSOC (it was a member from 2006–2008), took part only as an observer.

A cross-sectional theme of the high-level segment was gender issues and strengthening the role of women; under the Development Cooperation Forum the current trends in international development cooperation were assessed with special attention given to coherence, transparency, South-South cooperation, the influence of the crisis on development cooperation and fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals. During the dialogue with international financial and business institutions, the bulk of attention was devoted to the state of the world economy and its influence on implementing the UN development agenda.

The main topic of the coordination segment talks was implementation of the conclusions from the Ministerial Declaration of the ECOSOC Substantive Session in 2009, i.e. fulfilling the internationally stipulated development goals with regard to healthcare. The segment also discussed the results of the International Conference on Financing for Development.

The humanitarian affairs segment provided space for an exchange of opinions on the issue of increasing coordination of the humanitarian assistance system under the UN on the basis of reflections on the international reaction to January's disaster in Haiti. One component of the segment was a discussion on the provision of humanitarian assistance in highly dangerous and unstable areas.

In the general segment, reports by professional bodies, funds, programmes and UN functional and regional commissions were presented.

### ***Peacebuilding Commission***

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), established by a decision made at the 2005 Summit as one of the main UN bodies alongside the GA, SC and HRC, has the goal of helping with peacebuilding immediately after a conflict has ended. It currently meets in three formats – the Organisational Committee, working groups for the countries on the PBC agenda (Sierra Leone, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, Central African Republic and in 2010 Liberia was added) and the group on lessons learned.

Following its successful membership in 2007–2008, the Czech Republic was once again selected for the PBC for the years 2010–2011. In 2010 the PBC was chaired by the permanent representative for Germany. He successfully carried on with the efforts of his predecessors and managed to further cement the PBC's place among the main bodies of the UN. The PBC chair and

the chairs of the working groups for individual countries on the agenda regularly inform the SC on developments in the given countries, maintain contacts with the HRC and cooperate with financial institutions and potential donors.

In 2010, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the UN Ambassador Martin Palouš performed the function of PBC Vice-President. Due to this function he is a member of the PBC's top management and actively involved in its activity. As needed he filled in for the Chairperson – he led Organisational Committee meetings and led talks with partners outside the UN. Representatives of the Czech Republic were members of the delegations that visited Sierra Leone, Central African Republic and Burundi. These trips allowed the Czech Republic to present its interest in the problems of these countries and acquire valuable information on the current situation there.

Membership in the PBC allows the Czech Republic to make itself seen as a developed democratic country that devotes attention to the problems of developing countries and is prepared to provide assistance to the extent of its abilities.

## **UN international conferences**

### ***UN Summit on Millennium Development Goals***

On 20–22 September 2010, a UN GA High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals took place. The main objective of the summit was to evaluate the progress achieved over the last ten years in implementing the goals and to send a new political impulse for intensifying activity leading to achieving the goals by 2015. Despite the negative influence the financial and economic crisis has had on development, progress has been recorded in many areas in recent years, particularly in the fight against poverty and improving the health and education of the population. This progress is however uneven and it is not sure that the results will be sustainable.

In the debate the Czech Republic was represented by Deputy Foreign Minister Tomáš Dub. His speech was focused on the practical aspect of realising the development goals with an emphasis on using the specific experiences of donors – such as transformation experiences in the case of the Czech Republic – and the indispensability of good administration of public affairs for the success of all development activities.

### ***UN summit on small island developing states***

On 24–25 September 2010 a high-level meeting took place in New York on the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. In particular due to the fact that there were two other UN summits taking place in the same week, this meeting was not particularly well attended. The summit nevertheless pointed out specific problems of those states that are not only suffering from the effects of climate change but, due to their small area, are suffering from their low capacity and vulnerability to the global financial and economic tremors.

## ***Conference of the Parties of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Meeting of the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol (KP)***

From 29 November – 11 December 2010 the 16th Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 6th Meeting of the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol took place in Cancun, Mexico. During the conference the EU member states conducted themselves in accordance with the common position adopted based on the conclusions of the Council of Environment Ministers on 14 October 2010. The Czech Republic's position was defined in the Framework Position for international negotiations on climate change, which covers the key issues for negotiation in the EU and in the UN format.

The European Union once again confirmed its commitment to reduce emissions by 20% by 2020 compared to 1990 levels and the possibility of raising this target to 30 % if other developed countries committed to comparable goals. During negotiations the EU also confirmed the amount for climate change measures for the 2010–2012 period, which is EUR 7.2 billion.

Although no new legally binding document was adopted, nor was any binding agreement on extending the Kyoto Protocol beyond 2012, the result of the current situation is understood to be a cautious success. At least partial steps were achieved on the path to further negotiations, which should culminate at the following global summit on climate change 28 November – 9 December 2011 in Durban, South Africa.

Measures were adopted for the protection of developing countries, which are in the most danger from climate change. These measures primarily consists of the provision of funding, transfers of needed technology and assistance in protecting and renewing forest resources.

The main outcome of the climate conference are the *Cancun Agreements*, which can be summarised in the following points: (1) reaffirmation of the promises of developed countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in particular CO<sub>2</sub>, and gradually move to a low-carbon economy; (2) introduction of a Technological Mechanism for transferring environmental technologies; (3) a registry of measures for developing countries to reduce emissions will be created with technological and financial contributions from industrially developed countries; (4) a *Green Climate Fund* will be created, led by a 24-member board, with equal representation from developed and developing countries, with the World Bank as interim trustee; (5) confirmed fast-start financing from developed countries in the amount of USD 30 billion through 2012 and the intention of raising this amount to USD 100 billion annually by 2020; (6) a commitment to increase action to reduce deforestation and gradually renew forests in developing countries and emerging economies.

## ***Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)***

The Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity took place on 18–19 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. The Czech delegation took active part in creating the EU's positions and supported the EU position formed from the Council of the EU Conclusions.

The conference adopted several key documents: the new CBD Strategic Plan for 2011–2020, the strategic mobilisation of financial resources for supporting CBD activities, the new



international treaty on the use of genetic resources and a number of other decisions concerning various aspects of biodiversity. The results of the conference are considered a historical success and one of the milestones of international debate on issues of global biodiversity protection and sustainable use.

The conference's key successes include the adoption of a new international treaty on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing. This new legally binding instrument, about which discussions were held for nearly twelve years and which received the name the Nagoya Protocol, deals with the relations between providers of genetic resources and their users and essentially thereby regulates the conditions for the transfer of genetic resources between states. The protocol is expected to come into force in 2015.

### ***Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer***

The 22nd Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer took place in Bangkok, Thailand, with the Czech Republic in attendance, on 8–12 November 2010. At the meeting, a discussion was held on proposed changes to the Montreal Protocol aiming to limit the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which began to be used as a replacement for CFCs and HCFCs. These substances have as much as a thousand times greater global warming potential than CO<sub>2</sub>. The main opponents to adding HFCs to the Montreal Protocol were India, China and Brazil.

Another key topic was the careful disposal of materials damaging to the ozone layer that are stored in appliances and cannot be used. The Montreal Protocol's Technology and Economic Assessment Panel was assigned with preparing an overview of disposal technologies by 2011, including their efficiency and availability on the market. The EU was however not successful in pushing through its proposal to create a transparent environment for handling supplies of materials damaging to the ozone layer.

### ***UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC)***

On 18–22 October 2010 the 5th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime took place in Vienna. The conference accented the current threats of new forms of organised crime – computer crime, piracy, human and human organ trafficking, counterfeit medications, crimes against cultural heritage and property and damaging the environment. For the 10th anniversary of the Convention's adoption the parties created a working group to assess the possibilities for revising the Convention's implementation.

## **UN specialised agencies**

### ***United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)***

In 2010 UNESCO continued in implementing its Medium-Term Strategy for 2008–2013, adopted at the 34th session of the General Conference. Implementation began of the organisation's

Programme and Budget, which came out of a decision not to increase the general budget. Over the course of the year, two regular sessions of the UNESCO Executive Board took place. Among other things, the programme included UNESCO reform and the draft Programme and Budget for 2011–2013. The Czech Republic is an observer on the Executive Board.

In 2010 the Czech Republic was represented on seven UNESCO subsidiary bodies and bodies founded by international treaties for which the UNESCO Director-General is the depositary. These were the intergovernmental committees for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, for the Convention on the protection of non-material property, for physical education and sport, for promoting the return of cultural property to its countries of origin or its restitution, as well as the Executive Board of the International Campaign for the Establishment of the Nubia Museum in Aswan and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation in Cairo, the UNESCO Headquarters Committee and the Council of the UNESCO International Bureau of Education. With the Czech President's signature on 12 October 2010, the Czech Republic became a party of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions from 2005.

From 8–11 September 2010 an international round table of mayors of cities and municipalities that are part of the international NGO ICCN (Intangible Culture Cooperation Network) was held in Uherské Hradiště. The mayor of Vlčnov, which is a member of the ICCN, became its chair for the next period.

The UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage decided at its meeting in Nairobi on 16 November 2010 to inscribe the nomination of the *Shrovetide door-to-door processions and masks in the villages of the Hlinecko area* to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Also successful in being added to the list was the multinational nomination of *Falconry – the art of keeping, conserving, training and hunting with birds of prey*, submitted by the United Arab Emirates, with the Czech Republic and nine other countries as co-sponsors.

The Czech Commission for UNESCO was the co-organiser of several educational and cultural events, in particular as part of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014), the International Year of Biodiversity and preparations for the International Year of Chemistry in 2011.

The Secretariat of the Czech Commission for UNESCO (hereinafter the SCC) continued in coordinating cooperation with the Czech network of 50 UNESCO associated primary and secondary schools (ASPnet). UNESCO's annual Global Action Week was devoted to the topic of the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 at schools in the first half of the year. One of the international student projects under the auspices of the Czech Commission for UNESCO was the signature of the student Charter against Cyberbullying. On 13–14 September 2010 the Annual ASPnet Meeting was held in Český Krumlov, focused on critical thinking. As every year, at the end of the year the annual Youth Conferences on Sustainable Development for primary and secondary

schools took place in cooperation with the Environmental Education Club, the SCC and the Czech Academy of Sciences.

### ***UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)***

On 10–12 May and 24–26 November 2010 the 37<sup>th</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> sessions of the UNIDO Industrial Development Council were held in Vienna. The meetings moved to implement the project of changing the way the organisation is managed. They also addressed cooperation with the UN Development Programme (UNDP), decentralisation of UNIDO offices abroad, the UNIDO contribution to the Millennium Development Goals, support for local pharmaceutical industries and UNIDO activities in the field of energy and the environment. In the framework of UNIDO programmes, Czech experts took part in setting up a centre for cleaner production in Moldova and a project for implementing an agrotrade development strategy in developing countries. In 2010 UNIDO launched a project for using alternative energy sources (biomass and geothermal energy) in Serbia, financed by a voluntary contribution from the Czech Republic.

### ***World Health Organisation (WHO)***

On 17–21 May 2010 in Geneva, attended by the Czech Republic, the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) took place, followed by the 127<sup>th</sup> session of the WHO Executive Board. The main topic of the session was the Millennium Development Goals related to health. Overall 29 resolutions were adopted at the 63<sup>th</sup> WHA session. The most important resolutions included the resolution on International Recruitment of Health Workers, a component of which was approval of a Global Code, as well as the resolution on a strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol, the resolution on prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, on food safety and on treatment and prevention of pneumonia.

### ***Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)***

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (hereinafter FAO) leads international efforts to resolve the issue of hunger around the world. The FAO is a partner for developing and developed countries alike. The FAO is currently undergoing a comprehensive reform based on the output from an independent external evaluation that took place on the initiative of member states in 2007–2008. Voluntary contributions were not made in 2010; the remaining funds from the 2009 contributions were transferred to a multi-year project that the Czech Republic also supports in the FAO. Three experts from the Czech Republic continued to work at the FAO headquarters in Rome in 2010.

### ***International Labour Organisation (ILO)***

The most important event in 2010 was the 99<sup>th</sup> session of the International Labour Conference (hereinafter the ILC), which is the highest authority of the ILO, held in Geneva on 2–18 June 2010. In addition to the ILC session, in 2010 the Czech delegation also took part in three meetings of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, of which the Czech Republic is a member for the 2008–2011 period.

Among the most important issues discussed at the 99th ILC were the approval of the text for the ILO recommendation on labour law protection for workers with HIV/AIDS and the Convention proposals and ILO recommendation on decent work for domestic workers, discussion on the strategic objective of employment in connection with the adoption of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice at the 97th ILC in 2008 and discussion of continued implementation of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work adopted at the 86th ILC in 1998.

The Committee on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations discussed 25 selected individual cases of violations of these work standards in individual countries and at the session dealt with the violation of ILO Convention No. 29 on Forced Labour in Myanmar/Burma.

### ***International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)***

At the end of August and beginning of September, on the occasion of the International Diplomatic Conference on Aviation Security in Beijing, held under the auspices of the ICAO, the *Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation and the Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft* were adopted. Both instruments react to the new threats to civil aviation that are arising in the 21st century, particularly as a result of the experiences with the attacks of 11 September 2001. On the basis of these new instruments of international law, parties will be obliged to prosecute the criminal acts listed within that endanger the safety of civil aviation: the use of a civil aircraft as a weapon, illegal release or discharge of weapons of mass destruction or named hazardous substances from a civilian aircraft, use of weapons of mass destruction or named hazardous substances to attack a civilian aircraft, transport of weapons of mass destruction or named hazardous materials on board a civilian aircraft.

At the end of September and beginning of October, the 37th ICAO General Assembly was held. One of the most important points on the programme were elections to the ICAO's executive body – the 36-member ICAO Council – for the next three-year period. In voting for the third group of states, Slovenia, which was candidating for the Central European Rotation Group - CERG (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia), was successful, replacing Romania on the ICAO Board.

The Assembly continued in its plenary session and in five working bodies, which were the executive committee, the technical committee, the economic commission, the legal commission and the administrative commission. The most problematic issue was environmental protection, particularly air transport emissions trading and the related issue of climate change. Despite the fundamental differences of opinion on the given issue between developing and developed states, on the last day of the Assembly a resolution on climate change was adopted, making the ICAO one of the first agencies in the UN to set specific goals and fundamental principles at the worldwide level for dealing with carbon dioxide emissions in (air) transport.

## ***World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)***

The UNWTO programme of work for 2010–2011 is focused on two strategic objectives:

- 1) to increase the competitiveness of tourism and improve the quality of destinations
- 2) to increase the sustainability of tourism so that it contributes more to mitigating poverty, to environmental protection, including issues of climate change, and to maintaining biodiversity

Under the UNWTO are working committees, the task of which is to support programming activities in the field of statistics, quality, sustainable development, education, finances, etc. The Czech Republic is a member of the Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism for the 2008–2011 period.

As part of the Czech Republic's membership in the Committee on Statistics and Tourism Satellite Account (for the 2009–2011 period), a seminar on the *Tourism Satellite Account* took place in the Czech Republic in May 2010. This is an internationally recognised system allowing a single objective international comparison of the importance of tourism for national economies and which serves to determine the contribution of tourism as a sector to the GDP of a given country.

There are six regional commissions under the UNWTO: for Africa, America, East Asia and the Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and South Asia. The Czech Republic is a member of the Commission for Europe. On 28–29 April 2010 the 51st session of this commission took place in Sofia.

## ***International Telecommunication Union (ITU)***

The main event of the ITU in 2010 was the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, which is the ITU's highest authority and meets every four years. Its meeting took place on 4–22 October 2010 in Guadalajara (Mexico) and was attended by about 2100 delegates from 158 ITU member states (of a total of 192). The Czech Republic, as an ITU member state, was also represented at the session.

At the Conference, several important topics were discussed (the strategic plan for 2012–2015, the financial plan for 2012–2015 and changes to the ITU Constitution and Convention) and elections to the ITU's executive bodies were held.

The Czech Republic's greatest success at the session was its re-election to the ITU Council for the 2010–2014 term for the region of Central and Eastern Europe and North Asia, which was the culmination of more than a year's efforts and cooperation between the Czech Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Industry and Trade on the campaign to obtain support for the country's candidacy. It also managed to acquire the position of Vice Chairman on the ITU Council's Standing Committee on Administration and Management.

The Czech Republic also took active part in the high-level discussion organised as part of the Conference's plenary session and used this opportunity to present proposals for expanding the ITU's activities in introducing prospective information and communication technologies and

services, for streamlining the use of ITU budget funding and for increasing the emphasis on practical implementation of resolutions and decisions adopted at the Conference. These proposals were approved by the Conference.

## **UN programmes, funds and other specialised bodies**

### ***UN Development Fund (UNDP) and UN Population Fund (UNFPA)***

The UN Development Programme (UNDP), founded in 1966 on the basis of UN GA Resolution 2029, is the UN's main body for coordinating development work. It has a global scope and annually manages funds of USD 5.2 billion, which makes it the largest provider of grant aid in the UN. In its development work the UNDP focuses on eradicating poverty, promoting democracy, the relation between the environment and sustainable development, the impact of climate change on development and mitigating the consequences of the economic and financial crisis for development.

The UN Commission on Population and Development (UNFPA), as the executive commission of the UN Economic and Social Council, monitors, review and assesses the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels. In its development programmes the UNFPA focuses on the issue of reproductive health, in particular increasing the health of mothers, global access to healthcare education, reduction of child mortality and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

UNDP is one of the main programmes into which the Czech Republic has directed its multilateral development aid contributions since the year 2000. In 2010 a monetary donation of CZK 2.8 million was provided to the UNDP from the Foreign Development Cooperation budget item for performing an evaluation of the Czech Republic's development projects in Moldova, Mongolia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. A further CZK 6 million was provided through a monetary donation to implement projects coordinated by the UNDP Regional Centre in Bratislava, particularly for the UNDP development activities realised by Czech entities in the region of East Europe and the CIS.

In 2010 the Czech Republic only participated in the negotiations of the Executive Board of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Population Fund (UNFPA) as an observer; in April 2010 however it successfully ran for the Executive Board for the 2010–2012 term. In 2011 the Czech Republic will chair the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board.

### ***UN Volunteers Programme (UNV)***

In 2010, Czech support for voluntary activities in the UN took the form of 13 volunteers, of whom six were women, working on UNV multilateral programmes. Czech volunteers worked on long-term missions largely based in Africa, Asia and the Balkans, in the following countries: Kosovo, Mongolia, Yemen, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, Chad and Congo. In 2010, a cash donation of

CZK 4 million from the Foreign Development Cooperation budget item was provided to UNV for sending Czech volunteers to take part in development projects.

### ***UN Environment Programme (UNEP)***

The activity of UNEP is focused on supporting development of international cooperation on the environment, coordination of UN environmental programmes and monitoring the state of the environment in the world. The UNEP is responsible for the environmental aspect of sustainable development and interconnecting it with the economic and social dimension of sustainable development.

In 2010 the 11th special session of the UNEP Governing Council was held (24–26 February 2010) in Bali, Indonesia. The session assessed implementation of the decisions adopted at the 25th session of the UNEP GC, where the Czech Republic, holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU, coordinated and presented the EU's positions. The Czech delegation actively took part in discussions on support for strengthening international environmental governance (IEG) and streamlining UNEP's activities. A priority for the future should be ensuring effective implementation of the existing environmental policy instruments.

### ***UN Programme for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat)***

UN-HABITAT is a UN programme that focuses systematically on the issue of human settlements and the related issues of sustainable development and meeting the Millennium Development Goals. In 2008, the Czech Republic was elected to the UN-HABITAT Governing Council for 2009–2012.

On 22–26 March 2010, World Urban Forum 5 took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, attended by more than 20 000 participants from 119 countries, representing state governments, international organisations, non-governmental organisations and representatives of cities and municipalities.

## **UN humanitarian programmes and agencies**

In 2010, the Czech Republic continued in its cooperation with the UN Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs (OCHA), as well as with UN humanitarian programmes and agencies. In 2010 this primarily encompassed the World Food Programme (WFP), where the Czech permanent representative acted as the president of the Eastern European regional group, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). Through these organisations the Czech Republic provided contributions in 2010 for starving inhabitants in Niger and Chad (WFP – CZK 3 million), Afghan refugees in Iran (UNHCR – CZK 3 million) and for people affected by the earthquake in Haiti (UNICEF – CZK 5 million).

### ***UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)***

In 2010, the most important event in the UNCTAD from the point of view of the Czech Republic was the regular session of the Trade and Development Board (hereinafter the TDB),

UNCTAD's highest governing body when the ministerial conference is not meeting, which took place in Geneva on 15–28 September 2010. One of the main items of the TDB programme was the issue of economic development in Africa with an emphasis on South-South cooperation and new forms of development cooperation in Africa, on which TDB passed the agreed conclusions. Another item on the TDB programme was assessing implementation to date of the Accra Accord, which on a general level was evaluated positively, nevertheless for further continuation of this process the TDB specified more detailed recommendations on several selected aspects. TDB also dealt with the issues of sustainable rejuvenation of the economies in individual regions, progress in the international trade system, development strategies in a globalised world and the recent developments in direct foreign investments.

Three executive sessions of the TDB also took place in 2010. At the 49th TDB executive session on 8–9 June 2010, preparations were made for the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the autumn session of the summit on the Millennium Development Goals. The 50th TDB executive session of 8 July 2010 focused on UNCTAD activities to help Africa and selected issues related to development in Africa (the financial crisis, economic policy). The 51st TDB executive session, which took place 29–30 November 2010, was dedicated to a review of the progress in implementing the programme of action for the least developed countries for the period 2001–2010 and the UNCTAD contribution to preparations for the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries. In addition to the TDB sessions, a number of expert meetings also took place in 2010 under UNCTAD.

### ***UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, Rio + 20)***

Preparations for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (*Rio + 20*) were launched in 2010. The conference is set to take place in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. The UN GA decided to organise it by adopting a resolution on Agenda 21 at the end of 2009. *Rio + 20* will take place two decades after the Earth Summit (3–14 June 1992, Rio de Janeiro), where a plan of action for achieving sustainable development was adopted by consensus under the name Agenda 21 and a decision was made to set up a new body under the UN Economic and Social Council – the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) – the task of which is above all to assess the progress achieved in implementing the adopted measures and to propose further steps.

The main objectives in Rio should be confirmation of global political responsibility, assessment of implementation of the commitments already made and identification of new challenges in the field of sustainable development. The main topics of the conference will be: (1) the green economy in the context of sustainable development and eradication of poverty and (2) the institutional framework for sustainable development.

The Czech Republic is participating actively in preparing the *Rio + 20* process. During the first session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) on *Rio + 20*, the Czech representative, Jiří



Hlaváček from the Environment Ministry, was elected as vice-chair of the ten-member Bureau for the UN Eastern European States Group.

### ***UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)***

In accordance with the "biennialisation" of the UNECE plenary sessions – one of the measures of the UNECE reform approved four years ago – the plenary did not meet in 2010. Thanks to this, it was possible to concentrate on the sessions of the UNECE sector committees, as well as on issues of broader geographic or thematic scope.

Matters of strategic importance were also addressed: the Committee on Sustainable Energy adopted a decision to found a consultative mechanism that would, in reaction to the proposals of several member states, discuss the content of the legally binding documents on energy security and on securing the safe transit of energy carriers; the Committee on Housing and Land Management created a group for processing the potentially legally binding instrument on accessible, healthy and ecological housing in the UNECE region. The Committee on Environmental Policy dealt mainly with preparations for the Seventh *Environment for Europe* Ministerial Conference in Astana, Kazakhstan in September 2011.

2010 was a successful year for the UNECE in the transport department: it was not by chance that it was in this sector that the most sessions of UNECE working bodies took place (a new item is the preparation of standards for limiting traffic noise and also the risks associated with the use of mobile telephones while driving), as did the most international conferences, of which the most important were dedicated to Euro-Asian transport links, transport connections from the inland to seaports and issues of goods transit and simplifying goods handling at borders, including amending the TIR Convention.

Although the field of technical cooperation is peripheral to the UNECE's mandate, in 2010 it developed very promisingly: realisation of hundreds of sub-activities continued and several dozen advisory missions were organised as part of over 30 projects. The volume of UNECE non-budget resources for technical cooperation grew threefold since the UNECE reform was adopted, with the greatest portion of resources going into environmental protection and sustainable energy. For USD 1 dedicated from the regional budget (UN resources redistributed through the UNECE) for technical cooperation, the UNECE today acquires USD 9 from non-budget sources, which is an exceptionally positive result, at least in comparison with the other UN regional commissions.

### ***UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)***

On 9–18 June 2010 the Czech delegation in Vienna took part in the 53th session of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). The session was dedicated to issues of maintenance and sustainable development in outer space for peaceful uses and fulfilment of the recommendations from the UNISPACE III conference. Over the course of 2010 the Czech Republic took part in the activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee.

At the meeting of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (Vienna, 8–19 February 2010), discussions included the aspects of dealing with the problem of space debris, the UN programme on space applications, the International Space Information Service, the international rescue satellite systems, satellite monitoring of the environment, satellite natural disaster warning systems, the development of global navigation systems, the study of physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit. The session of the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee (Vienna, 20 March – 2 April 2010) included discussions on the status and application of the five UN international space treaties, rational and equal use of the geostationary orbit, revision of the principles for using nuclear energy in space and building the capacities of space law.

A mark of prestige for the Czech Republic in the field of peaceful uses of space was the organisation of the 61st International Astronautical Congress in Prague on 27 September – 1 October 2010. At the sidelines of the congress on 24–25 September, the 20th UN and International Astronautical Federation workshop, *GNSS Applications for Human Benefit and Development*, was held in Prague.

## **The fight against transnational organised crime and drugs in the UN**

### ***UN Commission for Narcotic Drugs (CND)***

On 8–12 March 2010, the 53rd session of the Commission for Narcotic Drugs (CND) took place in Vienna. The Czech Republic's delegation was led by the Czech Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna Veronika Kuchyňová Šmigolová, who chaired the parallel plenary of the CND, the *Committee of the Whole*.

The main items of the agenda of the main plenary were implementation of international drug conventions, the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2009, the strengthening of the CND's role as an overarching coordination body, as well as other reflections on the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on international cooperation and integrated and balanced strategy to deal with the world drug problem, which was adopted at the preceding 52nd session of the CND. The Czech Republic gave a national presentation under the item *Reducing the Demand for Drugs*, emphasising the role of harm reduction measures and non-governmental organisations that have been actively taking part in helping drug addicts since 1995.

The *Committee of the Whole* approved a total of 16 resolutions. The most important include a resolution submitted by the EU on universal access to treatment and assistance for persons with HIV with reference to intravenous drug users. The Czech Republic initiated changes in India's draft resolution on international trade of poppy seeds and along with similarly minded countries achieved an acceptable wording.

At the CND session of 2 December 2010 the Czech Republic's Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna was elected chair of the next 54th session of the CND.

### ***UN Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)***

The 19th session of the UN Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice took place 17–21 May 2010 in Vienna. The meeting focused on trading in cultural monuments and implementation of the Salvador Declaration, adopted at the 12th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The EU attempted to promote the Council of Europe's Budapest Convention on Cybercrime as a functional tool of international law that need not be supplemented by any duplicating instrument.

The meeting was also dedicated to an evaluation of the work, financing and management of the UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Debate on the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) moved toward a call for a functional mechanism to be created to review implementation of the Convention. Debate on the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) saw calls for a review mechanism to begin functioning. The conclusion of a discussion on illegal trade in cultural property was a recommendation to introduce a special crime into criminal law for trading in cultural property. In addition to a resolution formally approving the Salvador Declaration, resolutions were also adopted to increase responsibility for violence against women, on the UN rules for the treatment of women prisoners and on the fight against piracy off the coast of Somalia.

### ***UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)***

The parties of the Convention negotiated on a more detailed treatment of the mechanism for controlling implementation at the meetings of the UNCAC Implementation Review Group (IRG) in Vienna on 28 June – 2 July and 29 November – 1 December 2010. They also met there for the UNCAC working groups on prevention (13–15 December 2010) and asset recovery (16–17 December 2010). At the IRG meetings, the Czech Republic pushed for the possibility of taking part in decision-making from the position of an observer that has not yet ratified the Convention.

### ***Agreement on the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)***

A new international organisation – the *International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)* – began its activities with an inaugural conference on 2–3 September 2010. It arose out of a joint initiative between the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and Interpol. The IACA is to become a centre of anti-corruption education, research and professional training. It promises a *holistic, interdisciplinary, interregional, intercultural and intersectoral approach*, serving as an instrument to implement the UN Convention against Corruption. The academy was opened by UN SG Ban Ki-moon and the main speakers included the Czech interior minister. The Czech Republic signed the Agreement on the IACA on 14 December 2010, becoming one of the IACA's 53 founding members.

### ***12th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice***

On 12–19 April 2010 in the Brazilian city of Salvador, the 12th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice took place. The final three days of the congress were dedicated to a high-level segment, which the Czech Republic attended. The congress adopted the Salvador Declaration on

Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges, which calls for reforms of criminal justice in terms of human rights protection, security and development and international judicial cooperation. The declaration emphasised concern over the growing negative influence of organised crime. It gave the impulse to found a UNODC working group on cybercrime.

## **6. The Czech Republic and other international organisations**

### **The Czech Republic and the world economy**

#### ***Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)***

The members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), founded in 1961 with headquarters in Paris, are the 34 most developed countries. The Czech Republic has been a member state since the start of 1995. As an intergovernmental organisation in 2010, the OECD's work was mainly aimed at broad cooperation to mitigate the influence of the economic and financial crisis and revive growth. In that respect, the governments of member and non-member countries, the G8 and the G20 used OECD analyses to define their policies. In dealing with the impact of the economic crisis and working to eliminate it, the OECD further intensified cooperation with the UN and other international partner institutions (in particular the IMF, World Bank Group, FSB, WTO, WHO, FAO, ILO and others). OECD representatives were involved in working on the issue of the global economic crisis, economic reforms and innovations, climate change and development cooperation at practically all the important world forums.

In 2010, four candidate countries (Chile, Estonia, Israel and Slovenia) successfully completed three-year talks on entry to the OECD. The number of OECD members thus rose to its current 34. The Russian Federation, the last of the official candidate countries invited to begin accession talks in 2007, continued in negotiations on the entrance conditions with the OECD substantive committees. Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa are increasingly active in cooperating with the OECD as part of the *Enhanced Engagement* project.

The annual meeting in May 2010 of the organisation's highest authority, the OECD Council at the ministerial level, was devoted to the topic of *From Recovery to Sustained Growth*, related to the post-crisis period and emphasising the efforts of member countries and the OECD Secretariat to create the conditions for healthy and balanced growth of the world economy. The participants of the meeting above all discussed strategic plans and actual OECD tasks, as well as the outlooks of the global economy, also touching on issues of shared responsibility for global economic processes. The meeting approved the OECD Innovation Strategy, the Interim Report of the Green Growth Strategy and the Declaration on Propriety, Integrity and Transparency in the Conduct of International Business and Finance.

The Czech delegation was led by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Jan Kohout, who was also the main speaker on the Strategic Orientation of OECD Activity and in the debate on the aforementioned Declaration. Other members of the delegation were representatives from the

Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance, the Environment and the Permanent Delegation of the Czech Republic to the OECD.

On the eve of the Council meeting at the ministerial level, the eleventh incarnation of the traditional OECD Forum took place under constant attention from the main media. Top international experts along with high-ranking government officials, representatives of the academic community and non-governmental organisations (particularly the *Business and Industry Advisory Committee* (BIAC) and *Trade Union Advisory Committee* (TUAC)) discussed, in a range of thematic panels, the relationship between economic growth and creation of the workforce, possible sources of financing for future growth, the relationship between green growth and energy, as well as the future of capitalism and other issues. The Czech Republic was represented in the debate by Deputy Industry and Trade Minister Martin Tlapa and Deputy Environment Minister Miroslav Hájek.

The spring and autumn OECD Executive Committee in Special Session (ECSS) dealt primarily with preparing strategic documents on the orientation of the organisation's further activities and their financing, as well as the economic, financial and social situation in OECD member states, OECD involvement in G20 activities, issues around the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the OECD and the organisation's external relations. Aside from member states, the meeting was also attended by representatives of the Russian Federation (candidate country), as well as Brazil, India, Indonesia and the Republic of South Africa. Other high-level events included:

On 5 April 2010 the OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría came for a two-day visit of Prague in order to publish the Economic Outlook for the Czech Republic. This key OECD document presented a set of concrete recommendations for the Czech Republic with detailed substantiation. The dominant message was the necessity of consolidating public finances. The OECD Economic Outlook also included a detailed analysis of the Czech tax system in terms of its influence on the labour market and formulated a recommendation for a phased reform of the system. In the final section it dealt with improving the entrepreneurial environment in the Czech Republic. During his visit, Angel Gurría met with Czech President Václav Klaus and with members of the cabinet and the diplomatic corps. He also gave a lecture at the University of Economics, Prague.

On 7 November 2010, IEA Executive Director Nobuo Tanaka and Czech Industry and Trade Minister Martin Kocourek presented the publication *Energy Policies of IEA countries – The Czech Republic 2010* in Prague. The study was the result of a thorough review of the Czech Republic's energy policy, carried out by experts of the member states and the IEA Secretariat in collaboration with top representatives of the Czech state administration, business and academic circles and non-governmental organisations in the energy sector. The review dealt with the national (government) energy policy concept, key energy sectors, i.e. electricity, oil, gas, nuclear energy, energy security, energy efficiency, energy and the climate and, last but not least, energy science and research. The resulting document praises the Czech Republic's energy policy focus on energy security and the liberalisation that was carried out on the electricity and gas market in the Czech Republic since the

last review. It nevertheless recommends that the Czech Republic take greater consideration of the perspectives of economic efficiency and environmental sustainability.

On 7 – 8 October 2010, a ministerial meeting of the OECD Health Committee took place in Paris. The Czech delegation was led by Health Minister Leoš Heger.

On 25–26 February 2010, a meeting of the OECD Committee for Agriculture took place in Paris at the ministerial level. The Czech delegation was led by advisor to the Czech agriculture minister, Jiří Šír.

On 4–5 November 2010 the ministerial meeting of the OECD Education Policy Committee took place. The Czech delegation was led by 1st Deputy Education Minister Kryštof Hajn; Deputy Labour and Social Affairs Minister Vladimír Šiška also took part.

On 15 November 2010 in Venice, the OECD Committee on Public Governance met at the ministerial level.

The OECD *Making Reform Happen* conference took place in Paris on 25–26 November 2010 and was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Tomáš Dub.

The OECD Round Table on Sustainable Development on 13–14 December 2010 was attended by 1st Deputy Environment Minister Rút Bízková and Deputy Environment Minister Ivo Hlaváč.

Over the course of 2010 the OECD Council adopted new instruments to strengthen the global economic environment, in particular the Declaration on Propriety, Integrity and Transparency in the Conduct of International Business and Finance, the Recommendation of the Council on Principles for Transparency and Integrity in Lobbying, the Recommendation of the Council on the Determination of Transfer Pricing between Associated Enterprises, the Recommendation of the Council to Facilitate Cooperation between Tax and Other Law Enforcement Authorities to Combat Serious Crimes, the Recommendation of the Council on Good Institutional Practices in Promoting Policy Coherence for Development and the Recommendation of the Council on Information and Communication Technologies and the Environment.

The Czech Republic continued in its active involvement in the OECD's external relations primarily by participating in regional programmes, to which it regularly provides voluntary contributions and active participation by experts from the relevant institutions. Through the OECD Permanent Delegation, the Czech Republic is also connected to the management structures of the Eurasia programme. The Czech Republic's involvement helps develop contacts to key central institutions in partner countries and allows for direct or indirect influence on improving the conditions for investment and business opportunities for Czech entities in the programme's partner countries. Under the Eurasia programme, the OECD Permanent Delegation organised a reaction to the Ukrainian government's request for expert assistance in organising privatisation of agricultural land and the country's housing stock. The Czech Republic also takes part financially and with

expertise in implementing OECD programmes for improving the conditions of agricultural production (irrigation and soil cultivation) and for the financial sustainability of the environmental policy in Moldova.

The Czech Republic has also long been supporting the OECD's regional programme for the countries of south-eastern Europe, *Investment Compact*. Following a certain fall-off in demand for cooperation from this region caused by the economic and financial crisis, it can be expected that cooperation with both the OECD and the Czech Republic, who financially supported the programme's activities last year, will be rejuvenated. As with the Eurasia programme, the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with other ministries will continue in its efforts to improve the conditions for trade and business opportunities in the programme's partner countries.

Another of the OECD's important regional programmes supported by the Czech Republic is MENA (*Middle East and North Africa*), which focuses on those regions. The initiative is realised in two pillars: the first is focused on support and development of public administration, standardisation of institutions, support for legislation and its enforcement, etc. The second pillar is an investment strategy and partner country policy and the complex issue of its creation and implementation.

Overall the Czech Republic provided contributions from the Foreign Ministry budget of EUR 97 000 in 2010 for specific OECD projects in keeping with its priorities, in particular for OECD cooperation with non-member countries or for the education of Czech public administration officials at the OECD. Other traditional providers of voluntary donations are the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, the Ministry for Regional Development and the Ministry of the Environment.

In 2010 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was the coordinator of the Czech Republic's relations with the OECD, coordinating activities and key positions with the institutions of state administration through the activities of the Working Group for Cooperation Between the Czech Republic and the OECD. In its role as coordinator, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informs the Czech government, in cooperation with other involved ministries and institutions, about the instruments adopted by the OECD in the past year and on their implementation.

### ***World Trade Organisation (WTO)***

The year 2010 at the World Trade Organisation was dominated by consolidating processes for making progress in multilateral negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) before a year of revolutionary changes and developments. Several conflicts related to the EU were resolved. Great attention was also devoted to continuation of the fight against protectionist measures slowing down the free flow of world trade.

In advocating its interests at the WTO, the Czech Republic based its position on its liberal opinions, actively pushing its perspectives with regard to the common trade policy through the European Commission. In order to further these positions the Czech Republic primarily used

meetings of the Trade Policy Committee and other EU bodies, or EU preparatory coordination meetings in Geneva.

#### *The Doha Development Agency (DDA)*

Practically no progress was made in 2010 in negotiations on the DDA. The main efforts focused on finding trust between members and a political consensus on continuing with talks. Implementation of the given objectives took place through the "cocktail" approach, which consists of a combination of talks in various formats. In the second half of 2010 in Geneva, it was primarily ambassadors that met in relatively small groups. One positive signal were the conclusions of the G20 summit Seoul, where it was declared that the DDA could be completed in 2011 on the basis of the results achieved so far. WTO members then agreed on an ambitious work programme for 2011, when intensive negotiating on all parts of the DDA should continue and the "horizontal process" should also begin, with the goal of achieving a final result in the form of a joint commitment that would guarantee that all participants will accept all the results of the talks. The results would then be confirmed at the 8th Ministerial Conference, which is to take place in Geneva on 15–17 December 2011.

#### *The fight against protectionism*

The theme of protectionism continued in 2010, with many states reacting to the world financial and economic crisis by introducing tariff and non-tariff measures that obstructed trade. The Trade Policy Review Board (TPRB) discussed two monitoring reports stating that the rate of new measures obstructing free trade is falling, but that the original ones still remain and are still accumulating. The primary goal thus remains attempting to quickly end the validity of these measures. Abolishing these measures is proving to be a very slow process; to date only 15% of measures introduced in reaction to the economic crisis have been successfully reversed.

In his report in the second half of 2010, WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy called for continued caution in relation to protectionism and emphasised that keeping it in check could lead to faster recovery of international trade. The report also states that macroeconomic problems such as unemployment cannot be resolved by restricting trade but on the contrary by supporting it through greater liberalisation and implementation of measures that open up the economy and thereby lead to further development of trade and investment. The Czech Republic fully shares and supports this opinion.

There were also warning voices within the WTO that all the work on building stability and rejuvenation after the crisis through trade could be endangered by uncoordinated and unilateral steps by governments in relation to the exchange rates of their national currencies.

#### *Dispute settlement*

The year 2010 was relatively full of dispute settlement under the WTO, including some involving those the EU. One of these was the tariff hike on certain information technology (in



connection with the Information Technology Agreement) by the EU, which accepted the result and then passed a pledge to implement the WTO Panel recommendation. Both disputes on the subsidy of large civilian aircraft manufactures (Boeing, Airbus) remained closely watched. A Panel report on the Airbus dispute was published agreeing in part with both sides. The EU used its opportunity to appeal.

#### *Activities of other WTO bodies*

Of the activities of the other WTO bodies, the most important for the EU and the Czech Republic was the area of auditing the trade policies of third countries. The Czech Republic actively took part in these, particularly where they concerned our important economic partners (e.g. the USA, China) and current problems related to our interests. The Czech Republic also devoted attention to the issue of accepting new members, particularly the key question of the Russian Federation's accession to the WTO. An important fact for the Czech Republic in the Committee on Agriculture was that negotiations were finally successfully completed on the agricultural notifications the country sent earlier concerning the period before the Czech Republic entered the EU. On the Council for Trade in Services, an audit was launched of the exceptions from the highest advantages provided by EU member states, which will continue in 2011 as well with discussions of the transportation services sector, where the Czech Republic has concrete interests.

#### ***International Monetary Fund (IMF)***

The financial crisis provoked a political impulse that opened a new stage in the history of the IMF. In 2010 the IMF continued along the path it started out on, the destination of which is reform. Discussions at the IMF Annual Meeting in Washington at the beginning of October 2010 resulted in a draft resolution that is to react to the demands for the Fund to reform.

At the close of 2010 the International Monetary Fund governors approved the draft of the aforementioned resolution by a vote. The resolution also concerns a number of other issues related to the reform, the main purpose of which is to strengthen the voice of emerging markets and developing countries. The central emphasis is placed on increasing quotas and redistributing votes and the size and composition of the Board of Executive Directors. With the adoption of the resolution it was decided on the one hand that quotas would be doubled and 6% of votes would be moved from countries with a disproportionately high representation to countries with a disproportionately low representation, and on the other that fundamental changes would be made to the composition of the Board of Executive Directors. this change also affects the constituency of which the Czech Republic is a member. The following year of 2011 will be dominated by talks on the creation of new constituency contracts.

Bilateral loans provided to the IMF by the Czech National Bank (CNB) were also drawn in 2010. The Czech government approved a loan to the IMF from the CNB's foreign exchange reserves (on the basis of Government Resolution No. 500 of 20 April 2009). The loan will be provided for a maximum amount of EUR 1.03 billion, to be paid back within five years. Resolution No. 500/2009

also allowed the finance minister to conclude an agreement with the CNB on covering the costs incurred by the CNB in connection with fulfilling the agreement to provide the bilateral loan. This agreement was concluded with CNB in February 2010, and then in April 2010 the CNB subsequently signed the loan agreement with the IMF. According to the aforementioned agreement on compensation for costs, the Ministry of Finance will cover the costs for missed opportunities, the transaction costs and the costs for exchange risk insurance. With Resolution No. 160 of 22 February 2010 the government agreed that CNB's expenses incurred in connection with the bilateral loan to the IMF would be covered from the government budget reserves contained in the budget heading Treasury Administration in 2010, to a maximum amount of CZK 50 million.

The current bilateral cooperation between the Czech Republic and the IMF also includes the annual IMF mission to the Czech Republic, which is performed in accordance with Article IV of the Agreement on the IMF. The outcome of this mission is a set of recommendations for the government's economic policy and an evaluation of the progress for the preceding period in the fiscal and monetary sector, the development of the financial sector and the progress of structural changes. The next IMF mission will take place at the beginning of 2011.

### ***World Bank Group (WBG)***

After its graduation from WBG operations in 2005 the Czech Republic is no longer entitled to draw loans from the WBG; on the contrary, it is expected that the Czech Republic's participation in multilateral cooperation realised by the WBG will gradually increase. The period when the Czech Republic could draw free "technical assistance" from the WBG (a consulting service provided through its own and external experts) has ended. Now technical assistance is provided on a paid basis. In 2010 technical assistance was given on remittance.

Aside from paid technical cooperation, the WBG will expect a more active approach from the Czech Republic in fulfilling the role of a reliable partner in multilateral cooperation. Above all this will naturally mean active financial participation in various WBG initiatives. The most important contribution in 2010 was the payment of CZK 116.91 million into the Global Environment Fund as part of its fifth replenishment. The Czech Republic also contributed CZK 106.97 million to the fifteenth replenishment of the International Development Association. The Czech Republic gave another contribution of CZK 5.99 million to the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, as well as CZK 0.52 million to the WBG trust fund to support the Decade of Roma Inclusion, which the Czech Republic is chairing from 1 July 2010 until 30 June 2011.

In 2010 the WBG continued in reforms aiming to increase the voting power of developing countries. At its spring meeting in April 2010 the Development Committee (DC) supported increasing the voting rights of developing countries at the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) to 47.19% (an increase of 4.59% since 2008). The DC also supported increasing the voting rights of developing countries at the International Financial Corporation (IFC) by 6.07% to 39.48%. The DC also proposed increasing the IBRD's capital by a total of USD

86.3 billion to USD 276.1 billion. Voting is currently taking place on the WBG Board of Governors about the above reforms and should be completed in spring 2011.

The planned exchange of the Czech Republic's representative to the WBG took place in 2010. Pavel Frelich was replaced by Šárka Dybczaková, who will represent the Czech Republic's interests at the WBG until 2013. In accordance with an agreement concluded with the Slovak Republic, she also represents the interests of the Slovak Republic at the WBG. Slovakia conversely represents the Czech Republic's interests at the IMF.

### ***European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)***

By graduating from the EBRD, the Czech Republic joined those states with developed economies that no longer require the EBRD's services. The recognition (graduation) of a member country as a developed state by an international financial institution such as the EBRD is regarded as an important signal for foreign investors.

Since the completion of the Czech Republic's graduation from the EBRD at the end of 2007, the EBRD has no longer invested in new projects in the Czech Republic, even in the context of regional projects. Existing projects will run their course in line with the contractual commitments, so the EBRD will continue to have active investments in the Czech Republic for a number of years; these investments are both direct and indirect, e.g. through investment funds in which the bank has invested.

The EBRD is prepared to continue to support Czech companies' investments in countries that receive the bank's assistance (i.e. on attractive emerging markets in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia that have undergone or are undergoing the transformation process). Therefore, the Czech Ministry of Finance works closely with other institutions within the Czech Republic in identifying mechanisms to support exports by Czech companies to those countries.

During its activity to date in the EBRD the Czech Republic has established a respected position and has acquired a reputation as an active partner. The Czech Republic is engaged in EBRD donor activities under the *European Western Balkans Joint Fund*, to which it has contributed EUR 3 million. In 2007, the Czech Government approved the creation of the *Czech Republic – ODA Technical Cooperation Fund*. The Czech Republic has contributed a total of EUR 11.5 million to the fund, and only Czech companies are eligible to draw from it. The fund's mission is to reinforce trade relations between Czech companies and the partner countries, and its projects will encourage investment in and export to the partner countries to assist in their transition to market economies. The fund focuses on the Balkans and the transforming countries of Europe and Central Asia, with no restrictions on sectors. Assistance takes the form of technical assistance and consultancy.

At the EBRD Annual Meeting in May 2010 the Council of Governors approved boosting the EBRD's business and investment activities, with an associated capital increase of 50%, i.e. from

EUR 20 billion to EUR 30 billion. The Czech Republic is also taking part in this capital increase, though since a capital increase is, by nature, highly specific and temporary, it will not have a subsequent impact on the Czech state budget. In autumn 2010, former Czech Prime Minister Jan Fischer was elected as Vice President of the EBRD.

### ***Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)***

The Council of Europe Development Bank, until 1 November 1999 called the Council of Europe Social Development Fund, was established in 1956. It currently has 40 shareholders, including most of the member states of the Council of Europe (CoE). It is attached to the CoE and comes under its jurisdiction. The CEB is legally and financially autonomous and constitutes the principal tool of the solidarity policy pursued by the CoE. The Czech Republic has been a member of the CEB since 12 February 1999.

The CEB's priority objective is to help resolve social problems in member countries, primarily in aiding refugees, immigrants and victims of natural or environmental disasters. The CEB also provides credit, chiefly for projects to create and preserve jobs in small and medium-sized enterprises, to build social housing, for social infrastructure, for environmental protection projects, to promote education and health, to improve the quality of the environment in disadvantaged urban and rural areas, and to protect the cultural heritage (including the restoration of historical monuments). To date the Czech Republic has not applied to the CEB for a loan to cover the needs of the state. The CEB has provided two private sector loans worth a total of EUR 50 million.

In November 2010 the CEB management adopted a new addendum to the CEB Articles of Agreement executing a reform of the way the CEB is run. On 28 October 2010 the CEB signed a Memorandum of Understanding with KfW Bankengruppe confirming intensification of cooperation between these two institutions.

### ***International Bank for Economic Cooperation (IBEC)***

The IBEC was established by the governments of the COMECON member states in 1963. Currently, the bank has nine owners: Russia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Cuba, Mongolia and Vietnam.

The primary reason this bank was created was to provide multilateral accounting of supplies of goods and services between member states. However, in view of the fact that since 1991 the COMECON states have moved to a free market form of trading, multilateral bartering has been essentially terminated and the IBEC has abandoned its core activities. Member states decided to maintain the IBEC with the understanding that it is necessary to base its fundamental goals and work on a strictly commercial basis.

The bank's routine work was paralysed by the critical situation it found itself in at the beginning of the 1990s. In 2007, however, IBEC's largest shareholder, the Russian Federation, settled its accounts with the bank. This step allowed the bank to renew regular activities and it can now provide standard financial services. From 2008 until 2010 the bank has posted a net annual

profit of, at first, tens of millions of CZK, and now hundreds of millions of CZK. According to the auditing company Ernst and Young, the financial balance at the bank is better than at its partner, the IIB, and for this reason the current transformation process has IBEC as the base bank and the IIB as the associated one.

### ***International Investment Bank (IIB)***

The IIB was founded by the governments of the COMECON member states in 1970. Currently it is owned by eight states – Russia, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Cuba, Mongolia and Vietnam.

The IIB's primary activity was providing long-term loans for the construction of large investment projects usually implemented by multiple member states. After COMECON was disbanded and the principles for foreign trade among member states were changed, work began to transform the bank into a financial institution whose activities are in line with its owners' economic interests under the new conditions.

At the beginning of the 1990s, the bank found itself in financial difficulties due to outstanding debts among some member countries, although with the exception of Cuba those debts have gradually been settled. By 2004, the IIB's financial relations with Russia had been settled in full and the bank's financial equilibrium was restored.

These positive changes in the IIB's financial situation were a precondition for its complete revitalisation and the gradual expansion of its activities. At present, the IIB is expanding its lending and has adopted international financial reporting and accounting standards, and is seeking to transform all of its banking activities to a standard that is compatible with international practice. At the same time, a process has been launched to restructure and transform the IBEC and IIB into a single International Development Bank. That process should be completed in 2010-2011.

According to the results of an audit by the company Ernst and Young, the IIB is in a much less advantageous position in relation to the IBEC due to some high-risk operations caused by the top management and poor administration, particularly in the years 2004–2009. For this reason the IIB will be the associated bank in the ongoing transformation process.

## **The Czech Republic's membership in other international organisations**

### ***European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN)***

In 2010 the scientific activity of CERN was primarily focused on the research programme for the unique scientific instrument at CERN – the *Large Hadron Collider* (LHC) particle accelerator. In March 2010 the LHC managed to reach its highest energy levels yet and the first collisions of protons were performed. The intensity of collisions was also increased to the target level set for accelerating particles in 2010 in March. Also testifying to the perfect functioning of the LHC is the fact that it took only three days to end the stage of accelerating and colliding protons and switch the

LHC over to accelerating and colliding lead ions. The excellent readiness of all the detectors – ALICE, ATLAS, CMS, LHCb, LHCf and Totem – was also verified, as was the collection and processing of data through the GRID computer and information network, which connects 140 computer centres from 34 countries around the world including the Czech Republic. Probably the most interesting result at LHC was acquired in colliding lead nuclei, which yielded unique data attesting to the characteristics of nuclear matter in conditions of extreme density and temperature. Czech science also contributed significantly to acquiring this result. Aside from the LHC, another great success in physics at CERN was the production of antihydrogen atoms in the ALPHA and ASACUSA experiments.

Two years of work on changing the parameters for membership in CERN and the organisation's management under new conditions was completed during 2010, the main result of which was the approval of a new procedure and rules allowing full membership in CERN to be acquired by non-European countries as well. In connection with the adoption of new rules for CERN enlargement, accession talks were launched with five candidates (Israel, Cyprus, Slovenia, Serbia and Turkey), which had been put off until the new procedure and rules were approved.

CERN's budget totalled over CHF 1 billion in 2010. The Czech Republic's contribution represents about 1% of this. As part of the Czech Republic's efforts to make maximum use of the benefits of its membership in CERN, the country endeavoured to get as much back as possible from this contribution through public contracts offered by CERN for industrial supplies from the member states to CERN – for maintenance and industrial services, replacement parts, etc. The contracts that Czech industry managed to get on the basis of these tenders included, for example, equipment for transporting magnets in the SPS accelerator tunnel from Ostroj Opava, orders for detectors from Duo Opočno and others.

Roughly 300 workers from the three institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences and eight faculties and institutes of six Czech universities were involved in cooperation with CERN in 2010, taking part in the creation of more than 180 academic publications and 100 presentations at international conferences. Altogether 189 experts from the Czech Republic were registered as CERN "users" in 2010, of which about one third were students. This number represents 2.9% of the total number of users from CERN member states (6 349) and 1.9% of the total users (10 115) from CERN member and non-member states. According to a five-year evaluation of the programme *Fellows, Associate and Students*, applicants from the Czech Republic received 1.1% of all positions in the category of Fellows, 0.8% of the positions in the category of technical students and 2.3% of the doctoral student positions in the period studied.

Since 2010 the Czech Republic has been represented at CERN by Rupert Leitner.

### ***International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)***

On 6 January 2010 the Czech Republic signed the IRENA Statute and became one of the founding members of IRENA. Following the signature of the IRENA Statute the ratification process was

started in the Parliament of the Czech Republic, which was successfully completed at the end of 2010 when both chambers had expressed their consent with ratification. In the next phase the Statute will be ratified by the President of the Czech Republic, after which the country will become a full-fledged member.

IRENA's activities in 2010 were based on the IRENA Work Programme for 2010, including contact and cooperation with other international organisations, professionals and the private sector in terms of renewable energy sources, participation in events focused on IRENA's field in order to increase awareness about its activities (for example participation in three events put on by the OECD and one event organised by UNCTAD), acquiring observer status in the International Panel on Climate Change, identification of existing statistical databases with data on energy and concluding agreements with the UN, the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and Eurostat on sharing statistics, identification of requirements for research in the field of innovation and technology, etc. In 2010 there was also a change of the interim director due to the fact that the originally named interim director resigned. She was replaced by the newly elected Interim Director Adnan Amin (Kenya).

In preparing for the full functioning of IRENA, two sessions of the Preparatory Commission for IRENA took place in 2010 which, in addition to controlling implementation of the IRENA Work Programme, dealt above all with organisational matters, preparing financial and staffing regulations and preparing the rules of procedure for the Assembly – IRENA's supreme authority. As a founding member of IRENA, the Czech Republic took part in both sessions of the Preparatory Commission.

### ***European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC)***

In 2010, the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) again concentrated mainly on this pan-European governmental organisation's cooperation with other global-impact organisations in the field of air transport. The ECAC's main goal remains promoting the sustainable, safe and efficient expansion of the European aviation system, facilitated by harmonising policies and procedures in ECAC member states. The ECAC's most important activities include the issue of protecting civilian aviation against criminal acts (security), as well as protecting the environment, facilitating aerial transport and continuing with pushing for reform of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

With the Czech Republic's active participation, the ECAC continued to work to protect civil aviation against unlawful activities, primarily in order to avoid any serious discrepancies between the regulatory frameworks of EU member states and those ECAC countries that are not members of the EU. In 2010, the ECAC continued its dialogue with the US aviation authorities on the further convergence of harmonising measures for aviation (in collaboration with the European Union).

A highly significant event was December's election of the Romanian Director General of Civil Aviation Catalin Radu as the new ECAC President. Contributing to his election was the

coordination of support of the aviation authorities that work together under CERG (the Central European Rotation Group, of which the Czech Republic is a member). It can be expected that while he is performing the function of president, CERG initiatives will be more visible.

### ***European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation (EUROCONTROL)***

This international organisation with 38 member states has as its primary objective the development of a seamless, pan-European air traffic management system.

In 2010, EUROCONTROL developed, coordinated and planned the implementation of all proposed air traffic management strategies in the European airspace and the associated action plans. These activities took place in close cooperation with member states' civil aviation authorities, air traffic service providers, civil and military airspace users, industry partners and other European institutions.

For the Czech Republic, an important activity was the ongoing cooperation in creating a functional airspace block in Central Europe (FAB CE) which will replace CEATS (an agreement relating to the provision and operation of air traffic services and facilities by EUROCONTROL at the Central European Air Traffic Services Upper Area Control Centre).

Last but not least, in 2010 EUROCONTROL took over several of the new functions arising out of application of the EU regulatory base in terms of the Single European Sky (SES II) concept, for which it will operate as network manager. Activity commenced at the PRB (*Performance Review Body*), which prepared Europe-wide efficiency targets for the European Commission for the first SES II reference period (2012–2014).

### ***International Transport Forum (ITF)***

On 26–28 May 2010 the regular session of the International Transport Forum (ITF) was held in Leipzig at the ministerial level. The forum was devoted to the theme *Transport and Innovation: Unleashing the Potential*. The forum included a ministerial session which examined the topic *How to Build the Transport System of Tomorrow?* The Czech delegation was led by Transport Minister Gustav Slamečka.

### ***International Exhibitions Bureau (BIE)***

BIE is governed by the Convention Relating to International Exhibitions (Paris, 22 November 1928). The Convention generally governs the organisation of international exhibitions, regulating their frequency and stipulating guarantees and facilities that the organising country must provide for participants. The BIE is by nature an international government organisation. Exhibitions approved by the BIE are not of a commercial nature. BIE's dominant activities are the EXPO world exhibitions. The Czech Republic is a member of the Executive Committee for 2009–2011.

The Czech Republic successfully took part in EXPO Shanghai 2010, which ran from 1 May until 31 October 2010 with the theme of *Better City, Better Life*. It was also elected as a member of the EXPO 2010 Steering Committee. Its pavilion, named *Fruits of Civilisation*, presented the Czech



Republic as an attractive and prospering country with a high potential for investment, an excellent trading partner and an enchanting tourist destination. The Czech Republic received a total of seven awards, including the BIE's silver prize for a creative exhibition. The next EXPO is to take place in 2015 in Milan.

### ***International Whaling Commission (IWC)***

On 28 May – 26 June 2010, the 62nd session of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), which was founded on the basis of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), took place in Agadir, Morocco. The IWC plenary session was preceded by meetings of the Scientific Committee and other committees, subcommittees and working groups. The Czech delegation was led by IWC Commissioner Pavla Hýčová from the Ministry of the Environment.

IWC talks and EU coordination were dominated by two issues: the future of the ICRW and Denmark's request to increase the quota for subsistence whale hunting by the inhabitants of Greenland. This year's annual meeting was held in an atmosphere of attempts to reach a compromise. Other than Denmark's proposal to increase quotas for Greenland no controversial proposals were presented. The session took up a report from the Scientific Committee on the state of whale populations, pointing out the critical situation of grey whale, and after complicated negotiations it adopted a compromise allowing the increase of Greenland's quota by nine humpback whales and a voluntary reduction of the number of fin whales hunted by Greenland from 19 to 10. Despite the successes achieved during talks, conflicts remain between the camp of pro-whaling states, who are pushing for the moratorium on commercial whale-hunting imposed in 1986 to be removed, and the anti-whaling states, who are for thorough protection of whales.

## **7. The international law dimension of the Czech Republic's foreign policy**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in accordance with the Competency Act and the directive for negotiating international treaties, fulfilled the tasks falling under its jurisdiction in the area of development and respecting international law and negotiating international contracts.

An important element of support for spreading respect for human rights and humanitarian law, the rule of law and the principle of good government is international criminal justice.

On 31 May – 11 June 2010, a Czech government delegation took part in the Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in Kampala, Uganda. The main result of the conference was the adoption of a definition of the crime of aggression, including trial conditions for the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court. At the conference, the Czech Republic made an honorary commitment that by the end of 2010 it would launch a domestic process dealing with accession to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court. The government expressed its consent with accession to the

Agreement in Government Resolution No. 717 of 6 October 2010. The proposal for accession then moved on to the Parliament of the Czech Republic.

In this year the government approved the rules for selecting a candidate for the position of International Criminal Court judge with Resolution No. 478 of 14 June 2010. On the basis of these rules, in December the Ministry of Foreign Affairs nominated Supreme Court Justice Robert Fremr as the Czech Republic's candidate for International Criminal Court judge and began a campaign for his election. Elections take place in December of 2011 in New York as part of the Assembly of the Parties of the Rome Statute. Judge Robert Fremr also became an *ad litem* judge for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for the second time at the request of the UN Secretary-General.

On 22 December 2010, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1966 (2010), the annex to which is the Statute of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. The main goal of the adopted resolution is to deal with the situation after the end of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, which can be expected in 2012, and of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. The Statute addresses practical questions, such as: will criminal prosecution of persons not yet caught be ensured if they are apprehended; how will issues on the execution of the sentence be dealt with, etc. Above and beyond the framework of its obligatory contributions, the Czech Republic contributed to the operation of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

In 2010 the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued to follow the work of the International Law Commission.

In 2010 the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs nominated and launched a campaign for the election of Professor Pavel Šturma to the International Law Commission. The International Law Commission is made up of 34 members elected for five years with the possibility of re-election. The members are elected by the UN General Assembly and the vote will take place in autumn 2011 in New York.

As part of the Sixth Committee of the UN GA, the Czech Republic's positions on the Report on the Work of the International Law Commission were presented, specifically on the topic of reservations to international treaties, the deportation of foreigners and protection of people during disasters.

There were two main topics for the Foreign Ministry at the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly in 2010: the issue of "the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction" and negotiations on the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

On 12–19 April 2010, the 12th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice took place in Salvador, Brazil. The UN puts on this congress every five years. At the end of the congress

the Salvador Declaration was adopted, containing a number of recommendations for UN member states and the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), which implements these recommendations. At the end of 2010, the UN General Assembly adopted an accompanying resolution to the 12th Congress for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice that elaborates on the recommendations contained in the Salvador Declaration. The Czech Republic sent the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) information on the implementation of individual recommendations and suggestions of what the UN should focus on next in this area.

In 2010 the Czech Republic signed the Agreement for the Establishment of the International Anti-Corruption Academy as an international organisation, thus becoming one of the founding members along with more than 50 other states and international organisations. Ratification of this agreement by the Czech Republic is expected during 2011. The Academy, situated in Laxenburg near Vienna, is a project for an international centre of expertise for anti-corruption research, education, training and development of policies and procedures for preventing and fighting corruption. The Academy's educational and research programmes will be used by several Czech institutions, e.g. police officers, public prosecutors, judges and other public administration employees. Czech experts will also be able to take part in instruction at the Academy as lecturers if they wish.

With the Russia Federation's ratification, Protocol No. 14 on the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms entered into force. Agreed on in 2004, its objective is to simplify the running of the European Court for Human Rights in Strasbourg and to alleviate it in the face of the growing numbers of complaints that it is unable to deal with in time.

As part of the Czech Foreign Ministry's grant policy, the International Law Department of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs focused on several current issues of the process of negotiating international treaties, the individual entities in this process and also the issue of preliminary implementation of international treaties.

Both academic employees of the Charles University Faculty of Law and workers from the field contributed to external studies. In evaluating this project, the International Law Department organised an expert seminar for employees of ministries and other state administration bodies.

In 2010 the Czech Republic was active in the field of space law. World renowned space law expert Professor Vladimír Kopal, who was elected Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) for 2008–2010, handed over his chairmanship at the 49<sup>th</sup> session of the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee that took place in Vienna on 22 March – 1 April 2010. In 2010 the Czech Republic presented its national report for one of the main items on the agenda, *general exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space*.

The Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs actively took part in the Commission for the Antarctic, which acts as an interdepartmental advisory body of the Ministry of the Environment within the meaning of Section 24 of Act No. 276/2003 Coll., on the Antarctic and amending certain acts. Since 2009, the Czech Republic's reporting duty under the Antarctic Treaty and related agreements has been implemented using the new EIES electronic system, aimed at simplifying the reporting duty for parties to the Antarctic Treaty. The Czech Republic's reporting duty for the past year was, therefore, implemented not by dispatching notes to the 46 other parties, but by inputting data into EIES and making it accessible.

In 2010, the relevant departments continued to negotiate other international agreements of a presidential, governmental or ministerial character, reflecting the developing and strengthening of cooperation with other states on a wide variety of issues.

In 2010 the Czech Republic completed negotiations on succession with the Republic of Kosovo. Succession with Afghanistan was also concluded. The process of succession to agreements concluded during the existence of Czechoslovakia (1918–1992) can thereby be considered practically complete, as for the remaining states where succession of older treaties comes into consideration, no further progress can be made without a fundamental change in the approach of the other side.

Under Article 307 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, the Czech Republic is required to bring all its international legal obligations into line with EC/EU law. In June 2005, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs therefore began the process of renegotiating agreements on the promotion and protection of investments between the Czech Republic and states that are not members of the European Union. As of 1 January 2011, the obligation to renegotiate or rescind agreements still applies to around twenty investment agreements. In 2010, protocols on the amendment of investments agreements with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jordan, DPRK, Macedonia and Ukraine came into force, and similar protocols were signed with Albania, Montenegro, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco and Serbia.

Owing to the accession of the Czech Republic to the European Union, its bilateral investment agreements with other European Union member states largely became irrelevant. Therefore, at the turn of 2008 and 2009, the Czech Republic notified European Union member states of its proposal to rescind those bilateral investment agreements in the form of agreements between the parties concluded by exchanging diplomatic notes. By the end of 2010, bilateral investment agreements with Italy, Malta, Denmark and Slovenia had been rescinded, and an agreement had been reached to rescind the agreement with Estonia as well.

In 2010, an agreement on the prevention of double taxation with Bosnia and Herzegovina came into force, while expert talks on concluding this type of agreement with more than ten other states continued.

In parallel, a process is underway to renegotiate approximately twenty earlier agreements on the prevention of double taxation, primarily with the objective of extending the exchange of information between the tax authorities in the signatory states. In 2010, protocols on older agreements with Belarus and Belgium were signed, while protocols with Croatia and Kazakhstan were agreed upon and prepared for signature.

Also in the domain of taxes, negotiations were initiated based on an OECD initiative on an agreement for the exchange of tax information with numerous states and self-governing territories that show signs of being tax havens. In the past year, negotiations were held with the Isle of Man, Guernsey, the British Virgin Islands, Gibraltar and Bermuda; with the first two territories an agreement was arrived at at the expert level, which will be approved as an international treaty of the presidential category.

Negotiations are underway with a number of states on a replacement for the trade agreements that had to be terminated due to the exclusive jurisdiction of the EC in trade policy and agreements on economic cooperation (in 2010 agreements entered into force with Bosnia and Herzegovina, India and Macedonia, and a Protocol to the Economic Cooperation Agreement with Serbia was signed).

Talks are underway on new agreements in aviation that include the requirements for the maximum liberalisation of aviation relations, including the relevant Community provisions. In 2010, aviation agreements were signed with Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. A protocol on the aviation agreement with Kuwait was also signed, implementing liberalisation and Community provisions into the current aviation agreement.

In police cooperation, a treaty with Albania on cooperation in the fight against crime entered into force, as did one with the United States of America on strengthening cooperation in the prevention and persecution of serious criminal activity. Agreements on police cooperation were signed with Macedonia and Serbia. An agreement was also signed with France on cooperation in protection of the population and prevention and resolution of exceptional situations. A readmission agreement and protocol on it were signed with Armenia, as was a treaty between the Czech and Slovak Republics amending the treaty on shared state borders. An Agreement of Cooperation between the Interior Ministries of the Czech and Slovak Republics was signed and entered into force. So was an Implementing Protocol between the Interior Ministries of the Czech and Slovak Republics to the agreement on joint use of the information and archival funds created from the activity of Interior Ministries, which replaced the original implementing protocol from 1992.

The National Security Authority agreed on a number of bilateral treaties on the mutual protection of classified information – in 2010 such treaties were signed with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia and Romania (so far they have not entered into force).

In 2010, Agreements on Social Security were signed with India and Syria. An agreement also came into force between the Czech Ministry of Labour, Youth and Sport and the German Federal Ministry of Finance on cooperation in the fight against illegal employment, undeclared gainful activity and illegal hiring of cross-border workers and the associated cross-border abuse of social welfare payments and failure to pay insurance.

An Agreement on Cooperation in the Area of Tourism was also signed between the Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Kenya.

Also signed under the jurisdiction of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs was a Protocol to the Agreement on the Working Holiday Scheme with New Zealand, which eases the conditions for acquiring this type of visa and the conditions for residence in the territory of the other party.

In 2010, the environmental agreements that entered into force included the Agreement between the Czech Republic and the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), concerning the Czech Republic's accession to the Convention on Establishment of the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT) and related conditions, the Protocol on Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, amendments to the annexes of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and amendments to Annexes A, B and C of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Under the Ministry of Defence, standard framework documents on defence cooperation were the main focus of negotiations, for example with Brazil, but negotiations also began on the implementing agreements for the Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the United States of America for Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation Activities.

In culture, cultural agreements were signed with Armenia and Moldova in 2010, and negotiations on such agreements took place with other countries as well. Implementing programmes on cooperation agreements in the field of culture, education and science were also negotiated. Negotiations continued under the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport on international treaties dealing with cooperation in education.

In 2010 a number of multilateral treaties also entered into force for the Czech Republic. These include, for example, the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Heritage (20 October 2005 in Paris), and the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Participation and Cost Sharing in the Electronic Machine Readable Travel Documents ICAO Public Key Directory, which according to Czech legislation is a government treaty. Signed treaties included, for example, the Agreement on the Transfer of Corpses. Also signed on behalf of the Czech Republic were Amendments to the Constitution and Convention of the International

Telecommunication Union and the domestic approval process is underway on the new Acts of the Universal Postal Union. Also negotiated was the Agreement on the Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies (CEEPUS III), which should enter into force during 2011. Within the European Union, the force of the Convention on Europol and related documents expired, being replaced as of 1 January 2010 with the Council of the EU Decision of 6 April 2009 establishing the European Police Office.

## **8. Human rights in Czech foreign policy**

### ***European Union***

In 2010 the Czech Republic took active part in formulating the EU's human rights policy in the EU Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM). COHOM's activities include preparing the EU's positions for sessions of the UN Council on Human Rights, the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, human rights dialogues with countries outside the EU, the EU Annual Report on Human Rights and implementation of EU guidelines against torture, against the death penalty, on the rights of the child and on children in armed conflicts, on human rights defenders, on violence against women and on human rights dialogue. Among the other priority topics discussed in this working part in 2010 were freedom of religion and faith, the rights of sexual minorities, support for democracy, human rights in Iran, rationalisation of local human rights strategies, racism and preparations for the review of the UN Council on Human Rights. An evaluation of the human rights dialogue with China took place, and a similar process was launched for the dialogue with Russia. COHOM completed work on the position for the EU's accession to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Czech Republic's priority topics under COHOM remained human rights defenders, with an emphasis on the *Shelter Cities* initiative, EU election monitoring missions with an emphasis on implementation of their recommendations, and support for democracy.

### ***UN Human Rights Council***

In 2010, the Czech Republic attended meetings of the Human Rights Council (HRC) as a non-voting observer. On the sidelines of the 13th regular meeting of the HRC (March 2010), a meeting took place between the Czech Minister for Human Rights and Minorities and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, where the minister informed the High Commissioner about the Czech Republic's efforts in the fight against extremism and discrimination and also spoke about specific measures at the national and international level adopted with the goal of improving the situation of Roma in the Czech Republic. The Deputy Foreign Minister for European Affairs, in his speech at the HRC plenary, called for a strict assessment of the human rights situation in countries that are applying for membership in the HRC, including the level of practical cooperation with HRC special procedures. The Czech delegation also reported on the implementation of individual recommendations addressed to the Czech Republic during a review of the state of human rights in the Czech Republic in April 2008 (Universal Periodic Review). The Czech Republic took part in

negotiating a number of resolutions on the human rights situation in individual countries (Burma/Myanmar, DPRK, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Cambodia and Somalia). At the 15th regular session of the HRC, the Czech Republic was a part of the interregional group that pushed for a mandate to be established for a Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Association and Assembly. This is the first mandate in the field of civil and political rights that has been established since the HRC was founded.

### ***Universal Periodic Review***

The Czech Republic maintains a high profile in the Universal Periodic Review, a mechanism founded by the UN Human Rights Council. In 2010, there were three rounds of that review (7th–9th). The Czech Republic sent preliminary written questions to the states being evaluated, and subsequently took up two-thirds of them in interactive dialogue. The main topics that the Czech Republic deals with in the Universal Periodic Review are cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms, freedom of speech, the status of human rights defenders, the fight against torture, violence against women and children, eliminating discrimination and the protection of vulnerable groups.

At the March session of the Human Rights Council, the Czech Republic gave a speech indicating the steps that had been taken to implement the recommendations addressed to the Czech Republic as part of its Universal Periodic Review from April 2008.

### ***Discussion of periodic reports on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women***

On 14 October 2010, a defence of the Fourth and Fifth Periodic Report of the Czech Republic on implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women took place in Geneva before the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Czech delegation, led by Director of the Human Rights Office at the Office of the Government Czeslaw Walek and also made up of representatives from the Ministries of Education, Youth and Sport, Labour and Social Affairs, Justice, Health, the Interior and the Environment, responded to questions concerning the issue of the rights of Roma women and children, human trafficking, violence against women, the presence of women in public life, as well as the issue of births outside healthcare institutions. The Committee's final report, containing 25 recommendations for improving the situation of women's rights in the Czech Republic, was issued 22 October 2010.

### ***The Third Committee of the UN General Assembly***

At the session of the UN General Assembly Third Committee (4 October – 24 November 2010), the Czech Republic, above and beyond its regular annual activities, was more markedly involved in negotiating resolutions and accompanying committee activities, in part due to the ongoing campaign for elections to the UN Council on Human Rights (elections in May 2011). Thus, at the autumn session, the Czech Republic took on negotiating two resolutions on behalf of the EU. These were the resolution on obstetric fistula, submitted by the African Group, and the resolution on



trafficking in women and girls, submitted by the Philippines. Both resolutions were adopted by consensus and co-sponsored by the EU-27.

The Czech Republic voted for the adoption of a number of resolutions on human rights, cosponsoring resolutions including one on the rights of children and one on torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It also backed resolutions pointing out human rights violations in North Korea, Iran and Burma/Myanmar. It supported resolutions on a moratorium on the death penalty and against religious discrimination. It voted against a resolution on the defamation of religions and a resolution on activities which were to follow from the Durban Conference against Racism, owing to provisions that not only contradicted international human rights standards by restricting freedom of expression, but also failed to respect the compromise reached under the Czech Presidency of the European Union in the outcome document from the Durban Review Conference in April 2009.

The Czech delegation spoke twice during interactive dialogues: (1) with the chairman of the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture (in line with its long-term human rights priorities and in view of the fact that the Subcommittee's members include Zdeněk Hájek, nominated by the Czech Republic); and (2) in discussion with the special envoy for the human rights situation in Myanmar/Burma. The Czech Republic also organised two accompanying events on the situation in Myanmar/Burma: (1) on the situation in the country before elections; and (2) on the release of Aung San Suu Kyi.

### ***Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research***

As in previous years, the Czech Republic contributed to the work of the *Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research*. The Czech Republic's main input consists in engaging experts from non-governmental organisations in education and research about the Holocaust and the Roma genocide during World War II for individual working groups.

### ***Community of Democracies***

The Czech Republic contributes to the work of the Community of Democracies as part of the group of founding members, the Convening Group. The Czech Republic is also a member of the working group led by the Hungarian *International Centre for Democratic Transition (ICDT)* and devoted to reacting to national and transnational threats – the Working Group on Promoting Democracy and Responding to National and Transnational Threats. In July 2010, a high-level meeting took place in Krakow for the 10th anniversary of the Community of Democracies' founding. The goal of this event (twenty foreign ministers, five hundred participants, the Czech Republic represented by the Foreign Ministry's political director) was to commence and share the direction for the Community of Democracies' revitalisation. At the same time, a three-day meeting of young diplomats and civil society representatives was taking place, organised by the US Atlantic Council in cooperation with Poland's European Institute for Democracy.

The Community of Democracies was founded at the initiative of the USA in 2000 with the goal of creating a coalition of democratic countries in the UN that would break up the traditional solidarity of regional groups in the name of promoting democratic ideas around the world.

## **9. Non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament**

In accordance with the focus of Czech foreign policy, non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament are among the country's top priorities.

Given that the Czech Republic's foreign security policy is based on active conflict prevention and preventative diplomacy, the Czech Republic advocates multilateral cooperation on disarmament and non-proliferation. Key negotiations on this issue primarily take place at the UN.

In accordance with the *EU Strategy against proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs)* from 2003, the Czech Republic fully supports steps to reduce the risk of proliferation of WMDs and their delivery systems and reduce the risk of the Czech Republic being attacked by such weapons. In April 2010, the New START Treaty on reducing strategic nuclear weapons between the USA and Russian Federation was signed in Prague, a significant mark of progress in nuclear disarmament.

The dominant event in 2010 was the successful completion of the 8th Review Conference of the *Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)*. The success of the meeting had a positive influence on talks at other disarmament forums.

The Czech Republic acted on the basis of the priorities arising from the EU joint objectives at the First Committee of the UN GA during the 65th session.

The Czech Republic, which has long made use of nuclear energy for peaceful means, supports the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that aim to strengthen its system of safeguards, including the universality of the Additional Protocol, with an emphasis on security, which as a result can help prevent acts of nuclear terrorism.

In the issue of small arms and light weapons, the Czech Republic actively seeks to eliminate the security risks related to their illegal stockpiling and use. On the basis of the European Union Strategy on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Czech Republic joined initiatives in that field (Joint Actions and the European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports) and promotes activities aimed at preventing the transfer of such weapons to nonstate actors. At the UN in 2010, the Czech Republic actively worked with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

As part of its active membership in all five international control regimes, the Czech Republic supports activities aimed at tightening export mechanisms, limiting the abuse of dual use items and preventing WMD proliferation. The Czech Republic supported efforts to integrate all EU countries into the international control regimes, which allows more effective control of items in the zone of free movement of goods and during export from this zone to third countries.

## ***Conference on Disarmament***

The session of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) was held in its traditional three rounds (18 January to 26 March, 31 May – 16 July and 9 August – 24 September 2010). Due to the position of Pakistan, it was not possible to approve the CD's programme of work (in contrast with 2009) and therefore no negotiations on the new *Fissile Materials Cut-off Treaty (FMCT)* were initiated. The ability to resolve the CD's problems currently lies outside this body (some must be dealt with in the India-Pakistan-US triangle; others must be dealt with together by all nuclear states) and in light of the current requirement for consensus on all decisions, no great progress can be expected in 2011 either. It could happen that at the end of 2011 a decision will be made to launch FMCT negotiations outside the CD – either a group of experts with a negotiating mandate will be opened on the basis of a UN GA decision or the whole issue of the FCMT will be completely "pulled out" of the UN.

For the Czech Republic, which since 1993 has been only an observer at the CD, the issue of further CD expansion is also very important, and at least in this regard there was a small measure of progress. In 2010, for the first time in the CD's history, an informal group of observers was created with members from all the regional groups (including ten EU countries). So far the most important result of the pressure of this group, which is active in the CD plenary, is to call for the reinstatement of a special CD coordinator for the issue of enlargement (the last such coordinator worked in 2002). This call was included in the conclusions of the high-level meeting on the activities of the CD, which took place 24 September 2010 in New York on the basis of an initiative from the UN SG. Even if a new special coordinator is named, it does not necessarily mean that the CD will be enlarged any time soon.

## ***Nuclear weapons***

### ***Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty***

The 8th NPT Review Conference managed to approve an outcome document that includes an Action Plan containing 64 measures. It also includes concrete steps to launch implementation of the resolution on the Middle East from 1995 and a stand-alone paragraph condemning North Korea's nuclear activities. The adoption of the action programme is generally considered an exceptional success. For the first time in 15 years, concrete steps have been approved to begin implementation of the Middle East resolution from 1995 and for the first time in history, the measures adopted concern all three pillars of the NPT – disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy (until now specific steps had only been taken on disarmament). The EU was unified at the session and actively took part in the deciding discussions.

Negotiations on implementation of the resolution on the Middle East from 1995 were the deciding factor that influenced the course of the whole conference as well as its final outcome.

In the field of nuclear disarmament (ND), the conference confirmed the commitments agreed to at the 6th NPT RC in 2000 and adopted 22 concrete measures. The most controversial topics, which were the subject of intense negotiation between the permanent SC members and the

non-nuclear countries, included the demands concerning the total annihilation of all nuclear weapons within a specific chronological and legal framework.

Measures on non-proliferation emphasised the necessity of achieving universality for the NPT. In particular the countries of the non-aligned movement (NAM) repeatedly mentioned three countries that are not members of the treaty – Israel, India and Pakistan. In connection to this the EU and other countries called on North Korea to renew fulfilment of the obligations arising from the treaty. Several other measures emphasised the importance of implementing IAEA nuclear guarantees in all cases of the use of nuclear (fissile) materials. The Additional Protocol was not however approved as a component of the verification standard.

The conference reaffirmed the right of all countries to peaceful use of nuclear energy in agreement with all the obligations arising from the treaty, as well as in compliance with the national policy in this area. More concrete measures on the international control of nuclear fuel (nuclear materials), which would have reduced the uncontrollable proliferation of enrichment technology, were not however included in the conclusions.

### *Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty*

The *Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)* is an important instrument that would ban all types of nuclear tests. The essential role of the CTBT in nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and the need for its rapid entry into force was confirmed by the 8th NPT RC in May 2010.

In 2010, Vienna hosted two sessions of the Preparatory Commission (PC) of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (28–29 June and 8–9 November 2010), and five sessions of its two working groups. An important goal of the talks was to strengthen the ratification process – for the CTBT to enter into force the last nine countries of Annex II must ratify it (China, North Korea, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Pakistan and the USA). From a practical perspective the session focused on building up the fundamental pillars of the CTBT verification regime: the International Monitoring System (IMS), the International Data Centre (IDS) and On-Site Inspection (OSI).

The 5th Ministerial Meeting of the CTBT, which took place 23 September 2010 in New York, was also dedicated to the CTBT entering into force soon (the Czech Republic was represented by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg). The Ministerial Meeting called for the signature and ratification of the Treaty by, in particular, those nine countries whose ratification is needed for the CTBT to enter into force. It also called on all countries to observe the moratorium on nuclear detonations and supported the building of the verification regime.

### *International Atomic Energy Agency*

The *International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)*, with its headquarters in Vienna, is focused on three areas connected to the use of nuclear energy: 1) nuclear safety, radiation

protection and prevention of misuse of nuclear materials, 2) development of nuclear sciences and technologies and 3) verification of nuclear programmes.

Aside from the traditional issue of applying safeguards in the Middle East and North Korea, the central topic of the IAEA General Conference (20–24 September 2010) was Israel's nuclear capacity. A resolution on this topic, submitted by the Arab countries, was rejected in voting, thus opening up the possibility for Israel to take part in the conference on the Middle East in 2012. At the GC the Czech Republic was elected a member of the Council of Governors (CG) for 2010–2012 for the Eastern European regional group. The Czech government assigned the function of governor to the Chairperson of the Czech State Office for Nuclear Safety.

Five sessions of the CG, the IAEA's political body, focused – as in 2009 – on question marks around the Iranian, Syrian and North Korean nuclear programmes.

In 2010 the grounds for lack of trust in the objectives and nature of the Iranian nuclear programme continued to deepen. Once again in 2010, Iran did not provide the Agency with the cooperation needed to allow it to verify that all the nuclear material on its territory was being used for peaceful activities. For one thing, Iran does not respect the UN SC and IAEA CG resolutions and will not observe the safeguard agreement (it will not provide project information), and in addition it has also not dispelled the fears of a possible military aspect to its nuclear programme. Relations between the IAEA and Iran continued to break down after Iran, in defiance of the relevant resolutions, began enriching uranium to 20% in February 2010 without providing the Agency with sufficient time to execute safeguards. Alongside this, it is continuing, again with no regard for the aforementioned resolutions, in its heavy water related projects. Moreover, in June it refused to designate two experienced IAEA inspectors under the pretence of an alleged leak of sensitive information.

Problems have also continued with Syria, which since 2008 has not been cooperating with the Agency in a way that would allow it to clarify open questions concerning the country's nuclear programme. Eventually it is possible that the needed information could be devalued or lost. Syria should put into force the additional protocol on its safeguard agreement and thereby make it easier for the agency to carry out its verification activities.

North Korea ceased cooperating with the IAEA at the beginning of 2009 and in April of the same year it expelled all safeguard inspectors from the country. The international community's concern grew in 2010 in connection with reports on a new North Korean facility for enriching uranium and the construction of a light water reactor.

In 2010 the CG approved the establishment of an international nuclear fuel bank under the IAEA, which would help reduce the risk of nuclear weapons proliferation by reducing the need for national enrichment programmes to be developed. The CG also decided that, in 2011, the Czech Republic and Brazil should lead the working group that will aim to set the target amount for the Technical Cooperation Fund for 2012–2013 and the outlook for 2014–2015.

### *Nuclear Security Summit*

At the initiative of US President Barack Obama, who promised in his Prague speech in 2009 to secure exploitable nuclear material within four years, on 12–13 April 2010 a Nuclear Security Summit was held in Washington. The meeting was attended by 47 national delegations and 3 international organisations (the UN, IAEA and EU), with 37 delegations being at the level of the head of state or government. The Czech delegation was led by Prime Minister Jan Fischer. The main result of the Summit was the securing of a general consensus on the identification of nuclear terrorism as a threat and that it is necessary to prevent such terrorism through rigorous security measures in terms of securing nuclear material. The communiqué issued confirmed the commitments in nuclear security adopted earlier – national responsibility of states for nuclear security, international cooperation, ratification and implementation of existing conventions, and the central role of the IAEA. It was decided that another Summit would be held in Seoul in 2012.

### *Nuclear Suppliers Group*

The plenary session of the *Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)* in Christchurch (21–25 June 2010), did not bring any fundamental progress in terms of measures to strengthen non-proliferation mechanisms. It was not possible to agree on the text of the Directive paragraphs dealing with the rules for export of sensitive items and technologies, in particular for enrichment needs.

No consensus was reached on the issue of the Additional Protocol as a condition for supplying nuclear materials. Even the fundamental question of whether this condition should be applied to the export of all nuclear materials or just selected ones of a sensitive nature has still not been resolved.

The exemption for supplies to India, agreed on in 2008, has begun to be actively used. A number of countries reported on their current as well as potential trade activities in the nuclear sector on the Indian market. In support of these activities, participating countries conclude new (or renegotiate old) agreements on cooperation with India in the field of peaceful use of nuclear energy. It is becoming clear that the negotiation of trade contacts with India under the exemption is becoming more important and a whole range of countries are trying to make full use of this export possibility.

The participating countries agreed that they will undergo a fundamental review of the current lists of controlled materials. A consensus was reached in terms of the basic outline of the future review of NSG trigger lists, which should reflect technical advancements in the nuclear sector.

### *Zangger Committee*

The regular session of the *Zangger Committee (ZC)* took place in Vienna on 9 November 2010. The key points of the meeting were the accession of Belarus to the ZC and the selection of a new ZC chair; the position was awarded to the representative for Canada. Attention was also devoted to

harmonising the ZC Trigger List and the lists of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, which the NSG decided to revise in 2010, as well as to relations with non-members.

## ***Chemical and biological weapons***

### *Chemical weapons*

From 29 November till 3 December 2010, the 15th Conference of the States Parties to the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC)* was held. The conference approved the budget for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for 2011, adopted a decision on changing the financial regulations, approved the OPCW report on implementing the Convention and adopted the OPCW Action Plan for 2011.

An important topic was the discussion on the final deadlines for destroying chemical weapons, which some states will not be able to meet. The conference took under consideration the report of the OPCW Technical Secretariat Director-General on the plans of states whom the deadline extension for destruction of chemical weapons affects and called on the chair of the Executive Council to continue in informal consultations.

### *Biological weapons*

On 6–10 December 2010, the annual Meeting of States Parties to the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BTWC)* was held in Geneva. The meeting discussed issues concerning providing assistance and coordination for aid with the relevant international organisations on the basis of a request from a BTWC party in the case of suspicion of intentional deployment of biological or toxin weapons. The possibilities were discussed for improving and refining national capabilities and facilities in terms of surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment of infectious diseases while protecting public health. These topics were also discussed at the regular meeting of experts, which takes place in Geneva every year at the end of August.

The meeting devoted attention to preparations for the 7th BTWC Review Conference (RC), which is to take place in December 2011 in Geneva. The RC topics discussed were: national implementation of the BTWC, universalisation, trust-building measures, the activities of the BTWC Implementation Support Units located in Geneva and Article X of the Convention (concerning cooperation between the parties in terms of information and technology exchange). On the issue of adoption of the Verification Protocol to the BTWC, which was not approved at the RC in 2001, consensus was still not reached.

### *Australia Group*

On 31 May – 4 June 2010, the regular plenary meeting of the *Australia Group (AG)* took place in Paris. The AG is an international control regime designed to prevent proliferation of chemical and biological substances and dual-use technologies. The meeting discussed procedures, investigations

and detection methods applied against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). Information was provided on the countries and non-state entities that are attempting to produce WMDs and on the acquisition of the related chemical and biological substances, including their precursors, technological knowledge and technical equipment. Research on synthetic biology, nanotechnology and the development of microreactors represent serious topics for international control regimes. In the working groups, information was submitted on refining measures used by licensing, customs, surveillance and control authorities and proposals for changes to the trigger lists of chemical and biological substances.

### ***Ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction delivery systems***

On 14–15 June 2010 the interplenary session of the Reinforced Points of Contact (RPOC) of the *Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)* took place in Paris. The plenary session of the regime, under which a set of export measures is applied in order to prevent the proliferation of missile technology and all devices and components used for the development and production of ballistic missile systems for the delivery of WMDs, is set to take place in 2011 in Argentina, which will take on the regime's next chairmanship.

No decision was reached on expanding MTCR membership and not one of the twelve applicants (China, Estonia, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Cyprus, Lithuania, Libya, Latvia, Malta, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) was accepted. A component of the session was a round table with certain non-member states on the MTCR's activities.

### ***The Czech Republic and other international groupings for WMD non-proliferation***

The Czech Republic is an active member in a number of security activities and initiatives by the international community aimed at strengthening the fight against WMD proliferation and terrorism. The aim is to bring not only state institutions, but also the private sector, academia and non-governmental organisations unto the fight against terrorism and WMD proliferation. Another key priority is to reinforce the legal environment and police units' capabilities. The most important initiatives are:

#### ***Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation***

On 31 May – 1 June 2010, Vienna hosted the 9th Regular Meeting of the *Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCoC)*, which aims to improve transparency in ballistic missiles by confidence-building measures such as exchanging annual declarations and notifications of planned launches. The newly selected Chair Florence Mangin of France wants to focus on general accession to the Codex and improvement of implementation. The Czech Republic supports both priorities.

#### ***Proliferation Security Initiative***

The *Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI)* held a session on 1–2 November 2010 in Tokyo. The main goals of the initiative are to contribute to the broad international application of "interdiction



principles" and the exchange of relevant intelligence that could contribute to combating efforts to acquire WMDs or dual-use materials.

### *G-8 Global Partnership against the Proliferation of WMDs*

On 25–26 January 2010, a meeting of the G-8 Global Partnership (G8 GP) Working Group met in Ottawa, the goal of which was to present and evaluate current threats from WMDs and the related initiatives of individual countries and organisations. The Canadian chairmanship then devoted an independent bloc to greater involvement of the scientific community in GP activities and discussion on future directions.

### *Global Threat Reduction Initiative*

As part of its support for the *Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI)*, the Czech government adopted Resolution No. 1181 of 17 September 2008 on the provision of a voluntary contribution of CZK 18 million for the repatriation of highly enriched nuclear fuel from a research reactor in Vinča, Serbia. In December 2010 this project was successfully completed.

### *Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism*

On 29–30 June 2010, the plenary session of the *Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT)* was held in Abu Dhabi. The goal of the GICNT is to strengthen practical cooperation and increase the capacity of individual members to take practical steps to prevent the danger of nuclear terrorism. In order to increase the efficiency of the GICNT, the Implementation and Assessment Group (IAG) was activated as an advisory body and Spain was elected as its first coordinator.

### ***NATO and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction***

NATO continued in building up its capabilities to deal with the repercussions of the use of weapons of mass destruction. In 2010 negotiations took place on further development of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence in Vyškov and adding *Reachback and Fusion* analytical and monitoring abilities there.

In its new Strategic Concept, NATO confirmed the role of means of nuclear deterrence and its preparation to work on creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons in accordance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). NATO will take all steps in the field of nuclear disarmament on the basis of the principle of reciprocity and transparency and as long as nuclear weapons exist it will maintain sufficient means for effective nuclear deterrence and to secure the safety of its members. Issues of nuclear non-proliferation, other weapons of mass destruction and the threat of proliferation of ballistic missiles are the subject of dialogue between NATO and its partners, within the NATO-Russia Council, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and in other partner formats.

On 24–25 June 2010 the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the NATO secretariat, organised the 6th Annual Conference on Weapons of Mass Destruction, Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, which allowed discussion on the threats presented by ballistic

missiles and nuclear weapons, including discussion of the results of the 8th NTP RC and the new Strategic Concept.

The Czech Republic had a high profile in the area of defence and protection against weapons of mass destruction. The importance of the issue of non-proliferation will continue to grow in the Alliance's agenda. The Czech Republic places emphasis on the exchange of information and experience among allies, as well as with partners.

### ***Conventional weapons***

#### *Control of conventional armed forces (CFE)*

The functionality of the regime in the current Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) was marred by the ongoing failure of Russia to fulfil its obligations as the result of the unilateral moratorium it declared in 2007. Russia continues to reject requests from other parties to inspect its military facilities and has not provided information on the state of its conventional armed forces.

NATO and the other CFE participating states continued in their efforts to find a way out of the current situation. In February 2010 the USA named a Special Envoy for Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, Victoria Nuland, who initiated a NATO proposal for negotiations on a new framework for a strengthened and modernised system for controlling conventional armed forces in Europe. For the Alliance, it is key to maintain the principles of reciprocity, transparency and consent from all participating states with the potential presence of foreign forces on their territory. Talks on a framework agreement that could become the basis for future negotiations took place among the current CFE parties and other European countries in the "36" format in Vienna, and have not yet been completed.

The Lisbon NATO summit mentioned the discussions on a new regime in its declaration and confirmed the fundamental principles with which the Alliance is entering the talks. At the same time it stated that the current situation of unilateral failure by Russia to fulfil its CFE commitments is not sustainable from a long-term perspective.

The Czech Republic supported the Alliance's accommodating step to resolve the situation around the CFE, incarnated in the NATO framework proposal, while also emphasising the need to include all key principles in any future agreement.

#### *Anti-personnel mines*

On 29 November – 3 December 2010 the 10th Meeting of the States Parties (MSP) of the *Convention on the prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (the Ottawa Treaty)* took place in Geneva. The MSP above all discussed issues of demining and clearing mined areas, destruction of mine stockpiles, assistance for victims of mines and the statute and implementation of the treaty. The Polish and Finnish delegations (the

only EU countries that are not parties) confirmed at the MSP that they could join the treaty in 2012.

The MSP discussed and approved the requests of several countries to extend the deadlines for clearing mines on the basis of Article 5 of the Treaty. Implementation to date of the Action Plan adopted at the Second Review Conference of the Ottawa Treaty Parties in Cartagena at the beginning of December 2009 was also evaluated at the session; in connection with this the *Geneva Progress Report 2009-2010* was approved.

The meeting approved a proposal to create a new Ottawa Treaty Standing Committee for resources, cooperation and assistance, the task of which will be to put together plans and strategies for ensuring an adequate and foreseeable level of staffing, technical and financial support in the fight against mines and increasing the efficiency of accessible resources.

### *Cluster munitions*

In 2010, the *Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)* entered into force, having been ratified by 30 states. Thereafter, on 9–12 November 2010, the first Meeting of the CCM States Parties took place in Vientiane, with the Czech Republic attending as a signatory. The convention was not, however, signed by the countries with the largest stockpiles of cluster munitions. The CCM covers a similar issue as the planned Protocol VI to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW). The Czech Republic, along with a slight majority of EU countries, supports both the CCM and the process leading to a new protocol under the CCW, since without the participation of the "big players" (who have the greatest stockpiles of cluster munitions), no legal documents will have sufficient weight. Also important is the fact that the CCM and a possible protocol under the CCW have different scopes of jurisdiction. The new protocol would regulate the deployment of cluster munitions, which is not covered by the CCM.

### *Arms Trade Treaty*

Preparations for the *Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)* continued at the UN. The first session of its preparatory committee took place in 2010. The meeting above all served to present the starting positions of the individual countries. The preparatory process was also fully joined by delegations that in the past had had strong doubts about whether such an endeavour was realistic. With the exception of Pakistan, no delegation called into doubt the meaningfulness and feasibility of the treaty. Preparations will continue in 2011 with two sessions of the preparatory committee and will culminate at a diplomatic conference in 2012, where the treaty's final text should be settled.

### *Small arms and light weapons*

On 14–18 June 2010, the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS4) on fulfilling the UN *Programme of Action to prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects* and the *International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and*

*Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons – Tracing Instrument* took place at the UN headquarters in New York. The sitting met with particularly great interest from the African countries and countries of Latin America. Emphasis was placed on the primary and irreplaceable role of every government, the responsibilities of which include creating a lawful environment, preparing national legislation and ensuring its implementation through the relevant institutional measures and guarantees. A follow-up instrument is international bilateral and multilateral cooperation, including the exchange of information and provision of foreign expert and financial assistance. The final document, approved by consensus, will serve as the basis for an expert group meeting in 2011, the task of which will be to prepare a Review Conference on the Action Programme for 2012.

### *Wassenaar Arrangement*

The plenary session of the *Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies (WA)* took place on 9–10 December 2010 in Vienna. The meeting approved reports on documents prepared by the General Working Group, the WA work plan for 2011, the budget and reports from individual working groups.

The main topics were preparation of the evaluation process in 2011 and approval of the procedure for naming a new head of the WA Secretariat. The issue of the Best Practice Guidelines concerning licenced manufacture and re-export remained unresolved. The US and French delegates expressed support for accepting India into the WA and proposed launching the appropriate consultations.

In 2011 the Czech Republic will chair the plenary session.

## **11. The Czech Republic in the fight against international terrorism**

In 2010, terrorism was again a fundamental security challenge for the world alongside organised crime, ethnic religious and social conflicts, the integration of immigrants into mainstream society and economic and ecological risks. The Czech Republic was again, in 2010, an active member of the international anti-terrorism coalition and was fully involved in the international efforts to combat terrorism. That remained an important priority for Czech foreign policy, and the degree of the country's preparedness for a possible terrorist attack, either within its borders or against its interests abroad, corresponded to the country's geostrategic location and its level of involvement in the global fight against terrorism. In 2010, the fight against terrorism was an important theme in Czech bilateral and international relations and it was discussed by the country's representatives on visits abroad and at meetings of international organisations. At the Council of the European Union, the Czech Republic attended meetings of the COTER and TWG counter-terrorism groups.

In 2010, the priority areas for EU assistance in the fight against terrorism included Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, the Sahel region, the Horn of Africa and Southeast Asia. In October 2010, the Council for Foreign Affairs adopted conclusions in which it undertook to draft a strategy

for the Sahel countries at the start of 2011. The EU counter-terrorist co-ordinator and the member states placed great emphasis on improving dialogue with India. The result of intensive negotiations between the two parties was the adoption of a joint declaration on the fight against terrorism at the EU – India summit in December 2010.

Intensive co-operation in the fight against terrorism continued with the USA. An EU -USA declaration on civil aviation security was passed in January 2010. The Spanish Presidency continued in its efforts to strengthen its relations with the USA. In June, an agreement between the EU and the USA was signed on processing and transferring data on financial transactions from the EU to the USA for the purposes of the Programme for Monitoring the Financing of Terrorism. The European Parliament expressed its approval with this agreement on 20 July 2010.

There was also an improvement in co-operation within the EU. In February, the Council adopted a strategy for the internal security of the European Union. This strategy presents a European security model which, amongst others, integrates steps for enforcing the rule of law, justice, border controls and civil defence. The European Commission submitted a proposal for concrete steps for fulfilling the strategy for the period 2010–2014 in November 2010. An ad hoc group for freight transport security was set up in November 2010 after the scandal of the packages of explosives sent from Yemen to the USA. This group submitted its first report to the Council in December 2010.

The establishment of the European External Action Service (EEAS) was also institutionally involved in the fight against terrorism in the EU. Even though the leadership of working groups in this area remains in the hands of the member states, political dialogue with third countries is carried out under the leadership of EEAS and the EU CTC. The initial dialogue in terms of the fight against terrorism took place in December 2010 in the USA.

In the legal dimension of the EU fight against terrorism two different regimes are strictly differentiated: firstly, the sanction regime based on SC Resolution No. 1267 (1999) and explicitly aimed against the Taliban movement, the Al-Qaeda organisation, Osama Bin Laden and entities related to him, and secondly, the regime based on SC Resolution No. 1373 (2001) which has the general objective of restricting the financing of terrorism. The implementation of both of the above regimes is being scrutinised by the Court of Justice of the European Union. In 2010, the Czech Republic participated in the drafting, and supported the adoption, of all updates to the sanctions lists. For the Czech Republic, the implementation of these EU regulations is performed by the Czech Ministry of Finance.

In 2010, a court case was commenced related to the fight against terrorism which was very interesting for the Czech Republic. Case C–130/10, *The European Parliament vs the Council* should resolve the fundamental legal question as to whether amendments to Resolution 881/2002 should be adopted with or without the participation of the European Parliament now that the Lisbon Treaty has come into force. The Czech Republic entered the proceedings as an accessory

participant supporting the Council's claim that the law does not make it possible for the European Parliament to join in the legislative process.

A fundamental judgment made in this area in 2010 was undoubtedly the judgment of the Tribunal in case T-85/09, *Kadi vs. the European Commission*. In its judgment, the Tribunal repealed Mr. Kadi's inclusion on the sanctions list as the European Commission had not fulfilled its obligation of proving the justification for including him on the list. This was played out in a situation where the EU has basically no possibility for considering who should be put on the list, as the entire sanctions list is taken on under SC resolution No. 1267 (1999) of the UN Security Council. The Tribunal's judgement is more than problematical for EU member states as it poses a threat to them fulfilling their international legal obligations in relation to the UN. The Council, the European Commission and France have appealed against the Tribunal's judgement.

The Czech Republic has participated in the continuing negotiations for a draft *Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism* which is intended to provide a definition of terrorism and to bridge any gaps between the existing sectoral international counter-terrorism treaties. By its resolution of December 1996, the UN General Assembly appointed an ad hoc committee to draft the Comprehensive Convention, and this committee met in May 2010. Discussions subsequently continued in October 2010 in a working group of the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly.

The Czech Republic also took part in the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) meetings on the *Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Related to International Civil Aviation* which replaces the 1971 Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation, and the *Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft* of 1970. These new counter-terrorism treaties were adopted at the international conference in Beijing on 10 July 2010. New criminal acts were added to the existing conventions (using an aircraft as a weapon, the unlawful dispersal of weapons of mass destruction and certain named dangerous substances via a civil aircraft, using weapons of mass destruction and certain named dangerous substances during an attack on a civil aircraft, the transportation of weapons of mass destruction or certain named dangerous substances on board a civil aircraft), with countries being urged to prosecute and punish the perpetrators of these crimes. Provisions negating the application of the conventions in the event of armed conflict were also added. The Czech Republic will set in motion procedures leading to its signature of these new treaties in 2011.

In September 2010 the UN General Assembly carried out a review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which had been adopted by Resolution 60/228 of 8 July 2006. Inter alia, emphasis was placed on the need for increased cooperation and interaction between UN member states and the UN body, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which coordinates the activities in the fight against terrorism of various bodies and institutions within the UN system, performed whilst carrying out the UN's Global Counter-terrorism Strategy.

In June 2010 a plenary meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Terrorism (GICNT) was held at Abu Dhabi. The aim of the meeting was to improve practical cooperation and increase the capacity of individual members to take steps to prevent the threat of nuclear terrorism.

NATO's approach to the fight against terrorism and its roots includes a number of dimensions; the political and diplomatic, the intelligence, conceptual, technological and, if necessary, also the military dimension. The Alliance works closely with various partners in many of these dimensions, for example, with the UN. The new NATO Strategic Concept of November 2010 emphasised that terrorism is a direct security threat to the citizens of the Alliance member countries. Therefore, the Alliance has decided to increase its capabilities in detecting and defending against international terrorism by increasing its analytical capabilities, expanding consultation with partners and by developing the corresponding military capabilities, amongst others.

The Alliance took concrete steps in all of the above dimensions in 2010. It continued the naval counter-terrorism operation, *Active Endeavour*. The ISAF operation in Afghanistan is another significant contribution of the Alliance in the fight against international terrorism. The intelligence dimension mainly involved the exchange of information and analyses internally within the Alliance and also with its partners, including the NATO–Russia Council format. The technological dimension continues to be led by the Defence against Terrorism programme, which is focused on the most serious terrorist threats in the form of eleven initiatives.

The Czech Republic participated in the ISAF operation in Afghanistan in 2010. It was very active in the field of defending against the effects of weapons of mass destruction, where it is amongst the best in the Alliance. The Czech Republic also continued to support the analytical capability of the NATO secretariat through its representatives.

In 2010, the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs paid methodical attention to the protection of the Czech Republic's diplomatic missions abroad. In spite of limited finances, the quality of the security measures was improved both in terms of passive protection, such as electronic, mechanical and structural defences, and active protection, such as security personnel at the Ministry's headquarters and its premises abroad.

In 2010, the system for informing Czech citizens travelling abroad by way of warning SMS messages - the DROZD system (voluntary registration of Czech citizens abroad), was used many times. Citizens can register on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website when abroad to be alerted by SMS in the event of extraordinary situations.

The Czech Republic does not take the threat of terrorism lightly. Existing threats are resolved by the National Security Council, Government committees, working groups and the country's individual security agencies. In 2010, the Government adopted the *Strategy for the Fight Against Terrorism for 2010–2012*, which sets out the basic principles for the fight against terrorism in the Czech Republic and the priority areas in which the country should concentrate its efforts.

A significant feature has been the preventative aspect in the fight against terrorism, which comes under the competence of the intelligence services. One of the fundamental conditions for success in the fight against terrorism is the intelligence services' ability to obtain information on terrorist organisations, their financing, activities and planned attacks, in good time. Intelligence services played a key role in gathering and reviewing information. The Joint Intelligence Group of the Committee for Intelligence Activities regularly coordinated different departments in the fight against terrorism.

The Czech Republic's contribution in 2010 to the activities of the relevant international organisations of which it is a member and which relate to the fight against terrorism can be regarded as significant and comprehensive. The cooperation between members of the Czech security community and their counterparts abroad, and in particular from European Union and NATO member states, was of a corresponding standard.

## **12. Foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid**

### **Development cooperation**

As a member of the European Union and the international community of democratic, economically developed countries, the Czech Republic respects the principle of solidarity between peoples and countries and accepts its share of responsibility in dealing with global problems. One example of this approach is Foreign Development Cooperation (FDC), which is an integral part of Czech foreign policy. The Czech Republic performs and provides Foreign Development Cooperation on both a bilateral and multilateral basis, in line with international principles and its own interests.

Foreign Development Cooperation is based on the principles of partnership, effectiveness and transparency, and its primary objective is to contribute to reducing poverty in less-developed parts of the world through sustainable economic and social development. The Czech Republic fully supports the *Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)* that arose from UN international conferences in the 1990s and were confirmed in UN summits in 2000, 2005 and 2010 as a global basis for resolving the main development issues.

2010 saw the culmination of the transformation of Czech FDC according to the Czech Government Resolution no. 1070/2007 of 19<sup>th</sup> September 2007. Responsibility for FDC conceptual issues was focused within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the implementation of bilateral development projects being entrusted to the Czech Development Agency. The Council for Foreign Development Cooperation is responsible for interdepartmental coordination at the level of deputy ministers of the various departments.

The competencies of the various participants in FDC were laid down in the *Act on Foreign Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Provided Abroad and on the Amendment to Certain Acts* (Act 151/2010 Coll.) which was passed by both chambers of the Czech Parliament in



the first half of 2010 and which came into force on 1 July 2010. The Act on FDC represents the basic legislative framework for development cooperation.

In May 2010, the Government passed the *Concept for Foreign Development Cooperation of the Czech Republic for 2010 – 2017* (Government Resolution no. 366 of 24 May 2010). The need for a new concept arose from both the new institutional structure of Czech FDC and from international appeals and obligations. The concept redefines the priority countries for Czech FDC and the sectoral focus of the cooperation. It takes into account the development obligations arising from the Czech Republic's membership of the EU and reflects other international recommendations aimed at the efficiency, transparency and coherence of development activities.

From 2005 to 2010 the Czech Republic had eight priority countries with cooperation programmes (the programme countries); Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Yemen, Moldova, Mongolia, Serbia, Vietnam and Zambia. A further category consisted of project countries (Georgia, Cambodia, Kosovo, the Palestinian Autonomous Territories/PAT) where FDC was required, but where it could not be based on a bilateral cooperation programme for objective reasons.

In accordance with international recommendations the Czech Republic proceeded to reduce the number of programme countries to five when drafting the new Concept (Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Moldova and Mongolia). Bilateral FDC will continue to be implemented in the project countries (Georgia, Cambodia, Kosovo, PAT, Serbia) and the previous programme countries, for which aid will continue with a different scope and focus (Angola, Yemen, Vietnam, Zambia).

Preparations were commenced in the autumn of 2010 for cooperation programmes with the priority countries for the next period. The new Czech FDC programme documents included decisions on a more concentrated sector focus and on an emphasis on certain cross-cutting principles which corresponded to the newly approved Concept. For the next period the Czech Republic identified five priority areas for FDC: the environment, agriculture, social development, economic development, support for democracy, human rights and social transformation. The emphasis on good governance, upholding human rights and care for the environment (in view of climate change) are the cross-cutting principles which should be taken into account in all development activities.

In spite of these significant changes, which were confirmed in 2010 with the adoption of the Act on FDC and the Concept for FDC for the period 2010-2017, bilateral development activities from the previous period continued throughout the year. Apart from the eight programme and four project partner countries, the extraordinary reconstruction aid to Georgia continued as part of the three-year programme approved by the Government of the Czech Republic in August 2008. Individual development projects in other countries under the leadership of other ministries (the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Environment) were also completed.

There was a total of CZK 714.5 million approved for bilateral development projects by the Government (by Government Resolution No. 1134 of 31 August 2009) as part of the Foreign Development Cooperation Plan for 2010. This was a reduction of 16% from the previous period due to the savings measures employed as a result of the economic and financial crisis. Most of the funds for development projects were concentrated under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic as part of the ongoing restructuring. All new projects which commenced in 2010 were exclusively started by the Czech Development Agency.

In terms of territory, the highest proportion of funds was allocated to Mongolia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as in previous years. In view of the planned exclusion of Vietnam from the list of priority countries, the share of FDC funds for the country was considerably reduced. In terms of sectors, the largest proportion was allocated to supporting industrial development (21%), environmental protection (13%), agriculture (8.5%) and education (6.5%).

A total of CZK 64 million was allocated to the activities of the Czech Republic Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Logar (Afghanistan). Together with the funds from previous years and the extraordinary funds from Greece, the PRT budget for development projects was approximately CZK 70 million. The extraordinary reconstruction aid for Georgia for 2010 (based on Government Resolution No. 1063 of 20 August 2008) was CZK 48 million after being adjusted, which was mostly distributed between continuing projects for the social, health and agricultural sectors.

Funds for university development scholarships made up a significant proportion of FDC (20% of the total amount of bilateral FDC). The total amount allocated for the government scholarship programme was CZK 143.5 million. Based on Government Resolution No. 712 of 27 June 2007, the Czech Republic awarded a total of 130 scholarship places for the 2010/2011 academic year (of which 60 were intended for English language post masters' or doctoral study programmes) to 46 developing and needy countries and UNESCO organisations. There were recommendations for 283 nominees for these places, which provide the basis for the awards of the scholarships. 122 students commenced their studies, 81 of which were in the Czech language (59 for bachelors' courses, 14 for masters' courses, seven for post masters' studies in Czech and one for doctoral studies in Czech). A total of 41 students commenced English language studies, of which three were for doctoral study programmes and 38 for post masters' studies. Two students were accepted as part of the quota for UNESCO (both of whom commenced their studies).

During the course of 2010, on average 590 government scholarship students from about 74 countries studied at state universities. During the year a total of 183 students completed their studies, of which 38 students graduated, 48 completed their studies by another method and 97 had the payout of their scholarships terminated due to the standard duration of their courses being exceeded (most of these students continued their studies at their own expense).

Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports continued in 2010 on a new approach to development scholarships with a view to compiling an overall strategy for the next period (2013–2020). For these same reasons an invitation to evaluate the existing government development scholarship programme was announced at the end of 2010, with the subsequent report being expected by mid-2011.

In 2010, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic also continued in proven aid programmes aimed at creating talent in the non-governmental sector with the objective of getting the sector involved in Czech and international development cooperation. A total of CZK 45 million was allocated for this, half of which was to support trilateral projects and nearly a third of which was to support development education in the Czech Republic.

Nearly CZK 20 million was spent on small, local, projects which are carried out as direct aid at the local level under the leadership of the Czech Republic diplomatic missions in programme, project and other countries.

During 2010 the inter-departmental *Council for Foreign Development Cooperation* (an advisory and coordination body for discussing FDC issues) successfully expanded its activities under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. The Council brings together representatives of the various ministries, non-governmental organisations and the private sector to discuss development. It met a total of five times during the year, with one of these being an extraordinary meeting on the situation in Haiti and the possibilities for the Czech Republic to react to it. Working groups were also set up under the Council for preparing a new Concept for FDC and to evaluate bilateral projects, and, in the second half of the year, for preparing a programme for cooperation with partner countries for the next period.

In relation to the methodology and programme approved by the Council for FDC, evaluations for the Czech Republic bilateral development projects in Mongolia, Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina were prepared and announced under the patronage of UNDP Bratislava in 2010. The evaluation for Mongolia involved two projects in the agricultural sector which had already been realised from 2006 to 2009. The evaluation was performed in the autumn of 2010, with the results being published by the end of the year. The evaluation in Bosnia and Herzegovina also involved two agricultural projects and the evaluation for Moldova concerned two environmental projects. The results of these evaluations will be used to conceive a continuation for development aid in the respective countries.

In June 2010, the plan for foreign development cooperation for the next year, including an outlook for the subsequent two years, was approved in relation to the new Concept for FDC (Government Resolution No. 440 of 7 June 2010). Information on FDC for 2009 was also submitted to the Government, which formed the basis of the publication of an overview of Czech Republic foreign development cooperation. This report is available to members of the public in

Czech and English and either in printed form or at the Ministry's website: [www.mzv.cz/rozvoj](http://www.mzv.cz/rozvoj) (or [www.mfa.cz/aid](http://www.mfa.cz/aid)).

In addition to the bilateral development cooperation, the Czech Republic also provided humanitarian aid, transformation cooperation projects and multilateral development aid via the budgets of the EU, UN agencies and the international financial institutions in 2010 (these forms of FDC are discussed in the respective chapters of this report concerning the EU and the UN). Other forms of development activity also continued, e.g., aid for refugees provided within the Czech Republic and debt relief.

In 2010, the *Czech Development Agency (CDA)* took over responsibility for new development projects in other countries and sectors. It was active in Angola, Ethiopia, Zambia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia, Moldova, Georgia and the Palestine Autonomous Territories. (Information on the projects and the other activities of the CDA can be found at: [www.czda.cz](http://www.czda.cz).) In relation to the new Concept for FDC, the CDA actively participated in programme missions to Mongolia, Moldova and Ethiopia in the autumn of 2010, and also in the related identification of sectoral themes and proposals for projects to be realised in the future by bilateral development cooperation.

| <b>Czech Republic Official Development Aid (ODA) in 2010</b> |   |   |                                  |
|--|---|---|----------------------------------|
|  | <b>Amount of funds spent (CZK mil.)</b> | <b>Amount of funds spent (USD mil.)</b> | <b>Share of total CR ODA (%)</b> |
| <b>Bilateral Aid</b>   |   |   |                                  |
| Bilateral projects abroad*                                   | 477.32                                  | 25.02                                   | 10.99                            |
| PRT projects   | 66.46                                   | 3.48                                    | 1.53                             |
| Transformation cooperation                                   | 43.47                                   | 2.28                                    | 1.00                             |
| Scholarships (including healthcare)*                         | 106.26                                  | 5.57                                    | 2.45                             |
| Development education and awareness                          | 11.87                                   | 0.62                                    | 0.27                             |
| NNO support  | 9.61                                    | 0.50                                    | 0.22                             |
| Refugee assistance   | 258.28                                  | 13.54                                   | 5.95                             |
| Humanitarian aid (state administration)                      | 109.50                                  | 5.74                                    | 2.52                             |
| Humanitarian aid (regions and universities)                  | 32.47                                   | 1.70                                    | 0.75                             |
| International organisation projects                          | 15.23                                   | 0.80                                    | 0.35                             |
| Civilian missions  | 82.65                                   | 4.33                                    | 1.90                             |
| Peace operations   | 164.44                                  | 8.62                                    | 3.79                             |
| General budgetary support                                    | 7.00                                    | 0.37                                    | 0.16                             |
| Other development activities (state administration)          | 21.00                                   | 1.10                                    | 0.48                             |
| Other development activities (regions)                       | 11.63                                   | 0.61                                    | 0.27                             |
| Other development activities (universities)                  | 7.78                                    | 0.41                                    | 0.18                             |
| Administrative costs   | 89.25                                   | 4.68                                    | 2.06                             |
| <b>Total bilateral aid</b>                                   | <b>1 514.20</b>                         | <b>79.36</b>                            | <b>34.87</b>                     |
| <b>Multilateral Aid</b>                                      |   |   |                                  |
| UN   | 119.58                                  | 6.27                                    | 2.75                             |
| European Union   | 2 102.78                                | 110.21                                  | 48.43                            |
| World Bank   | 210.72                                  | 11.04                                   | 4.85                             |
| Regional Development Banks                                   | 252.40                                  | 13.23                                   | 5.81                             |
| Other organisations (GEF, etc.)                              | 142.11                                  | 7.45                                    | 3.27                             |
| <b>Total multilateral aid</b>                                | <b>2 827.59</b>                         | <b>148.20</b>                           | <b>65.12</b>                     |
| <b>Total Czech official development aid (ODA)</b>            | <b>4 341.79</b>                         | <b>227.56</b>                           | <b>100</b>                       |

\*Note: The data relates to countries which are internationally recognised recipients of ODA

## Humanitarian Aid

There was originally CZK 73 million allocated to the foreign humanitarian aid provided by the Czech Republic in 2010, which was reduced by 5% as part of spending reduction measures. Extraordinary funds for humanitarian aid of CZK 20 million were also released during the year on the basis of the Government Resolutions No. 73 of 18 January 2010 (CZK 15 million for Haiti) and No. 787 of 3 November 2010 (CZK 5 million for Pakistan). The total budget spent on Czech humanitarian aid was CZK 89.35 million.

2010 was a year marked by a high frequency of natural disasters around the world. The most extensive and long lasting humanitarian consequences were caused by the earthquake which hit Haiti on 12 January and the widespread floods which hit up to a third of the territory of Pakistan in August and September. In addition to the immediate aid from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' humanitarian budget, the Czech Republic also allocated extraordinary funds from the Government's budgetary reserve for both of these humanitarian catastrophes; CZK 15 million for Haiti and CZK 5 million for Pakistan, with the understanding that a further CZK 5 million will be allocated from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' humanitarian budget in 2011. In addition to these largest catastrophes, the Czech Republic also contributed humanitarian aid for the earthquake in Chile, the harsh winter in Mongolia, the extensive fires in Russia, the famines in Burma, Niger and Chad, and for the aftermath of the floods in Central Europe (Poland, Hungary and Slovenia) and South Eastern Europe (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro) in 2010. The total expended on natural catastrophes was therefore CZK 50 million, i.e., 56% of the total humanitarian budget for 2010.

The natural disasters also affected the overall geographic focus of Czech humanitarian aid in 2010: more than one third of the budget (CZK 32.5 million) was aimed at Latin America (Haiti, Chile, Cuba), a further third (CZK 29 million) at Asia (Pakistan, Afghanistan and Afghan refugees in Iran; Myanmar/Burma, Mongolia and Sri Lanka). The remaining third was allocated to Sub-Saharan Africa (CZK 19 million), Europe (11.5 million) and the Middle East (CZK 3 million).

The *Operational Strategy for Humanitarian Aid for 2010* was adopted at the beginning of the year, which, amongst others, counted on subsidy selection procedures being carried out for humanitarian aid projects in countries affected by long-term (comprehensive) humanitarian crises. A total of ten projects from five applicants with a total value of over CZK 18 million were supported using the procedures. This involved humanitarian projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo (mostly aimed at health and psychological and social aid to abused women and children), two in Sri Lanka (aid to vulnerable groups after the previous conflict in the north of the country), and one project each in Myanmar/Burma, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda.

There were a further two subsidy selection procedures in 2010, in which four projects for the renewal of Haiti and immediate aid for Pakistan were supported. In total, CZK 42.5 million (47.5% of the budget) was distributed to humanitarian aid projects run by Czech non-governmental

non-profit organisations. The recipients of humanitarian subsidies included ADRA, The Archdiocesan Charity in Prague, People in Need, Fidcon, Caritas Czech Republic and Médecins Sans Frontières.

In spite of the number of natural catastrophes, and in addition to the subsidy procedures for crises, it was also possible to realise other planned aid to countries with long-term humanitarian problems in accordance with the Czech Republic Operational Strategy for Humanitarian Aid. The Czech Republic supported Afghanistan, Myanmar/Burma (and Burmese refugees in Malaysia and India), Zimbabwe and the population in the Palestinian Autonomous Territories in this way. Humanitarian contributions were also provided to the UN (CERF) and International Red Cross (DREF) funds which also reacted to the catastrophes.

The Act on Foreign Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Provided Abroad and Amendments to Related Acts (Act No. 151/2010 Coll.) which came into force on 1 July 2010, also laid down a definition of humanitarian aid which, in accordance with current international understanding, includes both immediate and long-term reactions to extraordinary events and also catastrophe prevention. The Act also defined the authority of, mainly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior for providing humanitarian aid. In 2010 the Ministry of the Interior – the General Directorate of the Fire Service (GD FS) – shared in providing humanitarian aid to Poland, Hungary and Slovenia after the spring floods in Central Europe. Similarly, other humanitarian situations, in particular in Haiti and Pakistan, were also consulted with the Ministries of the Interior, Health and Defence.

The long-term objective and approach to Czech humanitarian aid, including its connection with development cooperation, has been included in the Concept for FDC for the 2010–2017 period.

*Humanitarian Aid Provided by the Czech Republic Abroad in 2010*

| <b>Country, region</b> | <b>Cause</b>          | <b>Decision date</b> | <b>Provider/recipient</b>   | <b>Financial commitment (CZK)</b> | <b>Drawn (CZK)</b> |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Haiti</b>           | Earthquake            | 14.1.2010            | UNICEF  | 5 000 000                         | 5 000 000          |
| <b>Haiti</b>           | Earthquake            | 18.1.2010<br>UV 73   | ADRA, People in Need, Fidcon, Charita; IFRC; Malteser International | 5 000 000                         | 15 000 000         |
| <b>Afghanistan</b>     | Rapid impact projects | 5.2.2010             | Kabul Rep. Office   | 3 000 000                         | 2 894 697.55       |
| <b>Malaysia</b>        | Burmese refugees      | 1.3.2010             | Taiwan Tzu-Chi Foundation   | 700 000                           | 700 000            |
| <b>Chile</b>           | Earthquake            | 15.3.2010            | The town of Quillón   | 4 000 000                         | 4 000 000          |

| Country, region  | Cause                 | Decision date       | Provider/recipient  | Financial commitment (CZK) | Drawn (CZK)  |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Mongolia</b>  | Harsh winter          | 18.3.2010           | ADRA, Caritas CR  | 4 000 000                  | 4 000 000    |
| <b>Burma, Ethiopia, Kenya, Congo, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Uganda</b> | Comprehensive crisis  | 25.3.2010           | ADRA, Archdiocesan Charity of Prague, People in Need, Caritas CR, Médecins Sans Frontières CZ | 18 046 898                 | 18 036 898   |
| <b>Burma</b>   | Comprehensive crisis  | 25.5.2010           | People in Need  | 2 500 000                  | 2 500 000    |
| <b>Zimbabwe</b>  | Food and health       | 26.5.2010           | Médecins Sans Frontières NL   | 3 000 000                  | 3 000 000    |
| <b>Poland, Hungary, Slovenia</b>                                 | Floods                | 4.6.2010            | Min. of the Int. GD FS  | 5 000 000                  | 2 950 000    |
| <b>Chad, Niger</b>   | Famine                | 4.8.2010            | WFP   | 3 000 000                  | 3 000 000    |
| <b>Pakistan</b>  | Floods                | 4.8.2010            | People in Need  | 4 000 000                  | 4 000 000    |
| <b>Burma</b>   | Famine                | 10.8.2010           | Chinese Human Rights Organisation   | 2 000 000                  | 2 000 000    |
| <b>Russia</b>  | Fire                  | 11.8.2010           | Joint Diet  | 5 000 000                  | 4 999 999,92 |
| <b>Cuba</b>  | Imprisoned dissidents | 22.10.2010          | Madrid Rep. Office  | 150 000                    | 111 096,32   |
| <b>Iran</b>  | Afghan refugees       | 3.11.2010           | UNHCR   | 3 000 000                  | 3 000 000    |
| <b>CERF</b>  | Under financed crisis | 3.11.2010           | CERF  | 2 500 000                  | 2 500 000    |
| <b>Pakistan</b>  | Floods                | 3.11.2010<br>UV 787 | IOM   | 5 000 000                  | 5 000 000    |
| <b>Palestine</b>   | Comprehensive crisis  | 25.11.2010          | UNRWA   | 3 000 000                  | 3 000 000    |
| <b>B and H,</b>  | Flood                 | 8.12.2010           | People on Need  | 3 640 067                  | 3 640 067    |



| <b>Country, region</b> | <b>Cause</b> | <b>Decision date</b> | <b>Provider/recipient</b> | <b>Financial commitment (CZK)</b> | <b>Drawn (CZK)</b>   |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Montenegro</b>      |              |                      |                           |                                   |                      |
| <b>Total</b>           |              |                      |                           | <b>89 350 000<sup>7</sup></b>     | <b>89 332 758,79</b> |

The events in the table are listed chronologically according to the date of approval.

---

<sup>7</sup> The nominal sum of individual items gives CZK 91 536 965 because at the end of the year undrawn funds from previous, already implemented commitments were used for new projects.

## 13. Transformation policy and cooperation

### ***Transformation Policy***

Transformation policy is an approach applied in Czech foreign policy that brings together foreign policy tools that can be used to influence the state of human rights and democracy in the world. Transformation policy is designed to motivate political processes leading towards long-term stability and prosperity and to help support human rights defenders and emancipate civil society as a key actor in sustainable democratic change. The financial instrument for transformation policy is the *Transformation Cooperation Programme*, designed to support projects abroad by Czech non-governmental organisations and institutions (under state grant policy). Projects are always implemented in collaboration with civil society and organisations in the target countries. The knowledge gained from long-term activities in these countries is a valuable source of information when designing foreign policy. The Czech Republic's work to promote democracy and human rights enhances its image as an active advocate of respect for human rights and support for democracy.

### ***The new concept for transformation policy***

On 15 July 2010, the advisory board of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs approved a new concept for transformation policy. The objective of the Concept is to define the tasks and role of transformation policy within the context of Czech foreign policy and to present the objectives and the tools the Ministry has for implementing the policy in a comprehensive manner, thus providing guidelines and rules for its implementation. This Concept replaces and extends the concept for transformation cooperation which had been approved on 31 March 2005.

The Concept follows on from the decision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs No. 14/2007 on creating a department for human rights and transformation policy. It reflects the actual connection between the human rights agenda and support for democracy which occurred with the creation of the human rights and transformation policy department (H RTP), and also the fundamental change in the approach to this issue, as seen by it being moved to come under the security and multilateral section, under the political director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Concept also includes the noticeable shift in the approach to supporting democracy of the EU Joint Foreign and Security Policy. The Concept further clarifies the objectives of the transformation policy externally, in terms of other foreign policy actors and the general public.

The most significant changes which occurred when the previous concept was in force include the following:

During the past five years the transformation cooperation programme has become an established subsidy vehicle of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic which has set clear rules. The five-year experience of the programme's functioning has provided the basis for revising its objectives and the way they are achieved, and also for it being firmly established in concept documents.

The experience with the presidency of the EU Council has brought an incomparably improved understanding of the functioning of the European Union, and in particular of the Common Foreign and Security Policy. This experience has made it possible to identify the opportunities to join in with, and influence, policy at the European level in favour of the Czech Republic's transformation policy objectives.

The issue of democracy support and sharing transformation experiences is gaining increased attention at the European level, which is due, in addition to the Czech Republic's active approach, also to the fact that the Central European countries, which underwent social transformation before they entered the EU, have now established themselves sufficiently within its inner environment.

The European Union financial tools still include the *European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)*. In terms of transformation policy, the establishment of the Eastern Partnership and the adoption of the *EU Council Conclusions on Democracy Support in the EU's External Relations of 2009* continue to be important.

In 2007, the transformation cooperation department (TRANS) and the human rights department (HR) were merged to create the human rights and transformation policy department, under the security and multilateral section. Amongst other things, this step provided synergy by joining the multilateral human rights theme with specific projects for supporting human rights and democracy.

The new Concept for Foreign Development Cooperation was approved for the 2010–2017 period, which defines transformation cooperation as one of the priority issues for FDC and also as a cross-cutting issue.

The platform of non-governmental organisations, DEMAS, was set up, which works on supporting human rights and democracy abroad.

The submitted concept for transformation policy has been approached in a comprehensive manner. It is founded on the understanding that it makes no sense in practice to separate the issues of human rights and democracy. As opposed to the previous concept for transformation cooperation, which concentrated on the Czech Republic's bilateral activities, it also involves the Czech Republic's presentation of itself at the international level, including the current debate within the European Union on the themes of human rights and democracy. The experiences with the five-year functioning of the TRANS programme have made it possible to specify thematic priorities more precisely and also to define the instruments for achieving the set targets more clearly.

The current concept is related to both the Concept for Development Cooperation, and, for example, to the areas the Czech Republic wishes to highlight and its framework approach to the EU's Joint Foreign and Security Policy, which are two documents which have been approved

recently. The concept has been supplemented with information on the functioning of the Programme for Transformation Cooperation.

### ***The Transformation Cooperation Programme***

The *Transformation Cooperation Programme (TRANSITION)* complements the Czech Republic's system for foreign development cooperation. However, it is a separate part of policy for countries in transition and undemocratic regimes. Cooperation is aimed at helping to ensure that the changes underway or potentially forthcoming in those countries will lead to democracy and the rule of law, rather than chaos, conflict and destabilisation. Transformation cooperation focuses on creating and strengthening democratic institutions, the rule of law, civil society and good governance. Implementation is mainly through education projects and by disseminating information, opinions and experience concerning non-violent opposition to totalitarianism and the transformation process the Czech Republic underwent in the 1990s. Transformation cooperation is characterised by systematic cooperation and support for civil society groups and non-governmental organisations, while contact with the state authorities in the recipient countries may be deliberately ruled out.

In 2010, the Transformation Cooperation Programme was again focused on countries of priority interest for Czech foreign policy and also where Czech experience can be transferred and where there is a tradition of bilateral contacts (Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iraq, Kosovo, Cuba, Moldova, Myanmar/Burma, Serbia and Ukraine).

In total, the Transformation Cooperation Programme financed 45 projects by Czech non-governmental organisations and institutions, implemented in collaboration with their partners in the target countries, as well as separate activities by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that were mainly implemented via the Czech Republic's diplomatic mission. Outside the priority countries, there were some one-off activities for other countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Many projects involving Czech organisations are multilateral or international. The Transformation Cooperation Programme emphasises coordination with other governmental and non-governmental support providers and also reflects trends in European Union policy on the countries concerned. In total, approximately CZK 43 million was spent on projects, scholarships and transformation cooperation activities in 2010.

### ***Cooperation with civil society on policy to support human rights and democracy***

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic regards close cooperation with non-profit organisations and civil society as being crucial for building democracy in third countries and for designing policy to support democracy and human rights. The expertise of civil society in the target countries is also crucial for setting objectives and the evaluation of the Transformation Cooperation Programme. In 2008, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs supported the creation of the association of Czech non-governmental organisations working to foster democratisation and to support civil

society and human rights around the world, DEMAS, a parallel to the FoRS development platforms (*the Forum for Development Cooperation*).

In 2009, DEMAS, with financial backing from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, worked on the following key objectives: presenting the issue of support for democracy and human rights to Czech citizens and public institutions, establishing contacts between Czech and foreign non-governmental organisations, and contributing to a national debate and consensus on the significance of supporting democracy and human rights in Czech and European foreign policy. At present, DEMAS has eleven member organisations, the majority of which are long-term recipients of support from the Transformation Cooperation Programme. In DEMAS the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic has gained a natural partner for discussion and cooperation.

### ***European Union election observation missions***

The European Union has regularly sent out election observation missions (*EOM*) since 1992. The first, historic, mission observed the parliamentary elections in Namibia. At present, approximately ten observation missions are sent out every year. The Czech Republic has participated in these missions since its accession to the European Union in 2004. Observers from the Czech Republic first took part in the mission to Mozambique in December 2004.

EU observation missions indirectly strengthen democratic institutions and contribute to building confidence in election mechanisms among citizens by over-seeing that the principles of free and democratic elections are upheld in countries which are undergoing a phase of political transformation and/or in which there is a danger that the elections might be manipulated. In principle, missions are only sent out on the basis of an invitation from the country in which the elections are taking place. After the elections, the head of the mission issues recommendations for future improvements to the electoral process. The implementation of these recommendations creates a possible framework for subsequent EU political and technical cooperation with the given country. The Czech Republic works with the European Commission on improving the functioning of missions with emphasis placed on making use of the concluding recommendations.

In 2010, the observers nominated by the Czech Republic and subsequently selected by the European Commission participated in missions to Togo, Sudan, Burundi, Ethiopia, Guinea, Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire.

## **Projects implemented in 2010**

### ***Myanmar/Burma***

#### *People in Need – Projects in Burma*

The project's objective is to provide direct support to political prisoners, independent journalists, civic groups and all democratic activists in Myanmar/Burma and on the Thai-Burmese border, and to win international support for the democracy movement in Myanmar/Burma.

*People in Need – Support of civil society organisations involved in human rights protection in Burma*

This is a two-year project funded by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) with co-financing from TRANS. The project works to support Burmese human rights organisations and improve the conditions for its future work.

*Burma Centre Prague – an Indian base for the transformation of Burma*

This three-year project is developing the civil society structures in India and on the Indian-Burmese border that are required for the systematic support for Myanmar/Burma's transition to democracy. Under the project, a non-governmental organisation, the *Burma Centre Delhi (BCD)*, will be registered to work as a liaison point for activities and funding aimed at safeguarding human rights and the democratisation of Myanmar/Burma.

*ADRA – Kayin Fellowship Program*

This project contributes to strengthening the position and the sustainability of communities and their organisation. It is concentrated on thirty villages in the Kayin administrative region (the Karen nation), where the population is included in decision-making on the priorities of their villages, the leadership of the communities is strengthened, and their cooperation supported.

The activities of the *Yangon Film School* and the Burmese independent press were also supported directly via the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs last year, in addition to the above framework.

**Belarus**

*The Association for International Affairs – Civic Alternative for Belarusian schools*

This project continues on from its initial activities in previous years, with the primary target group still teachers in Belarusian high schools, particularly small, regional schools. A broad secondary target group is then the students in these schools and, indirectly, their parents. The independent centre for teachers is also actively involved with this project.

*People in Need – Educating future Belarusian lawyers and support for regional non-governmental organisations working efficiently in the country*

This comprehensive project follows on from the previous long-term activities of People in Need in Belarus. It involves material and moral support for politically monitored individuals, and improving the capacity of small non-governmental organisations via micro grants, study visits to the Czech Republic, activities focused on increasing awareness of the situation in the country (the One World Around the World event, etc.), monitoring the situation in the country and seminars for law students on the Czech transformation experience in terms of the legal sphere.

*The International Association of Civic Belarus – Support for civic society and defenders of human rights in Belarus*

The project strengthens the Belarusian human rights movement with the aid of support from the Human Rights House in Vilnius, assistance to unregistered non-governmental and non-profit organisations, study visits for young activists and by providing translations of academic literature into Belarusian.

*The International Association of Civic Belarus – European radio for Belarus – Support for independent news in Belarus*

*European Radio for Belarus (ERB)* is an international project for foreign radio broadcasts for Belarus based in Warsaw. The project was commenced in 2005 and financed by contributions from Czech transformation cooperation and the American USAID. From the beginning, the target group has been young people between 15 and 35 years old, particularly as yet politically inactive or “unaware” people, for whom the ERB provides quality music broadcasts (70% of broadcast time) and an attractive form of trustworthy news on events in Belarus and the EU (30% of broadcast time).

*The “Belarus” Human Rights House (HRH) in Vilnius*

The HRH in Vilnius is part of the human rights “House” network set up by the Norwegian Human Rights House Foundation. The objective of the HRH Vilnius is to provide the missing facilities for Belarusian organisations, particularly those involved in the defence and support of human rights. The HRH provides a safe environment for educational programmes, seminars and meetings, and Belarusian organisations can also keep their archives and build their libraries, etc. there. The Czech Republic has supported the HRH since 2006.

*The Archdiocesan Charity of Prague: Education for Belarusian students at selected universities in the Czech Republic*

Under this long-term project ten young Belarusians are studying at selected universities in the Czech Republic. During their studies the project organiser meets the students’ needs and involves them in its volunteer work.

***Bosnia and Herzegovina***

*La Strada CR – Support for civic society by promoting a human rights approach to human trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

The project promotes a human rights approach to resolving the issue of human trafficking by strengthening the activities of civic society, particularly its cooperation with state authorities, including law enforcement agencies, and also often using the information and educational potential of the media. The pilot phase of the project particularly focused on developing the capacity of partner organisations and transferring Czech know how.

### *Slovo 21 – It is time for Europe*

This project supports the non-governmental sector aimed at working with Roma (the largest ethnic minority which is affected by the highest levels of discrimination and the threat of social and economic exclusion). It does so by transferring the experiences of the non-governmental and non-profit sectors in the Czech Republic with the Roma issue, presenting government programmes or successful Czech non-governmental and non-profit programmes on the Roma issue based on human rights protection or anti-discrimination measures with an emphasis on education.

### **Georgia**

#### *AGORA Central Europe – Supporting transparency and communications in Georgia*

This is a joint project of four organisations (Agora CE, People in Need, Transitions, VCVS) focused on two regions in Georgia. The target groups are young people and schools, local journalists, and the local administration and non-governmental and non-profit organisations. During 2010, there was the second annual debating competition and pre-election debates, and newly created initiatives were supported and trained, then realising small projects together with more experienced non-governmental and non-profit organisations. Joint participation projects were also realised by non-governmental and non-profit organisations together with the local authorities. After the regional elections, the new representatives and journalists were trained, including schooling in working with new technologies.

#### *Transparency International – Support for anti-corruption activities in Georgia*

Activities aimed at reducing corruption in the country are supported via the partner organisation, TI Georgia. The project involves further transferral of experiences from the Czech Republic to Georgian partners, and expanding and improving the quality of the work of the anti-corruption centre established in 2010. Special attention is paid to attempts to work more closely with the state authorities. There are also seminars and training for journalists on how to report on corruption. In addition to mutual visits between Tbilisi and Prague, individual cases and difficulties are also regularly consulted.

#### *Caritas CR – Support for civic participation and development of the capacity of the local authorities in Samtskhe-Javakheti*

The project supports the inclusion of the population in decision making on development in five villages in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region. It also increases the performance of local committees and improves the way they work with the district authorities. Training in community planning has prepared community plans based on analyses of the individual villages, and five community projects have been implemented with co-financing from the local and district authorities. Lessons in the Georgian language are taking place in two Armenian villages as part of the project, as is the drafting of an analysis of territorial administration reforms in Georgia.



*The Organisation for Refugee Aid – Support and improvement for Georgian non-governmental and non-profit organisations by educational programmes, support for the establishment of local self-administration in newly created refugee villages and improvement of existing cooperation*

On the one hand, this project supported an organisation which has worked for a long time with South Ossetian displaced people, and on the other it has initiated the establishment of organisations in new communities which were created as a result of the Russia/Georgia armed conflict. Work experience stays in the Czech Republic for four workers have taken place, three new non-governmental and non-profit organisations have been set up by internally displaced people and a manual for non-governmental and non-profit organisation work has been published.

*The Human Rights House in Tbilisi*

The setting up of the new Georgian Human Rights House was supported by the Czech Embassy in Tbilisi with a contribution of CZK 250 000. The Human Rights and Transformation Policy department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic has worked for a long time with the Norwegian Human Rights House Foundation, which provides facilities for non-profit organisations at its network of Houses, particularly those involved in defending and supporting human rights. The HRH is used for educational courses, seminars and meetings and setting up a library, etc. Presently it functions to a certain extent as a coordination point for human rights organisations in the country.

***Iraq***

*People in Need – Support for the development of Iraqi civic society*

The project's objective is to support the democratisation of Iraq by strengthening civic society and its cooperation with local authorities. This involves the continuation of a three-year project implemented between 2007 and 2009. A selected coalition of Iraqi non-governmental and non-profit organisations received grants of up to CZK 200 000 for realising community projects. These organisations are also given training in implementing projects and drafting and distributing informative materials.

***Kosovo***

*Europeum Institute for European Policy: How to speak to each other*

The main objective of the project was to strengthen the role of selected non-governmental and non-profit organisations when creating public policy and their ability to hold a structured dialogue with state authorities. There was training and study stays for twenty Kosovan non-governmental and non-profit organisations and a methodology was published for maintaining a structured dialogue on educational reform and improving the rule of law.

## **Cuba**

### *People in Need – Support for civil society in Cuba*

The project continues on from earlier work, including providing direct support for civil society in Cuba (journalists, lawyers, the families of political prisoners and the civic opposition). It also focuses on raising awareness about the situation in the country by providing objective information and analyses.

### *Libri Prohibiti – Support for the movement for independent Cuban libraries*

This project is aimed at material and moral support for independent libraries in Cuba by providing literature, technical equipment and contacts from abroad. It also is connected with literary competitions for unofficial Cuban authors and provides information on the situation in the country.

## **Moldova**

### *People in Need – Strengthening Civil Society IV – Moldova/Transnistria*

This project continued its existing support for the development of non-profit organisations in Transnistria and extended its range of activities. English teaching was provided with the aim of reducing the region's isolation and the dominance of Russian-language media in the region, and strengthening prospects for cooperation with foreign organisations and donors.

### *Caritas Czech Republic – Developing capacity and supporting civic participation in the Cahul region, Moldova*

The project's objective was to support cooperation between the local authorities and non-profit organisations in the Cahul region of Southern Moldova. Representatives of local authorities and non-governmental organisations identified their common interest in community projects. The project's activities were complemented by training for young people and involving them in solving local problems by means of study visits to the relevant authorities and their subsequent involvement in implementing the supported projects. Specific local participation projects were supported by micro grants.

### *AGORA Central Europe – Support for the development of civic society in selected regions in Moldova*

On the one hand, the objective for this project was to strengthen the involvement of high school students in discussions on the actual problems in Moldova and to improve their communication skills, and on the other, it was to increase the capacity of non-governmental organisations and their cooperation with local authorities. Non-governmental and non-profit organisations were provided with training on how to participate (together with local authority representatives) and on project management. At the conclusion of the project, approximately ten local projects were supported by micro grants. This project was implemented with the cooperation of People in Need.

*Czechinvent Technological Agency – Transferring Czech know-how in economic transformation –Creating talent in Moldova for supporting innovation and developing business skills*

This project helped to share Czech experiences in developing business skills and state authority talent, and provided support for the economic transformation of Moldova by supporting and training representatives of regional non-profit organisations, the state authorities and the Ministry of Economy and Trade in preparing projects, building technology centres and attracting foreign investors. Selected participants passed study trips in the Czech Republic and slide presentations intended for obtaining financing from EU funds were prepared.

***Serbia***

*VIA Foundation –Support for strategic planning and financial sustainability for Serbian non-profit organisations*

The project improves the capacity of Serbian non-governmental and non-profit organisations by sharing experiences from the Czech Republic. It is mainly focused on strategic planning and achieving synergies between the programme and fundraising objectives of non-profit organisations.

***Ukraine***

*The Association of International Affairs (AMO) – A civic alternative for Ukrainian schools*

This project continues on from AMO's activities since 2006. It develops the topic of training for citizenship and contributes to improving the teaching of citizenship in Ukraine, including the autonomous Republic of Crimea.

*Transparency International Czech Republic – A strong anti-corruption watch-dog in the Ukraine*

The objective of this project is to create a competent and professional anti-corruption non-governmental and non-profit organisation in Ukraine through training, twinning and partnerships. Selected journalists and state officials are also provided with training.

*Veronica – The participation of local partnerships in planning sustainable development in rural areas, Czech experiences for Ukraine*

This project supported the engagement of citizens in local level decision-making, particularly in rural areas, and in creating strategic plans for the sustainable development of these areas. It strengthened the capabilities of Ukrainian non-governmental organisations in the Vinnytsia and Luhansk regions. The project also included a study trip to the Czech Republic aimed at studying local action groups, and concepts of sustainable development for rural areas and regional self-sufficiency.

*The Centre for the Study of Democracy and Culture- An education institute for democracy and civil society in Eastern Ukraine*

The two-year Democracy and Civil Society study cycle for 50 students at Kharkiv University covers the issue of democracy building. It is accredited as a life-long learning programme by the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

#### **14. The consular dimension of the Czech Republic's foreign policy**

Consular services are an integral part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Their basic feature is to perform the functions of the state abroad in relation to individuals, i.e., physical and legal persons. Consular services perform tasks for citizens of the Czech Republic and also for foreigners.

The principle of the sovereign equality of states applies in international relations, according to which no state may execute sovereign powers on the territory of another state, unless international law states otherwise. The basic document defining the areas and limitations of the activities of diplomatic missions for individuals is the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 24 April 1963, which was published by Decree No. 32/1969 Coll.

At the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, consular services are provided by the section for providing services for Czech citizens abroad (the Consular Department) and the section for the agenda of the entry and residence of foreigners in the territory of the Czech Republic (the Consular Policy and Methodology Department). Both these departments are part of the Legal and Consular Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

The above separation of the activities of the Legal and Consular Section are reflected in the Ministry's website, where there are two separate consular chapters; *Travelling Abroad* and *Information for Foreigners*. These chapters are amongst the most frequently visited on the website.

Consular services abroad consist of the consular section for diplomatic missions and the consulate office. There are two types of consulate office: those managed by professional consular officials and those run by honorary consulates.

The Lisbon Treaty anticipates the creation of a European External Action Service. The Council's decision on the organisation and working of the European External Action Service (2010/427/EU) was adopted on 26 July 2010 and published in the Official Bulletin of the EU on 3 August 2010. It is, nonetheless, clear from this decision that the performance of consular activities will continue to remain within the competency of member states.

The Lisbon Treaty does note that European Union citizenship will be introduced; however citizenship of the Union has only a supplementary character and does not replace the citizenship of

a member state. It is for this reason that the performance of consular services for a country's own citizens remains practically fully within the competency of the member state in question.

At the same time, however, Czech consular services are obliged to perform tasks in the field of providing consular protection to EU citizens abroad, for example, dealing with accidents, loss of travel documents, emergency assistance, and also in the event of arrests. The general principle laid down in the European Union Charter of Human Rights applies here, where Article 46 states that each EU citizen has the right to diplomatic and consular protection from any other member state under the same conditions as citizens of that state if they are in a third country where their own country does not have any representation. Article 20 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union has similar provisions.

The exception to the principle that consular services are the responsibility of member states is crisis management in third countries. When providing consular assistance in cases of natural disasters and serious incidents, it is desirable that there is a single EU centre for coordinating assistance to all EU citizens in the affected area. The mechanisms of crisis management are gradually being perfected and Czech consular services are actively engaged in this respect.

A situation occurs around the world virtually every month which can be described as being extraordinary from the consular services point of view. These are generally unforeseeable situations. During 2010 there was, for example, the extraordinarily destructive earthquake in Haiti in January. This was followed by flash floods caused by rain in Peru. In February, most of the territory of Chile was hit by an earthquake, and in March there were volcanic eruptions in Iceland which caused air travel operations to be shut down, affecting hundreds of Czech citizens. As a result of a lengthy period of rainfall, most of Central Europe suffered floods in May 2010. From the end of June, an unremitting heat wave struck Russia, rapidly deteriorating the smog situation in Moscow and the European parts of the country; at the end of July this problem increased the occurrence of large-scale peat and forest fires. In August there were flash floods in Leh in India where, as with Peru, Czech citizens were affected. In December, there were extensive and devastating floods in the Australian state of Queensland.

In addition to the basic information essential for travelling abroad, the *travelling abroad* chapter on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website also provides the broader Czech public with advice on how to deal with various life situations when abroad. In the *Latest recommendations and warnings* section, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also points out serious security risks which could be a risk to the health, and even lives, of Czech citizens who are heading to specific countries.

An effective instrument for assisting Czech citizens during extraordinary situations abroad is the *Voluntary Registration of Czech Citizens Travelling Abroad* web application, which is referred to by the acronym DROZD. This application enables Czech citizens to voluntarily provide information on their itinerary when abroad. This makes it easier to pass on useful information in the event of crisis situations.

The quantitative scope of routine tasks performed by consular services is documented by data from the Czech Statistical Office, which shows that Czech citizens make approximately 5 million business or tourist trips abroad every year. The number of Czechs living permanently abroad can be estimated at between 300 and 400 thousand. The statistical data of the basic consular tasks performed every year by diplomatic missions for Czech citizens confirms the amount and the demanding nature of this work.

Consular statistics show that in 2010, 5 636 applications for passports were submitted to our diplomatic missions and 2 051 replacement travel documents were issued so that our citizens could return home quickly after their passports had been lost or stolen. The consular services also dealt with 326 Czech deaths abroad. There were a total of 585 cases when Czech citizens were the victims of crime. In 2010, 457 Czech citizens were arrested abroad (89 of which for drugs offences) and 165 Czechs commenced prison sentences.

In 2010, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic also took part in the preparations and course of two elections. This mainly involved the May elections to the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament, where Czech citizens abroad could cast their votes at our diplomatic missions. The Ministry subsequently took part in carrying out certain tasks for which it was responsible in relation to the October elections for a third of the Senate seats.

For the parliamentary elections in particular, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its diplomatic missions played a fundamental role in the organisational and technical preparations at the missions, as well as managing the elections systematically. A no less important task was to ensure the smooth course of the elections and then to process the results and send them to headquarters. 8 211 voters turned up to the diplomatic missions, casting a total of 8 172 valid votes. Compared with 2006, there was a significant increase in interest shown by voters in casting their votes at the diplomatic missions. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs managed its tasks related to the two elections without any problems, which contributed considerably to their smooth overall progress.

The pivotal moment in terms of visa policy can be noted as being the coming into force of Regulation (EC) No. 810/2009 of the European Parliament and Council of 13 July 2009, on a common visa code (visa code), which occurred on 5 April 2010. The relevant methodology in the form of a Handbook issued by the Commission was adopted in this regard. The procedure for issuing Schengen area visas was unified by this code. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also actively participated in the legislative process of debating a fundamental amendment to Czech legislation for aliens, i.e., Act No. 326/1999 Coll. on the Residence of Aliens on the Territory of the Czech Republic and Amendments to Certain Other Acts, which essentially enters into force as of the beginning of 2011. A consequence of this Act will be to rationalise visa and residency permit procedures, to improve the procedural rights of applicants and also the work of the diplomatic missions when adjudicating their own applications.

In terms of the practical performance of the visa agenda, there was no significant change in the number of applications for short-term visas received in 2010 as compared to the previous year. Similarly to 2009, the highest number of visas issued, or noted, was by the Czech embassies in Moscow and Kiev and the General Consulates in Saint Petersburg, Donetsk and Lvov.

The highest proportion in the total number of applications for short-term visas in 2010 was for Russian citizens (271 353 applications were submitted; 267 344 visas were issued). In second place came citizens from Ukraine (113 830 applications submitted; 110 019 visas were issued). The third most numerous group was Turkish citizens (21 648 applications; 20 879 visas issued). The most frequent purpose for short-term visas was “tourism” (334 532, i.e., 65%), followed to a much lesser extent by “other reason”, for example, transit or business (78 977, i.e., 15%), and then “other” (28 481, i.e., 6%) and “invitation” (25 517, i.e., 5%).

There were at total of 25 700 applications for long-term visas submitted in 2010, with 15 140 visas being issued. Most applicants for long-term visas came from Russia (6 479 applications), the Ukraine (5 280 applications) and the USA (2 673 applications).

The information service for foreigners applying for residency rights is provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website under *information for foreigners* which is available in both Czech and English. This site is clearly structured for users according to the different types of residency and is supplemented by specific topics, for example, electronic appointments via the VISAPPOINT system or EU citizen family members. The websites of diplomatic missions are directly connected to this basic information portal in order to provide uniform information content.

On 15 December 2010, the visa obligations for short-term residency in the Schengen area for biometric passport holders from Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina were abolished. The introduction of visa-free travel was fully consistent with the long-term efforts of the Czech Republic, which has traditionally been one of the strongest advocates of visa liberalisation with all Western Balkan countries. A decision was also adopted on a visa-free regime for up to three months residency, or ninety days, between the EU and Taiwan (effective from 11 January 2011). In December 2010, the European Parliament approved the conclusion of an agreement on visa facilitation with Georgia (effective as of 1 March 2011). The negative effects of the European Union’s visa policy continued in the case of Canada, which, as only the third country, re-introduced visa requirements for a Schengen state in 2009, specifically the Czech Republic. A significant objective of Czech foreign policy therefore remained the renewal of visa-free relations. The Czech side has made efforts at all levels in order to achieve this objective.

The Czech Republic has also managed to agree on representative agreements for processing Schengen visa applications with Portugal (from 1 July 2010), which acts for the Czech Republic in Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, the Cape Verde islands, St Thomas and Prince Islands, and in East Timor; with Spain (from 25 October 2010), which acts for the Czech Republic in Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial New Guinea and Jamaica; and France (from 1 November

2011), which acts for the Czech Republic in Benin, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Gabon, Haiti, Cameroon, the Comoro Islands, the Republic of Congo, Laos, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, the Central African Republic, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Grenada, Dominica, Anguilla, Montserrat, the British Virgin Islands, Togo, Vanuatu and Fiji.

On the other hand, the Czech Republic acts for Spain in Moldova and France in Donetsk in the Ukraine.

As part of the efforts to achieve closer consular cooperation with the Visegrad Four countries (V4), the institution of the Visegrad House has been successfully launched into practice. As of April 2010, the joint Visegrad House in Cape Town in South Africa has been providing consular services to citizens from the V4 countries on a rotation basis. Each V4 state has the premises available to it for one week every month. The Visegrad House is used to provide the regular consular agenda and to help citizens in need, and also for social and cultural events. Due to the complicated nature of the procedure and the need for continuity, it is not yet used to receive visa applications. The reaction to the activities of the Visegrad House by the Czech expat community in Cape Town has been very positive.

There is a prospect of other similar projects of consular cooperation with EU member states, particularly in sharing premises in countries where some member states do not have effective representation.

There was a further expansion in the network of Czech consulates headed by honorary consuls, which are professionally run diplomatic missions of the Czech Republic. There were more than 160 honorary consulates working for the country in various parts of the world. The Czech Republic is one of the countries which uses honorary consulates to supplement its network of regular diplomatic missions. An honorary consul is not a state official of the Czech Republic; however they must have the necessary qualifications, social position and have a good knowledge of the country they work in. The exercise of this honorary function is unpaid and honorary consuls cover the costs of running their offices themselves.

The position of the honorary consulates is becoming increasingly important as their engagement increases year by year in supporting bilateral trade, science and technology, business, cultural and other relations between the Czech Republic and the various countries in question, and in particular the countries where the Czech Republic does not have effective diplomatic representation. Honorary consulates play a significant role in promoting the Czech Republic abroad. They are irreplaceable for providing assistance to physical and legal Czech persons in dealing with their difficulties abroad and in protecting their rights and their interests.

In 2010, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic introduced a new system of consular training for Ministry officials who are transferred to work in diplomatic missions abroad and whose work involves performing consular activities. The system includes two types of training; pre-mission preparation and regular training.



The objective for pre-mission preparation is to prepare officials comprehensively to work in the consular sections of diplomatic missions. The training has a fixed schedule, fixed time subsidy, and lasts for fifteen consecutive business days. Lecturing on the course is shared by experts from the Ministry's legal and consular section, and external officials working in relevant state authority bodies and in non-governmental organisations. Passing this training is a pre-condition for an official to be sent to perform consular functions at a diplomatic mission.

The regular training is intended for Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials who have already performed consular work at diplomatic missions. It takes place once a year in a selected country to which all the heads of the consular sections of the given region are invited for the course. In 2010, a model of five regular training courses was used for the Americas and Australia region; the Africa and Middle East region; the EU/Schengen states; countries which have concluded agreements to facilitate visa relations; and Asia.

The costs related to organising both types of consular training are partially covered by financial support from the EU's External Borders Fund, which is part of the EU *Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows* general programme. In 2010, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic was allocated CZK 1 732 000 for the *Completion of the Preparation and Implementation of the Consular Module Training and Consular Workplace Training* project. The financial support was used to cover the costs related to the technical equipment of the consular training centre and the organisation of the regular training.

## II. The Czech Republic's Bilateral Relations

### 1. The Czech Republic's Relations with Central European Countries

Relations with central European countries, most of which neighbour the Czech Republic, continued to be one of the priorities of Czech foreign policy in 2010.

The *Federal Republic of Germany* remained a traditional key partner. An important impulse for further improvement of mutual relations was a visit to Berlin by Prime Minister Nečas in August and the historically first visit to Prague by Minister-President of Bavaria H. Seehofer at the end of December. Both confirmed their interest in advancing bilateral relations into the future when they discussed key European, foreign policy, and economic topics, such as energy security, the economic situation, traffic infrastructure projects, and the financial crisis.

The Czech Republic tried to further develop the strategic dimension of relations with *Poland*. Key topics were discussed on the highest political level, where the emphasis was on foreign and European policy, defence, economic cooperation and traffic infrastructure. One of the specific steps included the signing of a memorandum of cooperation between the two ministries of foreign affairs. Under this document, cooperation will take place on strategic topics, from the power industry and the Eastern Partnership project, through the exchange of diplomats, to interest in sharing embassy and consular premises. At the same time, the existence of the Czech-Polish Forum, which in 2009-2010 was successful in financially supporting projects in strategic European and foreign policy areas, was prolonged, as was cooperation among non-government organisations and civil society.

Relations with *Slovakia* remained at an exceptionally high intensity and level, thanks also to the proximity of both nations. After the new governments of both countries took office in mid 2010, the high frequency of contact continued not only on the highest political level. Economic and energy issues, both in the bilateral and in the European and regional context, were at the centre of attention.

As regards *Austria*, attention was focused on regional and especially cross-border cooperation between both countries, especially on improving the infrastructure, especially road transport, connecting the two countries. For all intents and purposes, work in this area was commenced by the Permanent Conference of Czech and Austrian Historians on Shared Cultural Heritage (Stálá konference českých a rakouských historiků ke společnému kulturnímu dědictví), which addressed the topic of *The Era of Husák and Kreisky*. A debate on current European and Foreign Policy issues, in particular on the western Balkans and the financial crisis, continued on the level of the foreign ministries.

In keeping with tradition, *Hungary* was viewed by Czech foreign policy as a very close central European partner. In addition to the issues address by the Visegrád Group, the main topics were Czech-Hungarian relations in specific economic projects and preparations and opportunities for mutual cooperation during the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2011.

As is the case every year, cooperation with *Slovenia* in 2010 was perceived as problem-free. Slovenia remained a partner connected to us in particular through a common viewpoint on numerous European issues, but also by the fact that both countries are part of the Regional Partnership. Enlargement of the European Union and Czech-Slovenian economic cooperation belonged to the main topics discussed in 2010.

Problem-free bilateral relations with *Switzerland* enabled the Czech Republic to pay particular attention to issues related to the further cooperation of this country with the European Union. Direct cooperation on the level of higher regional authorities supplemented relations.

The renewal and intensification of relations with *Liechtenstein* were reflected in 2010 particularly in culture and the economy. The Czech Republic took part in the Liechtenstein fair LIGHA as the main exhibitor, and a bilateral committee of historians was established and began to work in December.

As is tradition, an important part of relations with central Europe was regional cooperation, particularly within the Visegrád Group, but also within the Regional Partnership (for more details see the chapter on multilateral cooperation). As regards the countries neighbouring the Czech Republic, the work of inter-governmental working groups for cross-border cooperation with Poland, Slovenia, Saxony, and Bavaria continued, focusing on bolstering development in border regions.

## **Austria**

### ***(Republic of Austria)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 22 July 2010 – working visit by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg
- 26 November 2010 – working visit to the Geras abbey by President V. Klaus

#### *Visits by the representatives of Austria*

- 27 April 2010 – working visit by Federal Minister for European and International Affairs M. Spindelegger

### *Economic relations*

Austria is the Czech Republic's seventh biggest trading partner according to foreign trade turnover. Austria is also the six most important export market for the Czech Republic and the seventh biggest importer to the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic's balance of foreign trade with Austria shows the Czech Republic's fifth largest trade surplus.

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Austria increased by 15.39% from CZK 172 479 million in 2009 to CZK 199 015 million in 2010. Exports increased by 26.01% (2009: CZK 100 006 million, 2010: CZK 118 214 million) and imports increased by 11.49% (2009: CZK 72 473 million, 2010: CZK 80 801 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was 37 413 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: electronic equipment; instruments and appliances; road vehicles; metal products; coal, coke and briquettes; cork and wood; machines and equipment; office machines and equipment for automatic data processing; power production machines and equipment.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: electronic equipment; instruments and appliances; petroleum, petroleum products and related materials; iron and steel; metal products; paper, cardboard and products thereof; medicaments and pharmaceutical products; road vehicles.

### *Cultural relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic presented a number of events that were organised chiefly by the Embassy of the Czech Republic and the Czech Centre in Vienna. The following is a list of some of the most important ones:

- In May, the vernissage of an exhibition of young Czech artists of the Prague alternative studio Trafačka was held in Vienna. The exhibition from the series *Prague Art Meets The (C. I. T. Y.) Streets* took place as part of the Viennese festival SOHO in Ottakring;
- 13 September 2010 – the vernissage of the exhibition *Film Magician Karel Zeman*, showing the works of the director of films for children and youth, was held at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Vienna.
- 12 October 2010 – the vernissage of the exhibition *Mädel Knödel*, showing the works of the students of the Studio of Sculpture headed by Kurt Gebauer at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague, was held at the Czech Embassy in Vienna.
- In October, a two-week educational seminar was held for secondary school teachers. This seminar was developed by the management of the Czech Centre in Vienna in cooperation with the University of Education Vienna and the Federal Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture.

- 14 – 15 October 2010 – celebrations on the occasion of the 235<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Czech studies was commenced at the University of Vienna. The main organiser of the celebrations was the Institute of Slavonic Studies Uni Wien, the Czech Centre in Vienna, and the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Vienna.
- The Czech Republic was also the main partner of the well-known Austrian design show *The Art of Design*, which took place in October 2010.

## **Germany**

### ***(Federal Republic of Germany)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 4 March 2010 – working visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout
- 19 June 2010 – official visit by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg
- 18 – 19 August 2010 – official visit by Prime Minister P. Nečas
- 29 October 2010 – working visit by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg (Nuremberg)
- 10 November 2010 – working visit by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg

#### *Visits by the representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany*

- 6 April 2010 – working visit by President of the Bundestag N. Lammert
- 14 September 2010 – working visit by Minister-President of Saxony S. Tillich
- 22 November 2010 – working visit by President of the Federal Republic of Germany Christian Wulff
- 19 – 20 December 2010 – official visit by Minister-President of Bavaria H. Seehofer

#### *Economic relations*

According to the volume of foreign trade turnover, Germany is the Czech Republic's biggest trading partner. Germany is the biggest destination for Czech exports and accounts for about a third of the Czech Republic's total exports. Germany is also the biggest importer to the Czech Republic and the country with which the Czech Republic has the biggest balance of trade surplus.

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Germany increased by 15.6% from CZK 1 223 131 million in 2009 to CZK 1 413 944 million in 2010. Exports increased by 15.63% (2009: CZK 694 482 million, 2010: CZK 802 995 million) and imports increased by 15.57% (2009:

CZK 528 649 billion, 2010: CZK 610 949 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 192 046 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: components of passenger motor vehicles and tractors; automobiles; automatic data processing machines; scanners; wires; cables; insulated cables; monitors; projectors; diodes and transistors; semiconductor devices; seats; power grid protection equipment; switches; electric lighting equipment; windscreen wipers; printing machines and instruments; rubber tyres; electricity; telephone sets; voice and data transmission equipment.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: parts and components of motor vehicles and tractors; passenger automobiles; medicaments; diodes and transistors; semiconductor devices; plastic products; automatic data processing machines; scanners; pumps; mineral oils and oils from mineral raw materials; wires, cables and conductors.

### *Cultural relations*

Even after the culturally high-profile year of 2009, it was possible to organise a number of significant large-scale events in 2010 as well. The Festival of Czech Culture and Arts in Germany, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Berlin, managed to organise a concert of violinist P. Šporcl in the building of the Berlin Parliament for more than 400 guests already in early February. Another unique February event was the work of Czech film director K. Zeman presented during the Berlin Film Festival. The directors of renowned international film festivals, including the one in Karlovy Vary, attended the opening of the exhibition in support.

Czech culture, art and history were further presented in Germany in the form of numerous exhibitions, of which the exhibition by the Prague Academy of Fine Arts entitled *Connections?* is worth noting. This exhibition is a continuation of last year's premier of the biggest ever exhibition of the works of Czech fine arts students in Germany. Also worthy of mention is the exhibition entitled *Zmizelí soused (Vanished Neighbour)*, a successful project headed by the Educational and Cultural Centre of the Jewish Museum in Prague, which uses 30 panels to map the fate of Jewish families who have vanished from many corners of the Czech Republic.

In September, the book entitled *Můj skvělý život s Hitlerem, Stalinem a Havlem (My Wonderful Life with Hitler, Stalin and Havel)* by P. Kohout was read and presented by the author in cooperation with *Blaue Sofa*. This event was recorded by the various German media. Among the dozens of other cultural events, a number stand out: the bilingual recitals of the poetry of R. M. Rilke; the exhibition entitled *T. G. Masaryk ve fotografiích (T.G. Masaryk in Photographs)*; and the ambitious Czech-German project *Prolínání – Verknüpfungen*, which was visited by more than 9 000 guests. In keeping with tradition, the Czech Republic was presented at a number of cultural, film, and music festivals, with the biggest showcase of Czech culture in Germany – *Czech-German Culture Days* in Dresden, Ústí nad Labem and the Elbe/Labe Euroregion – leading the pack.

## **Hungary**

### ***(Republic of Hungary)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 5 August 2010 – working visit by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg

#### *Visits by the representatives of the Republic of Hungary*

- 20 October 2010 – working visit by Prime Minister V. Orbán

#### *Other meetings*

- 20 July 2010 – working meeting between Prime Minister P. Nečas and Hungarian Prime Minister V. Orbán on the sidelines of the Summit of the prime ministers of the V4 (Visegrád Summit) in Budapest
- 5 – 6 November 2010 – bilateral meeting between Hungarian President P. Schmitt and President V. Klaus on the sidelines of the Summit of the Presidents of the V4 (Visegrád Summit) in Karlovy Vary

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Hungary increased by 10.2% from CZK 100 018 million in 2009 to CZK 110 243 million in 2010. Exports increased by 6.6% (2009: CZK 54 589 million, 2010: CZK 58 166 million) and imports increased by 14.6% (2009: CZK 45 429 million, 2010: CZK 52 076 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was 6 090 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: electronic equipment, instruments and appliances; motor vehicle parts and accessories; telecommunications equipment; iron and steel; passenger automobiles; vehicles used for the carriage of passengers; organic chemicals; paper, cardboard and products thereof; monitors and projectors; television sets; soaps, detergents and polishes; plastic items.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: electronic equipment, instruments and appliances; foodstuffs and live animals; telecommunications equipment and sound recording and reproducing equipment; road vehicles; motor vehicle parts and accessories; medicaments and pharmaceutical products; veterinary medicaments; flat-rolled iron and unalloyed steel products; paper, cardboard and products thereof; children's toys, toys, games and sporting goods; plastics; products made from non-metallic raw materials.

#### *Cultural relations*

Czech-Hungarian cultural relations have a long tradition. In 2010, the Czech Republic presented itself in Hungary through a number of events organised in particular by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Budapest and by the Czech Centre in Budapest.

The following is a list of some of the most important events:

- Concert by Tara Fuki, a Czech-Polish duo of singing cellists, at the Central European University in Budapest on 24 September 2010
- Exhibition of Czech graphic design of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with a display of linocuts by J. Čapek, commenced on 14 October 2010 at the Óbudai Társaskör Gallery
- Ballet performance *Taneční delikatesy (Dance Delicacies) I., II.* – guest appearance at the Budapest Palace of Arts by the South Bohemia Ballet under the direction of A. Egerházi on 15 and 16 October 2010
- Advent concert at St Michael's Church on 3 December 2010; organised by the Czech embassy in cooperation with the Bohemia Friendship Club. Under the name *Počúvajte, čo vám povím (Listen to What I Have to Say)*, Muzika Folklorika and their guests presented a concert of folk Christmas carols from the Moravian region of Hornácko. These carols are some of the most precious compositions in the rich fund of Czech and Moravian national folk songs
- Presentation of the Czech Republic through exhibitions, concerts, and film screenings organised by the Czech embassy in the various regions of Hungary (Czech Days in Nyíregyáza and in the district of Szabolcs–Szatmár–Bereg 25 – 28 March 2010; Czech Days in Szeged and in the district of Csongrád 20 – 26 May 2010; cultural and presentational event Third Czech Beer Festival in Budapest 9 – 13 June 2010; Czech Days in the city of Pécs 4 – 10 October 2010)

## **Liechtenstein**

### ***(Principality of Liechtenstein)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 6 – 7 April 2010 – official visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout

#### *Visits by representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein*

- 5 May 2010 – meeting between Hans–Adam II, Prince of Liechtenstein, and President of the Czech Republic V. Klaus during the Prince's private visit to Prague

#### Other meetings

- 25 September 2010 – Meeting of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein A. Frick on the sidelines of the UN General Meeting



### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Liechtenstein decreased by 4.76% from CZK 505 million in 2009 to CZK 486 million in 2010. Exports increased by 3.92% (2009: CZK 204 million, 2010: CZK 212 million) while imports decreased by 8.9% (2009: CZK 301 million, 2010: CZK 274 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK – 62 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: parts of cranes, carts, and bulldozers; milling cutters; air conditioning equipment and instruments; automated data processing machines; motor-driven hand-held pneumatic tools; boards; foils and non-porous plastic products; curtains, drapes, blinds and drapery.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: parts and components of passenger motor vehicles and tractors; central heating furnaces; hand-held pneumatic tools; tulle netting and textiles (non-woven); lace; instruments for measuring and controlling flow and pressure; iron/steel bolts, screws, nuts and washers.

### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Czech-Liechtenstein Committee of Historians, Vaduz, 7 April 2010.

### *Cultural relations*

Cultural relations are not contractually addressed. Cultural exchanges take place directly through the various cultural institutions. Due to historical ties and already established contacts, special activities in this area are organised in particular by entities in the South Moravia Region.

The topic of the common history of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and the House of Liechtenstein and the mutual ties between both countries in the twentieth century are dealt with by the newly established Czech-Liechtenstein Committee of Historians. The work of this committee is governed by a memorandum of understanding.

During his private visit to the Czech Republic in May, Hans-Adam II, Prince of Liechtenstein, opened an exhibition in the Wallenstein Riding School entitled *Classicism and Biedermeier from the Collections of the Prince of Liechtenstein* (May – October 2010).

## **Poland**

### ***(Republic of Poland)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 1 – 3 March 2010 – working visit by Minister of Culture V. Riedlbauch
- 21 May 2010 – working visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout – opening of the Honorary Consulate in Bydgoszcz

- 2 August 2010 – working visit by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg
- 4 November 2010 – official visit by Prime Minister P. Nečas
- 10 – 11 December 2010 – working visit by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg

#### *Visits by the representatives of the Republic of Poland*

- 21 – 22 January 2010 – official visit by President L. Kaczynski

#### *Other meetings*

- 18 April 2010 – attendance by President V. Klaus and Prime Minister J. Fischer at the state funeral of the first couple of Poland
- 22 April 2010 – attendance of President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic P. Sobotka at the funeral of senators; subsequent meeting with Marshal of the Senate B. Borusewicz
- 20 July 2010 – meeting between Prime Ministers P. Nečas and D. Tusk on the sidelines of the V4 summit in Budapest
- 10 August 2010 – meeting between Presidents V. Klaus and B. Komorowski on Sněžka Mountain

#### *Economic relations*

Poland is the Czech Republic's fourth biggest trading partner according to foreign trade turnover. Poland is the third biggest destination of Czech exports and the third biggest importer to the Czech Republic.

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Poland increased by CZK 123.63% from CZK 249 708 million in 2009 to CZK 308 711 million in 2010. Exports increased by 26.01% (2009: CZK 123 064 million, 2010: CZK 155 079 million) and imports increased by 21.31% (2009: CZK 126 644 million, 2010: CZK 153 632 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 1 447 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: motor vehicles for the carriage of passengers; other motor vehicle parts and accessories; coal; television and combined receivers – television screens; mineral oils; flat-rolled iron and steel products.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: power production machines and equipment; parts and components of tractors, passenger motor vehicles and freight vehicles; piston, ignition, combustion and rotary engines for vehicles; black (bituminous) coal; briquettes; copper wire; seats; coke and coalite (including wood); scrap iron; furniture.

## *Cultural relations*

Czech-Polish cultural relations are very active, with traditional cultural activities taking place each year: the *On the Border* film festival and *Without Borders* theatre festival in Český Těšín and Cieszynie; *Czech-Polish Days of Christian Culture* at the border; Warsaw's *Science Picnic*, a festival popularising science and technology; international photography festivals – the two-month *Fifth Warsaw Festival of Art Photography*, the *Fotofestival in Lodz*, and the *Fotoartfestival* in Bielsko-Biala – and the two-month Warsaw film festivals *Hot Summer with Cinema* and *Film Summer Metropolis*.

The Czech Republic's biggest exhibition abroad in 2010 – *Art in Bohemia and Moravia 1870-1930* – took place in Krakow in the period February – May 2010.

Bilateral meetings with Minister B. Zdrojewski and the management of the Polish Film Institute and Gallery Zachęta and attendance at the opening of the reconstructed Museum of Frederic Chopin in Warsaw were on the agenda of the visit to Poland by Minister of Culture V. Riedlbauch from 1 to 3 March 2010. The minister confirmed the Ministry of Culture's interest in signing the new Protocol on Cultural Cooperation between the Czech Republic and the Republic of Poland.

On 8 April 2010, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Warsaw organised the gala premiere of V. Marhouľ's film *Tobruk*. The screening was attended by Deputy Ministers of Defence J. Fulík and J. Komorowski, representing their respective ministers of defence. Also worthy of mention was the panel discussion headed by P. Šutorvá and T. Maćkowiak on the topic *Czechs and Poles in Europe: 1989 and Today* with students of the College of Europe, which took place on 21 April 2010 at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in close cooperation with the Czech Centre. In the framework of the project Summer Schools of the Visegrád Countries in Krakow in June 2010, the Ambassador of the Czech Republic presented an exhibition of documentary photography and stories of Czech-Slovak-Polish solidarity entitled *Legacy with a Human Face*.

In August 2010, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Warsaw – together with the Nursery Association of the Czech Republic, the Capital City of Warsaw Municipal Office, and the organiser of the international horticultural fair *Zielen to Zycie* (Green is Life) – organised the planting of a lime tree alley in the quarter of Ursynow, a gift for the City of Warsaw from the Nursery Association of the Czech Republic.

## **Slovakia**

### ***(Republic of Slovakia)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 19 July 2010 – official visit by Prime Minister P. Nečas

### *Visits by the representatives of the Slovak Republic*

- 30 March 2010 – official visit by Prime Minister R. Fico
- 15 July 2010 – official visit by Minister of Foreign Affairs M. Dzurinda
- 20 August 2010 – working visit of Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic R. Sulík
- 18 October 2010 – official visit by Prime Minister I. Radičová

### *Economic relations*

Slovakia is the Czech Republic's second biggest trading partner according to foreign trade turnover. Slovakia is also the second biggest destination for Czech exports and the fifth biggest importer to the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic's foreign trade balance with Slovakia shows the Czech Republic's second largest balance of trade surplus.

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Slovakia increased by 16.5% from CZK 295 569 million in 2009 to CZK 344 245 million in 2010. Exports increased by 18.03% (2009: CZK 186 946 million, 2010: CZK 220 660 million) and imports increased by 13.8% (2009: CZK 108 623 million, 2010: CZK 123 585 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 97 075 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: motor vehicles and their parts; electricity; coal; medicaments; insulated wire, cables; television sets; products made from iron or steel; electronic equipment, instruments and appliances.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: gas oils, petrol and other light oils; flat-rolled iron products; motor vehicles and their parts; insulated wire, cables; non-ferrous metals; cork and wood; telecommunications equipment; power generation machines.

### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic amending the Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic on Common State Border of 4 January 1996, Bratislava, 13 May 2010 – not yet entered into force
- Implementing Protocol between the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic on the Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Joint Use of Designated Information and Archive Funds Created from the Efforts of the Ministry of the Interior in the Area of Domestic Order and Security of 29 October 1992, Bratislava, 13 May 2010
- Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava, 13 May 2010

- Agreement between the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic on the Simplification of Procedures in Connection with the Movement of Mineral Oils under Suspension of Excise Duty through the Product Pipeline, Bratislava, 21 October 2010

### *Cultural relations*

Czech-Slovak cultural relations have for long been very intensive and are the subject of considerable interest on both sides. In 2010, a large number of Czech artistic ensembles were engaged as guests in the Slovak Republic, Czech artists exhibited here, and Czech films were screened. Most cultural events have traditionally been slated for Czech and Slovak Cultural Cooperation Month, which has taken place every October since 2001. Most of this year's events were organised in cooperation with Czech partners, with the Czech Centres and expatriate clubs also helping to organise them or contributing financially. The most important events were under the auspices of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Bratislava and financially supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic. The most extensively organised events included in particular film festivals and Days of Czech Culture in Košice and Bratislava and to a smaller extent in Zvoleň and Nitra.

## **Slovenia**

### ***(Republic of Slovenia)***

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Slovenia increased by 13.9% from CZK 20 632 million in 2009 to CZK 23 500 million in 2010. Exports increased by 14.5% (2009: CZK 11 662 million, 2010: CZK 13 355 million) and imports increased by 13.08% (2009: CZK 8 970 million, 2010: CZK 10 144 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 3 211 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: machinery and transport equipment; market products; chemicals and raw materials; passenger automobiles and motor vehicle accessories; electric appliances; waste paper and paper; iron and steel; wood; aluminium; metal products; railway rolling stock; furniture.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: machinery and transport equipment; chemicals; medicaments; passenger automobiles and motor vehicle accessories; electronic household appliances; steel; aluminium; metal products; plastics; paper and cardboard; cosmetics; dyes and colorants; furniture; plastic items; pigments and paints; electric apparatus.

#### *Cultural relations*

Czech-Slovene cultural relations were characterised by high intensity in 2010. The following is a list of some of the most important events:

- Literary evening with writer M. Viewegh on the occasion of his participation in the FABULA literary festival (17 May 2010, Ljubljana)
- Exhibition of the works of Czech photographer J. Saudek entitled *Božská komedie (Divine Comedy)* and screening of the documentary film *Jan Saudek: in the hell of one's passions, paradise out of sight (Jan Saudek: v pekle svých vášní, ráj v nedohlednu)* (17 June – 24 July 2010, Ljubljana)
- Exhibition entitled *Rukopisné památky českých knihoven (Manuscript Relics of Czech Libraries)* (June and October, Ljubljana)
- Tour of Slovenia by the military artistic ensemble Ondráš (27 – 30 June 2010, Maribor, Laško, Ljubljana, Krško)
- Performance of the world-renown violinist V. Hudeček (30 September 2010, Ljubljana; 1 October 2010, Krško)
- Literary reading and presentation of the book entitled *Bratříček Golem (Little Brother Golem)* by actress and writer E. Hudečková (1 October 2010, Krško)
- Exhibition entitled *Manuscript Relics of Czech Libraries* (September, Maribor); exhibition entitled *Alfons Mucha and Ivančice* (August, Radovljica)
- Exhibition entitled *Grafiky (Graphics)* of M. M. Šechtlová (November 2010, Ljubljana); screening of director M. Janek's film *Občan Havel (Citizen Havel)* and meeting with the author on the occasion of his receiving the *Nagrada Darko Bratina, Poklon viziji* film award (1 December 2010, Ljubljana)
- Christmas concert of Ryba's Czech Christmas Mass as performed by the SONITUS men's choir from Písek, Česká píseň Prachatice women's choir, and the Písek Chamber Orchestra (4 December 2010, Novo město; 5 December 2010, Ljubljana)

Throughout the year, the exhibition entitled *Česká NEJ (The BEST of Czech)* was shown in many Slovenian towns.

## **Switzerland**

### ***(Swiss Confederation)***

#### *Other meetings*

- 17 June 2010 – opening of the Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic in Lugano, with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H. Kmoniček in attendance
- 19 – 21 July 2010 – visit by a delegation of the Parliament of the Czech Republic headed by Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies M. Němcová and President of the Senate P. Sobotka as part of the meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva

### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Switzerland increased by 16.22% from CZK 57 882 million in 2009 to CZK 67 272 million in 2010. Exports increased by 21.97% (2009: CZK 34 250 million, 2010: CZK 41 776 million) and imports increased by 7.89% (2009: CZK 23 632 million, 2010: CZK 25 496 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 16 280 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: machines for automatic data processing; scanners; passenger automobiles; monitors, projectors, and television sets; tyres; iron and steel structures, slabs and bars; scrap and fragments from metal and precious plate metal; integrated electrical circuits; printing products; electric switchboards.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: medicaments; orthopaedic and hearing aids and instruments; antisera and vaccines; raw gold, semi-processed gold and gold dust; special spinning attachments for looms; electric motors and generators; wire and cables; insulated electric conductors; transformers; electric converters; static inductors; surgical and dental instruments.

### *Cultural relations*

Czech-Swiss cultural relations are not governed by any treaties; cultural exchange takes place primarily on a commercial basis. The following is a list of events that took place in cooperation with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Bern:

- September 2010 – Geneva, Emmen – two discussions evenings with senator T. Grulich with the expat community tied to the lecture entitled *Vztah České republiky k českým menšinám v zahraničí od založení republiky po současnost (The Czech Republic's Relationship to Czech Minorities Abroad from the Founding of the Republic to the Present)*
- 17 November – 1 December 2010 – Basel – Bohuslav Martinů Festival under the auspices of V. Havel and J. Suk

## **2. The Czech Republic's Relations with North European Countries**

In keeping with tradition, relations with the countries of northern Europe, i.e., Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Lithuania, Latvia, Norway, and Sweden, were intensive and friendly and can be termed problem-free. Mutual partnership ensues from membership in international organisations and most notably, in the case of most north European countries, from membership in the European Union and the North Atlantic Alliance and, in the case of the Baltic states, from similar historical experience.

On the political level, core relations between the Czech Republic and the north European countries can be seen as consisting chiefly of consultations, continuous and open dialogue about standpoints on current issues within the European Union and NATO, and coordination of

positions. In the case of Norway and Iceland, this cooperation is replaced by partnership in the European Economic Area; in the case of Finland and Sweden, cooperation on the security level is, alongside the Common Security and Defence Policy, secured by the involvement of these two countries in the Partnership for Peace.

A number of north European countries are traditionally among the Czech Republic's important economic partners. After the decline in mutual trade as a result of the economic and financial crisis in 2009, mutual trade turnover began to grow again in 2010; however, 2008 levels have still not been attained.

Cultural cooperation between the Czech Republic and north European countries continued successfully in 2010. The activities of the representative offices in these countries focused chiefly on presenting contemporary Czech culture even outside the capitals.

## **Denmark**

### ***(Kingdom of Denmark)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 2 February 2010 – working visit by President V. Klaus
- 19 – 21 April 2010 – working visit of a delegation of the Committee on Health Care of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

#### *Visits by the representatives of the Kingdom of Denmark*

- 5 – 9 September 2010 – official visit by Greenland Prime Minister J. Motzfeldt

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Denmark increased by 18.91% from CZK 29 223 million in 2009 to CZK 34 749 million in 2010. Exports increased by 29.17% (2009: CZK 15 493 million, 2010: CZK 20 012 million) and imports increased by 7.33% (2009: CZK 13 730 million, 2010: CZK 14 737 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 5 275 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger automobiles; automatic data processing machines; scanners; monitors; projectors; television sets; asbestos-cement and pulp fibre cement goods; microphones, loudspeakers, earphones and amplifiers; toys; generators; electricity; telephone sets.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: toys and tricycles; medicaments; live pigs; television set components; aluminium pipes; valves; boilers; baths; aluminium rods and profile shapes (sections); pork; furniture and parts thereof.



### *Cultural relations*

In February, eight feature and documentary films entitled CZECH THEM OUT were screened in Copenhagen, Odense, and Århus. In March, an exhibition on the Czech brewing industry entitled *Vyvalte sudy - Roll Out the Barrels*, which presented the historical development of the brewing industry in the Czech lands from the early tenth century to the present, was shown. In June, an exhibition entitled *Puppets on the String* was organised in cooperation with the Moravian Museum. During the *Czech Technology Days* in June, the exhibition entitled *Personalities and Inventions of Czech Science* was organised. In Greenland, an exhibition of cartoons by M. Barták entitled *Humor without Words* were displayed from April through June. In November 2010, a Czech-Danish team of experts carried out research in the Czech Republic on the remains of Tycho Brahe, the renowned astrophysicist from Rudolfine Prague.

## **Estonia**

### ***(Republic of Estonia)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 3 – 6 March 2010 – business mission of the Committee on European Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies the Parliament of the Czech Republic
- 16 – 17 November 2010 – official visit by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg

#### *Visits by the representatives of the Republic of Estonia*

- 8 April 2010 – attendance of President T. H. Ilves at the gala dinner organised by President of the United States of America B. Obama on the sidelines of the signing of the new START Treaty

### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Estonia increased by 40.92% from CZK 2 939 million in 2009 to CZK 4 142 million in 2010. Exports increased by 36.39% (2009: CZK 2 204 million, 2010: CZK 3 006 million) and imports increased by 54.49% (2009: CZK 735 million, 2010: CZK 1 136 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 1 870 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: motor vehicles for the carriage of passengers; generator sets; insulated wire, cables and other electrical conductors; telephone sets; organic detergents; electric insulating mediums; artificial guts; rods and poles made from iron and steel; angles, shapes and sections; polyethylene; cells and electric accumulators.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: flat-rolled zinc-plated products; insulated wire, cables and other electric conductors; carpets; textile floor coverings; fish; profiled coniferous wood; veneering sheets, sheeting; mattress fillings; bed parts; prefabricated buildings; rubber; colourising agents for the glass industry.

### *Cultural relations*

The most important cultural activity in the territory in 2010 was the participation of Czech cinematography at the 14<sup>th</sup> annual *Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival*, which took place in Tallinn on 19 November – 5 December 2010. On this occasion, the films *Kawasakiho růže (Kawasaki's Rose)*, *Tři sezóny v pekle (Three Seasons in Hell)*, *Přežít svůj život (Surviving Life – Theory and Practice)* and others were shown. The festival programme included a special section called *Czechoslovak New Wave Cinema*, which presented important films from the Czechoslovak new wave of the 1960s to the Estonian audience.

The *Czech Food Festival*, a presentation of Czech gourmet cuisine, was held on 15 October – 7 November 2010 at the Meriton Hotel Group hotels in Tallinn. On 16 June 2010, *Ensemble Inégal*, in cooperation with the Estonian foundation Pille Lill Music Fund, performed a baroque concert in Tallinn.

## **Finland**

### ***(Republic of Finland)***

#### *Visits by the representatives of the Republic of Finland*

- 23 – 24 September 2010 – official visit of Prime Minister S. Niinistö

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Finland increased by 12.95% from CZK 20 474 million in 2009 to CZK 23 126 million in 2010. Exports increased by 19.15% (2009: 12 180 million, 2010: 14 512 million) and imports increased by CZK 3.86% (2009: CZK 8 294 million, 2010: CZK 8 614 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 5 898 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger automobiles, components and spare parts for means of transport, televisions, tyres, steel products, profile shapes (sections), containers.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: telecommunications devices; paper and paper products; roofing; steel products; plastic products.

On 14 September 2010, the *Czech – Finish Technology Day* took place in Prague. This event aimed to develop relations in science, modern technology and innovation

#### *Cultural relations*

During 2010, the Finnish public had the possibility to become acquainted with, for example, the works of the Czech modernists and with artefacts of African art from the collections of the national Museum through the exhibition entitled *Exhibition of Czech Modern Art* held in February as part of *The Power of Africa* project.

Through the international project to commemorate the Romani holocaust *Zapomenutá genocida (Forgotten Genocide)*, which took place in April under the auspices of Finnish President T. Halonen, the Czech Republic presented the photographic exhibition of the Museum of Romani Culture in Brno.

The leading Czech mezzo-soprano M. Kožená performed in Finland in August.

## **Iceland**

### ***(Republic of Iceland)***

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Iceland increased by 35% from CZK 1 120 million in 2009 to CZK 1 512 million in 2010. Exports increased by 90.14% (2009: CZK 213 million, 2010: CZK 405 million) and imports increased by 22.05% (2009: CZK 907 million, 2010: CZK 1 107 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK – 702 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger automobiles; tractors; mechanical appliances; TV image and audio recording equipment; paper and cardboard; plastics and plastic products; tools; beverages; furniture; prefabricated buildings; toys.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: aluminium and aluminium products; iron and steel; fish, shellfish, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates; pharmaceutical products; optical instruments; TV image and audio recording equipment; chemical products.

#### *Cultural relations*

Due to the great geographical distance, the possibilities for presenting Czech culture on Iceland are relatively limited. Icelanders had the opportunity to see the films *Tři sezony v pekle (Three Seasons in the Hell)* and *Na půdě (In the Attic)* as part of the 2010 Reykjavik Film Festival, which took place from 23 September to 3 October 2010.

## **Latvia**

### ***(Republic of Latvia)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 21 – 25 February 2010 – working visit by the Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
- 20 – 21 May 2010 – state visit by President V. Klaus
- 2 – 4 December 2010 – working visit by the Committee on Public Administration, Regional Development and the Environment of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

### *Visits by the representatives of the Republic of Latvia*

- 8 April 2010 – participation of Latvian President V. Zatlers at the gala dinner organised by President of the United States of America B. Obama on the occasion of the signing of the new START treaty
- 29 – 31 August 2010 – state visit by Latvian President V. Zatlers

### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Latvia increased by 9.78% from CZK 3 895 million in 2009 to CZK 4 275 million in 2010. Exports increased by 17.88% (2009: CZK 2 986 million, 2010: CZK 3 520 million) and imports decreased by 16.85% (2009: CZK 908 million, 2010: CZK 755 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 2 764 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: power-driven railway and tramway passenger rolling stock; motor vehicles for the carriage of passengers; television sets; chemical products, such as polyethylene; organic detergents; non-coniferous wood; telephone sets; motor vehicle parts and accessories; waste food and modified pet food; pulp, paper, cardboard and pulp wadding products; boilers and central heating units; water heaters; industrial equipment for processing materials by temperature change; converters; boilers; pans and moulds for ingots and casting machines.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: waste and scrap of common non-ferrous metals; telephone sets; fish and fish products; fish flour and pellets; chemical products, such as polycarbonates; alkyd resins; construction timber; platinum and other platinum group metals; textiles woven from glass fibre; peat; synthetic filament yarn; aluminium and aluminium alloys.

### *Cultural relations*

The 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II was commemorated by a travelling exhibition entitled *Ohlasy lidické tragédie (Echoes of the Tragedy of Lidice)* and a concert to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of G. Mahler. Another extensive cultural project was the year-round travelling exhibition entitled *Legendy hradů a zámků (Legends of Castles and Manors)*.

Three historical exhibitions were presented as part of the Czech Cultural Months in Rēzekne and its district (May – June) and Czech Cultural Months in Tukums (September – October): *Ohlasy lidické tragédie (Echoes of the Tragedy of Lidice)*, *20 let od pádu železné opony (20 Years Since the Fall of Iron Curtain)*, and *1989 očima fotografů (1989 Seen by Photographers)*.

Two concerts enjoyed remarkable success. The baroque Ensemble Inégal performed on 19 June 2010 at the Tenth Bach Chamber Music Festival at the Jaunmoka Manor, which was attended by Latvian President V. Zatlers and his wife. The second concert was a performance by mezzo-soprano A. Kalivodová and pianist K. Kasíková in the Great Hall of the J. Vītols Latvian Academy of Music as part of the Independent Czechoslovak Sate Day celebrations.

V Richterová's exhibition entitled *Pocta PET lahvi (Tribute to a Plastic Bottle)* at the Latvian Museum of Natural History, which took place from 29 August to 24 October 2010, also enjoyed remarkable success.

## **Lithuania**

### ***(Republic of Lithuania)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 1 – 3 March 2010 – business mission of the Committee on European Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
- 11 March 2010 – attendance by the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic M. Vlček and Senator K. Schwarzenberg at the celebrations of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lithuania's declaration of independence
- 30 November – 2 December 2010 – working visit by a delegation of the Committee on Public Administration, Regional Development and the Environment of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

#### *Visits by the representatives of the Republic of Lithuania*

- 8 April 2010 – attendance of Prime Minister A. Kubilius at the gala dinner organised by President of the United States of America B. Obama on the occasion of the signing of the new START treaty

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Lithuania increased by 24.03% from CZK 7 076 million in 2009 to CZK 8 776 million in 2010. Exports increased by 27.48% (2009: CZK 5 102 million, 2010: CZK 6 504 million) and imports increased by 15.11% (2009: CZK 1 974 million, 2010: CZK 2 272 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 4 231 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: power-driven railway and tramway passenger rolling stock; motor vehicles for the carriage of passengers; medicaments; chemical products, such as polyethylene, organic detergents, propylene polymers; liquid and gas filtering and cleaning machines; telephone sets; wheelchairs; improved wood; boilers and central heating units; water heaters; railway and tramway preparations and accessories; faucets; valves and fixtures and fittings.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: chemical products, such as polycarbonates, alkyd resins, phosphates and polyphosphates; fertilisers; wooden furniture; fabric made from synthetic filament yarn; ferrous wire; television sets; asbestos-cement building

material; peat; plastic items and packaging; faucets, valves and fixtures and fittings; cells and batteries; food products, such as cheeses, quark; floor coverings.

### *Cultural relations*

An increase in interest in Czech culture in the various regions of Lithuania and the related greater intensity of development of cooperation between Lithuania and Czech municipalities imprinted a new dynamic on Czech-Lithuanian cultural relations in the past year. In addition to the embassy, The A. Dvořák Society and the Lithuanian-Czech Society contributed to the promotion of Czech culture in Lithuania.

Popular pipe-organ concerts by Czech organists (e.g., performances by P. Kohout and K. Málková at the August festival *Kristupo vasaros festivalis* in Vilnius) and the travelling exhibition *The Czech Best...*, which impressed visitors in the municipalities of Elektrėnai, Trakai, Zarasai and Biržai, enjoyed great success.

A presentation of the work of the Czech provincial reconstruction team in Afghanistan's Logar province was held in February, and the documentary film entitled *Moc bezmocných* (*The Power of Powerless*) was screened on the occasion of 17 November national holiday (Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day).

Czech Film Month was held in November on the topic of the Holocaust organised in cooperation with The Centre for Tolerance of the Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum.

D. Bukelevičiūtė's book entitled *The Dynamics of Bilateral Relations of Lithuania and Czechoslovakia between 1918 and 1939*, whose official presentation in the attendance of the author at the Embassy of the Czech Republic took place in May, became a significant contribution to the study of the history of Czech-Lithuanian relations.

## **Norway**

### ***(Kingdom of Norway)***

#### *Other meetings*

- 13 April 2010 – Washington – meeting between Prime Minister J. Fischer and Norwegian Prime Minister J. Stoltenberg on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Norway increased by 32.81% from CZK 24 957 million in 2009 to CZK 33 146 million in 2010. Exports increased by 21.16% (2009: CZK 10 981 million, 2010: CZK 13 305 million) and imports increased by 41.96% (2009: CZK 13 976 million, 2010: CZK 19 841 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK – 6 536 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger automobiles; boilers and mechanical appliances; TV image and audio recording equipment; toys; sporting goods; ceramic products; furniture; iron and steel; plastics and plastic products; clothing and accessories.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: fuel; oils; aluminium and aluminium products; iron and steel; weapons; ammunition; fish and shellfish; boilers and equipment; paper and cardboard; chemical metal compounds.

### *Cultural relations*

The following is a list of some of the most important cultural events: screening of the documentary film entitled *Občan Havel (Citizen Havel)* and *Přesídlenci (The Displaced)*; the exhibition entitled *Vyvalte sudy – Roll Out the Barrels* on the historical development of the brewing industry since the early 10<sup>th</sup> century held in May and presentation of the publication entitled *Norská inspirace – kultura občanského života v česko–norském dialogu (Norwegian Inspiration – Culture of Civic Life in the Czech-Norwegian Dialogue)* held in December; screening of the animated film *Fimfárum 2* for children in September and the children's art competition *Lidice* in November.

## **Sweden**

### ***(Kingdom of Sweden)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 13 – 15 May 2010 – working visit by the President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic P. Sobotka (participation in the conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments)
- 8 – 12 June 2010 – working visit by a delegation of the Committee on Public Administration, Regional Development and the Environment of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

#### *Economic relations*

Sweden is one of the Czech Republic's most important trading partners. With regard to the balance of foreign trade, the Czech Republic registers the sixth largest surplus of Czech imports over exports.

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Sweden increased by 22.59% from CZK 51 734 million in 2009 to CZK 63 421 million in 2010. Exports increased by 23.93% (2009: CZK 33 215 million, 2010: CZK 41 163 million) and imports increased by 20.19% (2009: CZK 18 519 million, 2010: CZK 22 258 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 18 905 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: boilers and mechanical appliances; passenger automobiles; TV image and audio recording equipment; iron and steel; furniture; lighting; toys and sporting goods; optical instruments.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: mechanical appliances; passenger automobiles; TV image and audio recording and reproduction equipment; paper and cardboard; pharmaceutical products; aluminium and aluminium products.

### *Cultural relations*

In February, the Czech Republic was represented for the first time in history at the prestigious Scandinavian alternative art trade fair *SUPERMARKET* by A. M. 180 Collective Gallery.

In March, the Czech Centre presented the project entitled *Filmové jaro (Film Spring)*, as part of which, for example, the films *Sedmikrásky (Daisies)* and *Živý bič (The living whip)* were screened. The Czech Centre, in cooperation with the Swedish Film Institute, presented a Miloš Forman retrospective in Malmö and Göteborg. V. Havel's plays *Audience (Audience)* and *Odcházení (Leaving)* premiered in March at the Stockholm Municipal Theatre.

On 1 June 2010, a full-day presentation of the Czech Republic in the form of an "open house" at the Czech Centre took place in cooperation with the CzechTourism and CzechTrade. As part of this event, an exhibition of the paintings of J. Němec and a presentation of Czech industry, industrial design and attractive tourist destinations in the Czech Republic were held, for example.

J. Hřebejk's film *Kawasakiho růže (Kawasaki's Rose)* opened already the third season of the Czech Centre's Film Club in September. The Czech Centre in Stockholm, in cooperation with the Jewish Museum, the Polish Institute, Museum of Czech Literature, and The F. Kafka Society, presented an exhibition devoted to F. Kafka and B. Schulz on 4 October 2010 at the Jewish Museum in Stockholm.

## **3. The Czech Republic's Relationship with West European Countries**

West European countries (Belgium, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Portugal, San Mario, Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Spain, the Vatican, and Great Britain) are the Czech Republic's traditional partners. Mutual relations in the year in question were again very intensive, determined primarily by membership of the Czech Republic and west European countries in the European Union and NATO.

The high number of bilateral visits by foreign governments, ministries and parliaments remained highly dynamic even after the end of the Czech Republic's presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2009. Numerous visits to the countries of Western Europe by representative of the Czech Republic took place.



Close cooperation between the Czech Republic and the countries of Western Europe occurs in the form of open mutual dialogue about current European and world policy issues, the search for mutual understanding in areas where differing opinions are held and a united stance in those areas where agreement is shared.

## **Belgium**

### ***(Kingdom of Belgium)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 23 February 2010 – working visit by Minister for European Affairs J. Chmiel
- 15 March 2010 – working visit by Minister of Finance E. Janota

#### *Economic relations*

Belgium is the tenth biggest importer of Czech products. The balance of foreign trade shows that the Czech Republic's 7<sup>th</sup> largest trade surplus.

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Belgium increased by 9.3% from CZK 96 633 million in 2009 to CZK 105 632 million in 2010. Exports increased by 12.3% (2009: CZK 55 351 million, 2010: CZK 62 172 million) and imports increased by 5.3% (2009: CZK 41 282 million, 2010: CZK 43 460 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 18 712 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger motor vehicles; motor vehicle parts and accessories; automatic data processing equipment; seats; air-conditioning systems; pharmaceutical products other than medicaments; industrial refrigerators and freezers; storage units; knives and cutting instruments for machinery and mechanical equipment; pulp, paper and paperboard products; medical, surgical and veterinary instruments; telephone sets (include cell phones); tyres for passenger vehicles; glass; toys.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: glycosides; passenger motor vehicles; plastics; zinc-plated flat rolled products; medicaments; cut, polished and sheet glass; pork; carpets; motor vehicle parts and accessories; pulp, paper and paperboard products; road tractors; trailers; artificial guts; tyres for passenger vehicles; glass products.

#### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Protocol to the Convention between the Czech Republic and the Kingdom of Belgium for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital, Brussels, 15 March 2010
- Programme on Cooperation between the Czech Republic and Flanders for 2011-2013, Prague, 7 December 2010

- Working Cooperation Programme for 2011-2013 to the Cooperation Agreement between Wallonia and the French Community of Belgium, of the one part, and the Czech Republic, of the other part, Brussels, 14 December 2010.

### *Cultural relations*

In 2010, 65 events were organised by the Czech Centre in the Kingdom of Belgium, either independently or in cooperation with various partners. The following were among the most important: exhibitions of the works of F. Skála (at the Museum of Comics and in the Czech Centre) and J. Slíva (the *TASTES* festival in Boechaut and the *Vue sur un pays* festival); exhibition of the marionettes of the Museum in Plzeň; exhibition of the works of Vendula and Petra Císařovská entitled *Střed na okraji (Centre on the Edge)*; an exhibition of the works of F. Hodonský; an exhibition organised by the Plzeň Region at the Czech Centre entitled *Zachraňme Šumavu (Let's Save Šumava)*; an exhibition organised by the Ústí nad Labem Region in the European Parliament and the Czech Centre, in cooperation with the Jewish Museum in Prague, the Czech Centre and the newly established European Shoah Legacy Institute, entitled *Neztratit víru v člověka... Protektorát očima židovských dětí (Don't Lose Faith in Mankind... The Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia Through the Eyes of Jewish Children)*, accompanied by films on the fate of the Jewish inhabitants in the Czech lands during the World War II.

The Czech-Serbian concert at the Czech Centre and the traditional Christmas concert at Brussels' Notre-Dame au Sablon Church, in which the Gentlemen Singer Choir from Hradec Králové performed in 2010 (the concert was organised in cooperation with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Belgium, the Czech Centre in Brussels and Prague House – EU Delegation of the Capital City of Prague), were among the most important concerts.

The performance by the group Blue Effect at the Molière Theatre in Brussels and two concerts at the Czech Centre – Trio Prokop (in cooperation with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Belgium, the Plzeň Region, and expat association Krajanský spolek Beseda) and D. Dorůžka – were contemporary music concerts of particular interest.

## **France**

### ***(French Republic)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 14 – 15 January 2010 – business mission of Minister for Human Rights M. Kocáb at the invitation of the Institute for Political Studies in Dijon; subsequent meeting with High Commissioner for Active Solidarity Against Poverty M. Hirsch in Paris
- 18 – 24 April 2010 – a delegation of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture, Human Rights and Petitions the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

- 26 – 30 April 2010 – delegation of the Standing Commission on Rural Development of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
- 10 – 11 May 2010 – working visit of Prime Minister J. Fischer
- 5 – 6 September 2010 – working visit by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg

### *Visits by the representatives of France*

- 14 – 15 October 2010 – visit by Secretary of State for European Affairs P. Lellouche

### *Economic relations*

France is the Czech Republic's fifth biggest trading partner according to volume of foreign trade turnover. France is the fourth biggest importer of Czech products and the fourth biggest exporter to the Czech Republic. The balance of foreign trade shows the Czech Republic's fourth largest trade surplus.

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with France increased by 7.5% from CZK 199 592 million in 2009 to CZK 214 621 million in 2010. Exports increased by 10.6% (2009: CZK 122 810 million, 2010: CZK 135 518 million) and imports increased by 3% (2009: CZK 76 783 million, 2010: CZK 79 103 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 56 415 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger motor vehicles; motor vehicle parts and accessories; automatic data processing equipment; television sets; passenger motor vehicles; storage units; fuel pumps; piston engine lubricants; air-conditioning systems; industrial refrigerators and freezers; engines; alternating current generators; audio/visual recording disks; seats; air pumps and compressors.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: motor vehicle parts and accessories; passenger motor vehicles; medicaments; flat rolled alloy steel products, tyres for passenger vehicles; plastic items; freight motor vehicles; perfumes and toilet water; medicaments containing hormones and derivatives (not antibiotics); internal combustion piston engine parts; electrical apparatus for engine starting and ignition.

### *Cultural relations*

In 2010, the Czech Embassy of the Czech Republic in Paris took part in preparing two Czech culture shows. The first in Nantes, where Days of Czech Culture were held from 2 – 15 March 2010 ; the second in Chablis and Auxerre, where Czech Days were held from 3 – 5 December 2010 at the initiative of the Dialogue Européen association. Of the presentations of the travelling exhibitions, the following are especially worthy of mention: the exhibition entitled *Fenomén Martinů a česká hudba (The Martinů Phenomenon and Czech Music)*, held from 8 – 26 March 2010 and organised by Université Nancy 2; and an exhibition about K. Čapek, organised by the

expat association in Meyrargues and the Czech lecturer at Université de Provence and which travelled almost without interruption from October to December across university libraries and bookstore around Marseille. In the area of film, the most important was a retrospective of the films of J. Švankmajer in the Forum des Images in Paris on 26 –31 October 2010.

The gala evening of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Paris for Czech students studying in France on the occasion of the anniversary of November 17<sup>th</sup> is now a traditional cultural event. This year's honoured guest was writer I. Klíma, who debated with the students. The embassy's traditional advent concert took place at St. Ludwig's Cathedral in Les Invalides in Paris, with the ensemble Schola Gregoriana Pregensis, headed by D. Eben, performing there. On 15 December 2010, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Paris, in cooperation with the Czech Centre, Czech School without Borders, Czech Tourism, and Sokol Paris, organised an all-day programme for children and adults on the theme *Czech Christmas* on the festive premises of the town hall of the 6th arrondissement of Paris.

The first seminar for a group of Czech teachers, organised by the French Shoah in cooperation with the Terezín Monument was held on 21 – 24 June 2010. The aim of this seminar was to acquaint Czech teachers with the French perspective on, and methods use to teach, the Holocaust and genocide in general, including the legal aspects.

Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout awarded the 2010 Gratias Agit award for spreading the good name of the Czech Republic abroad to two French Lyceums with historical Czech sections – Carnot in Dijon and Alphonse Daudet in Nîmes. The gala presentation of the award, attended by the headmasters of both institutions, took place in Prague on 30 April 2010.

## **Great Britain**

### ***(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 28 January 2010 – working visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout – participation in an international conference on Afghanistan
- 22 – 26 February 2010 – visit by a delegation of the Budget Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
- 4 July 2010 – working visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout – participation in a reverent event in Cholmondeley
- 18 – 21 October 2010 – visit by a delegation of the Committee on Health and Social Policy of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
- 19 – 20 October 2010 – working visit by President V. Klaus

### *Visits by the representatives of the United Kingdom*

- 20 – 23 March 2010 – visit by the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall
- 14 – 15 December 2010 – working visit by Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs W. Hague and Minister of State for Europe D. Lidington

### *Economic relations*

Great Britain is the Czech Republic's tenth biggest trading partner according to foreign trade turnover. Great Britain is the fifth largest importer of Czech products. The balance of foreign trade with the Great Britain shows the Czech Republic's third biggest trade surplus.

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Great Britain increased by 14.53% from CZK 148 811 million in 2009 to CZK 170 432 million in 2010. Exports increased by 15.44% (2009: CZK 105 875 million, 2010: CZK 122 227million) and imports increased by 12.27% (2009: CZK 42 936 million, 2010: CZK 48 205 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 74 022 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: data processing equipment; passenger automobiles; colour televisions; storage units; parts of data processing equipment; electricity; automobile parts; toys; telecommunications equipment; pumps; tyres; optical media; tanks; confectionery.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: electricity; parts of data processing equipment; medicaments; catalytic converters; passenger automobiles; anioactive preparations; semiconductor devices; processors; impregnated textiles; memories; cowhide; telephone sets; shaft parts.

### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Establishment of enhanced policy dialogue between the Czech Republic and Great Britain, in particular between the foreign ministries, December 2010.

### *Cultural relations*

One of the important events that the Embassy of the Czech Republic in London helped to organise was the International Holocaust Remembrance Day commemoration on 2 February 2010. In connection with the May parliamentary elections, the Czech Embassy organised a garden party on 29 May 2010, which included a competition on the best estimate of the election results.

On 10 June 2010, at the initiative of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in London, a lecture by P. Koura of Charles University's Faculty of Arts was organised. This lecture was devoted to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sentencing of M. Horáková.

Among the most important undertakings in 2010 was the official establishment of a doctoral scholarship in the field of Czech studies named after former US Secretary of State M. Albright, which took place in her attendance on 9 September 2010. The next day, M. Albright was

the main speaker at the symposium entitled *The Ties that Bind*, which was organised by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in London, in cooperation with UCL/SSEES (University College London/School of Slavonic and East European Studies), on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the involvement of foreign pilots in the Battle of Britain and establishment of the Czechoslovak government in exile in London.

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in London also took part in the *Czech Beer Festival* project, which was organised in November by the London branch of CzechTourism, by arranging for V. Merta to perform at Porterhouse in Covent Garden. In addition to performing at the Czech Beer Festival, V. Merta also met with the students of UCL/SSEES (University College London/School of Slavonic and East European Studies).

On 9 December 2010, the embassy, together with London's Emmy Destinn Foundation, organised a benefit concert on the occasion of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the most famous Czech singer. The concert was given in memory of Sir C. Mackerras, an untiring promoter of, and expert on, Czech music who died on 14 July 2010.

## **Ireland**

### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 13 – 16 June 2010 – visit by a delegation of the Committee on European Affairs of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Ireland increased by 28.82% from CZK 19 495 million in 2009 to CZK 25 114 million in 2010. Exports increased by 26.65% (2009: CZK 4 218 million, 2010: CZK 5 342 million) and imports increased by CZK 29.42% (2009: CZK 15 277 million, 2010: CZK 19 772 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK -1 430 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger automobiles; consumer electronics; tobacco and tobacco substitutes; stone, plaster, cement and talc products; plastics and plastic products; aluminium and aluminium products; pharmaceutical products.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: mechanical appliances, TV image and audio recording equipment; pharmaceutical products; dyes, pigments and paints; cosmetics; optical instruments; printing products; meat; beverages.

### *Cultural relations*

The most extensive presentation organised by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Dublin was the October exhibition of the PET-art of V. Richterová at Cork Vision Centre entitled *Genie of the Bottle (Džin i Génius z láhve)*. In mid November, Dublin's Association of Music Lovers organized a

concert tour for virtuoso violinist I. Ženatý and pianist S. Bogunia in Waterford, Tullynally and Dublin.

In 2010, Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin utilised grants from the project entitled Support for Czech Language and Literature Abroad for courses taught by lecturers from the Czech Republic. In October, at the initiation of The Library Association of Ireland, a group of directors of Czech regional scientific libraries undertook a study trip to Ireland.

## **Italy**

### ***(Republic of Italy)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 17 – 18 February 2010 – business mission of the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic M. Vlček
- 25 – 29 March 2010 – working visit by the Minister of Finance E. Janota tied to his participation at a workshop in the north Italian town of Cernobbio
- 16 April 2010 – visit by the President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic P. Sobotka tied to his participation at the 12th meeting of the Association of European Senators
- 2 – 9 June 2010 – business mission by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture, Human Rights and Petitions of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
- 8 – 9 July 2010 – attendance of President V. Klaus at the International Economic Forum in Sienna (Santa Colomba)
- 15 –16 November 2010 – official visit of the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic M. Němcová

#### *Economic relations*

Italy is the Czech Republic's sixth biggest trading partner according to volume of foreign trade turnover. Italy is the seventh biggest importer of Czech goods and the sixth exporter to the Czech Republic. The balance of foreign trade between the two countries showed the Czech Republic's ninth largest trade surplus.

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Italy increased by 13.9% from CZK 180 614 million in 2009 to CZK 205 767 million in 2010. Exports increased by 18.8% (2009: CZK 94 407 million, 2010: CZK 112 142 million) and imports increased by 8.6% (2009: CZK 86 206 million, 2010: CZK 93 625 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 18 517 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger motor vehicles; television sets; automatic data processing equipment; cigarettes; industrial refrigerators and freezers; air-

conditioning systems; motor vehicle parts and accessories; rods and poles made from iron or steel; internal combustion piston engine parts; engines; alternating current generators; aggregates; tyres for passenger vehicles.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: motor vehicle parts and accessories; medicaments; conduits; iron or steel pipes and hollow profile shapes (sections); tyres for passenger vehicles; insulated wire; cables and other electric conductors; passenger motor vehicles; faucets, valves, fixtures and fittings; plastic items; wine from fresh grapes; freight motor vehicles; polycarbonates; polyesters; plastic sheeting; fresh/dried fruit.

### *Cultural relations*

Negotiations on the text of the new Cultural Agreement between the Czech Republic and Italy continued during 2010. The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Rome focused on the formal support of major cultural projects in 2010, with the most important being the culturally historic project Vale di Ledro and the 67<sup>th</sup> Venice International Film Festival where J. Švankmajer's film *Přežít svůj život* (*Surviving Life – Theory and Practice*) was screened. The autumn performance of Czech musicians at the *Ascolta la Ciociaria* music festival based on cooperation between the provinces of the Italian Frosinone region and Prague's Jaroslav Ježek Conservatory was another event worthy of mention. Support for the cultural projects of expat associations and partnership projects between Italian and Czech municipalities continued during the year.

Effective 1 July 2010, the headquarters of the Czech Centre moved from Rome to Milan.

## **Luxembourg**

### ***(Grand Duchy of Luxembourg)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 17 September 2010 – trip by Governor of the Czech National Bank M. Singer to the inauguration of the joint silver commemorative coin issued by the Czech National bank and the Luxembourg Central Bank for the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the marriage of John of Luxembourg (Jan Lucemburský) and Elisabeth of Bohemia (Eliška Přemyslovna)

#### *Visits by the representatives of Luxembourg*

- 1 September 2010 – visit by Governor of the Luxembourg Central Bank Y. Mersch to Křivoklát Castle for the inauguration of the joint silver commemorative coin issued by the Czech National bank and the Luxembourg Central Bank for the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the marriage of John of Luxembourg (Jan Lucemburský) and Elisabeth of Bohemia (Eliška Přemyslovna)
- 24 – 25 November 2010 – working visit by Henri, Grand Duke of Luxembourg



### *Other meetings*

- 13 June 2010 – attendance of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout and Minister for European Affairs J. Chmiel at the celebrations of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the first Schengen Agreement

### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Luxembourg increased by 33.6% from CZK 5 325 million in 2009 to CZK 7 118 million in 2010. Exports increased by 27% (2009: CZK 2 364 million, 2010: CZK 3 004 million) and imports increased by 39% (2009: CZK 2 961 million, 2010: CZK 4 114 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK -1 110 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: synthetic yarn; special textile products; synthetic rubber; motor vehicles for the carriage of passengers; iron or steel products; faucets, valves, fixtures and fittings; angles; inorganic chemical substances; hydroxides and peroxides; centrifugal pumps; aluminium and aluminium alloys.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: flat-rolled zinc-plated products; faucet and valve parts for piping; boilers; hot-rolled profile shapes (sections); special textile products; paper; twisted wire; ropes; cables; automobile and freight automobile tyres; batteries and rechargeable batteries; inorganic chemical substances; floor coverings; natural rubber; knives and cutting instruments for machinery and mechanical equipment.

### *Cultural relations*

In 2010, a number of events commemorating the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the accession of the Luxembourg dynasty to the Czech throne took place in Luxembourg and the Czech Republic in 2010: an exhibition of photographs and medals entitled *Jan a Eliška (John and Elisabeth)* was held in February and two conferences of historians focused on this event were organised for May and the end of September (Czech historians attended both colloquia). In cooperation with both countries, a stamp was issued in June and a commemorative coin in September. In November, the inauguration of the exhibition entitled *Královský sňatek (Royal Wedding)*, prepared in cooperation with Czech and Luxembourgish institutions, took place at Prague's "U Kamenného zvonu" ("At the Stone Bell"). At the end of the year, Czech Television filmed a documentary entitled *Dědictví, věno a kořist (Inheritance, Dowry, and Quarry)* in Luxembourg, and (in November) premises were provided for the exhibition entitled *Král, který létal (The King Who Could Fly)*, by which the Ostrava City Museum tied on to the Prague exhibition.

In cooperation with expatriates, a Czech film festival (focused on the work of V. Chytilová) was held in the spring and the CinÉst Central European Film Festival in the autumn (about 30 films were shown in club cinemas across Luxembourg). Art exhibitions were also organised: an exhibition of graphic art and paintings (April) and an exhibition of photography and lace (May). In

June, a concert entitled *Nešpory (Vespers)* by the ensemble Mosel Voices was organised at the Church of St. Josef in the capital city. The performance of the band The Tap Tap of the Jedlička Institute in Prague (at the end of June/early July, Philharmonic) was met with extraordinary success. The embassy took part in or supported a number of other events: it provided support for the work of European Schools, supplied books for expatriates, provided materials about the Czech Republic to various entities, organised a stand at *Relais pour la vie (Relax for Life)*, an anti-cancer event, and so on.

## **Malta**

### ***(Republic of Malta)***

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Malta increased by 30.5% from CZK 571 million in 2009 to CZK 746 million in 2010. Exports increased by 41.7% (2009: CZK 324 million, 2010: CZK 459 million) and imports increased by 15.8% (2009: CZK 248 million, 2010: CZK 287 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 172 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: printed circuit boards; passenger motor vehicles; razors and razor blades; shaving preparations; cosmetics and toiletries; automatic data processing equipment; industrial and laboratory furnaces; board games; telephone sets (including cell phones); lamps; lighting; storage units; rubber mixtures; wheat gluten; industrial refrigerators and freezers; continuous lifts and conveyor belts; ropes; cables; woven bandages.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: medicaments; electronic integrated circuits; locksmith products; safes; reinforced security cabinets; hard rubber; plastic items; medicaments containing antibiotics; special textile products; medical, surgical and veterinary instruments; men's/boys' trousers; plastic sheeting; drawing/drafting instruments; check-valves; telecommunications equipment; tricycles; toys; printed circuit boards.

#### *Cultural relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic presented itself on Malta by co-organising a concert and subsequent social and cultural evening in the framework of the Freedom Day and European Union Day celebrations. The Czech Evening took place on 7 September 2010 in cooperation with Czech expat associations on Malta on the occasion of the visit by V. Eisenbruk, Commissioner for Czech Communities Living Abroad of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Czech pianist J. Pazour gave a concert.

## **Monaco**

### ***(Principality of Monaco)***

#### *Economic relations*

Records have not been kept of Monaco's share on the Czech Republic's total foreign trade turnover since the Czech Republic joined the European Union. Instead, it is included in the overall statistics for France's foreign territories. In recent years, the Czech Republic's economic relations with Monaco have been stimulated mainly by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Paris and the Czech honorary consulate in Monaco.

## **The Netherlands**

### ***(Kingdom of the Netherlands)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 3 – 5 March 2010 – working visit by a delegation of the Standing Commission for Media of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic.

#### *Economic relations*

The Netherlands are the Czech Republic's ninth biggest trading partner according to foreign trade turnover. The Netherlands are also the eighth biggest importer of Czech products and the Czech Republic's ninth biggest importer. The balance of trade with the Netherlands shows the Czech Republic's eighth largest trade surplus.

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with the Netherlands increased by 15.43% from CZK 150 298 million in 2009 to CZK 173 485 million in 2010. Exports increased by 15.38% (2009: CZK 83 260 million, 2010: CZK 96 068 million) and imports increased by 15.48% (2009: CZK 67 038 million, 2010: CZK 77 417 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 18 651 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: mechanical engineering, including the automobile industry; data processing equipment; packaging material; steel products; chemistry; textiles.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: mechanical engineering, including the automobile industry; information technology; medicaments; packaging; steel; chemistry; textiles; raw materials (import of coal).

#### *Cultural relations*

The important events that the Czech Centre in Rotterdam organised in 2010 included the following: an international debate and workshops on women in art entitled *Ladies only?*, which was held on 8 March 2010 in Amsterdam; presentations and workshops for Czech companies in the Netherlands on the topic of Dutch law for businesses and entrepreneurs; and an international

literary evening with R. Denemarková was held as part of the *Night of Literature*, which was held in Rotterdam in June.

V. Jirásek's photography exhibition *Industria*, which was held in Amsterdam in July on the occasion of the GRID 2010 photography biennale, drew many visitors. In October, Icon Orchestra performed and Gustav Machatý's film *Eroticon* was screened at film clubs in Delft, Amsterdam and Utrecht.

## **Portugal**

### ***(Portuguese Republic)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 8 – 11 March 2010 – working visit of the Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
- 26 – 29 April 2010 – visit by a delegation of the Standing Commission on Privacy Protection of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
- 27 September 2010 – visit to Lisbon by a delegation of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic to attend a parliamentary meeting on the future of the European External Action Service
- 19 – 20 November 2010 – NATO summit in Lisbon, delegation of the Czech Republic headed by President V. Klaus, also attended by Prime Minister P. Nečas, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg, Minister of Defence A. Vondra and Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic V. Pícek

#### *Visits by the representatives of Portugal*

- 14 – 16 April – state visit by Portuguese President António Aníbal Cavaco Silva

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Portugal increased by 66.2% from CZK 811 million in 2009 to CZK 1348 million in 2010. Exports increased by 81.5% (2009: CZK 416 million, 2010: CZK 755 million) and imports increased by 50.1% (2009: CZK 395 million, 2010: CZK 593 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 162 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger automobiles; radio navigational aid apparatus; processing units; televisions; steel motor vehicle parts; brakes, tyres, speed indicators (speedometers) for vehicles; electronic capacitor parts; seamless pipes.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: tobacco; automobile sound systems; tyres; tyre cord fabric; electronic capacitors; radio cassette players; bleached wood pulp; seat parts; medicaments; brakes.

### *Cultural relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic presented itself in Portugal chiefly in the area of music, theatre and film. The beginning of the year was devoted to the anniversary of the birth of B. Martinů, whose compositions were on the programmes of the most prominent cultural institutions. B. Martinů's Duets could also be heard at the Instituto Camões the occasion of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. A part of the Monstra Animated Film Festival was devoted to Czech film, with a retrospective of the works of K. Zeman, M. Pavlátová (a guest of the festival) and J. Barta being screened and marionettes from Czech workshops being exhibited. Czech puppet theatre was represented at the FIMFA International Puppet Festival in Lisbon by Alfa Theatre with its *The Three Musketeers*. V. Havel's *Audience* was performed and a conference on Czech literature and culture took place as part of Zona Praga (Days of Czech Culture) at the University of Lisbon.

## **San Marino**

### ***(Republic of San Marino)***

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with San Marino decreased by 21.5% from CZK 53 million in 2009 to CZK 42 million in 2010. Exports decreased by 9.3% (2009: CZK 40 million, 2010: CZK 37 million) while imports decreased by 58.8% (2009: CZK 13 million, 2010: CZK 5 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 31 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: mechanically propelled airplanes up to 2000 kg; glassware for households; automatic data processing equipment; textile fibre processing machines; tableware and kitchenware; industrial refrigerators and freezers; skincare preparations (non-therapeutic); iron and steel products; office machines (copy machines); men's/boys' trousers; crates; paper boxes; paperboard; lamps; lighting; ladies'/girls' trousers.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: iron and steel structures and parts of structures; ceramic products; dishwashers (not for households); bottle washers; hoses, pipes and pipelines made from soft vulcanised rubber; glassware for households; industrial refrigerators and freezers; special machine tools; medical, surgical and veterinary instruments; books; brochures; maps; globes; men's/boys' shirts; wine from fresh grapes; massage apparatus; plastic items.

## **Sovereign Military Order of Malta**

### ***(Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 28 April 2010 – working visit by Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout

- 17 November 2010 – official visit by the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic M. Němcová

#### *Visits by the representatives of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta*

- 21 April 2010 – working visit by M. Moll, Chargé de Mission of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta for Humanitarian Aid and Development, and Malteser International Secretary General I. Radtke

#### *Bilateral agreements*

- Memorandum of Understanding, Rome, 28 April 2010.

## **Spain**

### ***(Kingdom of Spain)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

Trips to Spain by representatives of the Czech Republic took place especially in connection with the Spanish presidency of the Council of the European Union:

- 12 – 14 January 2010 – business mission of Minister for European Affairs J. Chmiel – informal meeting of the ministers for the European Union
- 14 –17 January 2010 – business mission of Minister of the Environment J. Dušík – informal Council of Ministers of the Environment
- 20 –21 January 2010 – business mission of Minister of the Interior M. Pecina and Minister of Justice D. Kovářová – informal Council of Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs
- 27 January 2010 – business mission of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout – Eastern Partnership seminar entitled *Future of the EP: Challenges and Opportunities*
- 27 – 30 January 2010 – business mission of Minister of Social Affairs P. Šimerka – informal meeting of the Council of Ministers of Employment and Social Affairs
- 4 – 5 February 2010 – conference of the Chairs of the Committee on European Affairs of the EU National Parliaments
- 19 February 2010 – business mission of the Minister for Regional Development R. Vondruška – informal Council of Ministers for Regional Policy
- 24 –25 February 2010 – business mission of Minister of Defence M. Barták – informal Council of Ministers of Defence
- 24 – 26 February 2010 – conference of the chairs of the foreign committees of EU national parliaments

- 5 – 6 March 2010 – business mission by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout – informal meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs (Gymnich)
- 17 –18 March 2010 – business mission of Minister of Labour and Social Affairs P. Šimerka – conference on the basic rights of employees
- 14 –15 April 2010 – business mission of Minister for Regional Development R. Vondruška – informal Council of Ministers for Tourism
- 14 – 16 April 2010 – conference of the chairs of the finance and budget committees of EU national parliaments
- 15 – 17 April 2010 – 10<sup>th</sup> inter-parliamentary meetings on renewable energy and energy efficiency
- 15 – 18 April 2010 – business mission of Government of the Czech National Bank – informal Council of Ministers of the Economy and Finance (ECOFIN)
- 28 –30 April 2010 – meeting of the chairs of equal opportunity committees of EU national parliaments
- 17 –18 May 2010 – business mission by President V. Klaus and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout at the EU–LAC Summit
- 20 – 21 May 2010 – Conference of the Presidents of the Supreme Courts and General Prosecutors of the European Union
- 25 – 27 May 2010 – business mission by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout at the 18<sup>th</sup> EU–ASEAN Ministerial Meeting
- 30 May – 1 June 2010 – conference of the European affairs committees of the EU national parliaments
- 30 May – 1 June 2010 – business mission of Minister of Agriculture J. Šebesta – informal Council of Ministers of Agriculture
- 7 – 9 June 2010 – business mission of Minister of Transport G. Slamečka
- 23 – 25 June 2010 – meeting of the chairs of labour and immigration committees of EU national parliaments

### *Economic relations*

Spain is one of the Czech Republic's most important trading partners. The Czech Republic's balance of trade with Spain shows the Czech Republic's ninth largest trade surplus.

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Spain increased by 14.1% from CZK 7 053 million in 2009 to CZK 8 050 million in 2010. Exports increased by 5.8% (2009: CZK

3 978 million, 2010: CZK 4 210 million) and imports increased by 24.8% (2009: CZK 3 075 million, 2010: 3 840 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 370 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger automobiles; processing units; parts of compression-ignition engines; lighting equipment for motor vehicles; spark-ignition engines; televisions; part of bodies for motor vehicles; brakes; seat parts; parts of air conditioning equipment.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: airplanes; medicaments; passenger automobiles; freight automobiles; parts of motor vehicles bodies; tyres; brakes; tomatoes; motor vehicle parts; transmissions.

### *Cultural relations*

In 2010, a number of events were organised jointly in Spain by the Czech Centre and the Embassy of the Czech Republic, of which the following can be deemed the most prominent:

- May – joint concert of the Ondráš Military Artistic Ensemble and the Chamartín Symphonic Orchestra (Brno, Prague, León, Madrid)
- October – theatre presentation *Obludárium (Monsterium)* of the Forman Brothers Theatre (Girona, Catalonia)
- November – retrospective of the films of J. Švankmajer and an exhibition of the works of Eva and Jan Švankmajer (as part of the MUCES international festival of European film in Segovia), with a lifetime achievement award being presented to J. Švankmajer at the gala dinner
- December – premiere of M. Uhde's play *Zázrak v černém domě (Miracle in the Red House)* at Teatre de Ponent in Granollers, with the play's author attending the premiere in person
- December – tour of the Prague Symphony Orchestra and the Czech National Choir (Zaragoza, Lleida, Castellón and Murcia)
- December – two week guest appearance by the ballet of the National Theatre in Madrid with its untraditional production of *The Nutcracker*

All seven scholarships for the Summer School for Slavic Studies offered under the Programme of Cooperation in Culture, Education, Youth and Sport were made use of and another six replacements accepted. All three scholarships for post-graduate studies were also handed out.



## **Vatican**

### ***(Holy See)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 29 March 2010 – working visit of Minister of Finance E. Janota
- 28 April 2010 – working visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout
- 9 – 10 November 2010 – official participation of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg and First Lady L. Klausová in the National Pilgrimage to the Holy See
- 17 November 2010 – official visit of Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic M. Němcová

#### *Cultural relations*

On 14 April 2010, a commemorative evening took place on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the violent liquidation of male religious orders by the communist state security in former Czechoslovakia. The co-organisers of the evening – Ambassadors of the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic to the Holy See P. Vošalík and J. Dravecký – read letters from the prime ministers of their respective countries to the guests.

On 28 April 2010, a joint gala concert of the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of renewed diplomatic ties between the Czech and Slovak Republic (Czechoslovakia) and the Holy See took place at the Papal Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore. The boys choir Boni Pueri and Slovak baritone F. Balún performed at the concert. The concert was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout, State Secretary of the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs D. Štrofová, and Mons. D. Mamberti, Secretary for Relations with States in the Roman Curia (Holy See).

On 30 April 2010, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout awarded the Gratias Agit Award to Cardinal G. Coppa, former Apostolic Nuncio to the CSFR and CR.

On 21 October 2010, the Embassy of the Czech Republic to the Holy See, in cooperation with the Prague Archbishopric and the Czech Historical Institute in Rome, organised a commemorative evening on the occasion of the 610<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Jan of Jenštejn, Archbishop of Prague, at the Basilica of St. Prexedes in Rome, where he is buried. The commemorative evening was a suitable opportunity to remember all those who were forced to suffer for their faith and who were oppressed by the state during their lifetime. Thus, the theme for the evening was freedom of religion as a fundamental human right. The evening was under the

auspices of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg and Bishop of Prague Mons. D. Duka.

The highlight of the visit to the Holy See by a delegation of the Plzeň Region on 15 December 2010 was an evening concert at the Basilica of San Marco on Piazza Venezia, where J.J. Ryba's Czech Christmas Mass was performed by the orchestra of the Music Conservatory of Plzeň, the Čerchovan Choir from Domažlice and a number of soloists. At the end of the concert, Archbishop of Plzeň F. Radkovský commemorated Plzeň native Cardinal J. Beran.

On 11 May 2010, Deputy Minister of Education, Youth and Sport met with Archbishop Mons. G. Ravasi, President of the Pontifical Council for Culture. The meeting was about protecting cultural (including ecclesiastical) heritage, the Holy See's interest in contact with Czech artists, and the dialogue of science, theology and faith.

#### **4. The Czech Republic's Relations with East European Countries**

East European countries are traditionally one of the areas of priority of Czech foreign policy. Active bilateral relations here are tied to the Eastern Partnership project. As the importance of the region goes beyond bilateral relations (e.g., energy corridors, frozen conflicts), bilateral relationship should be seen from the perspective of multilateral forums, especially the Czech Republic's membership in the European Union.

The Czech Republic has a long-running interest in developing partnerships with the *Russian Federation*. Since autumn 2010, there has been a resurgence in bilateral relations; appointment of new ambassadors to Moscow and Prague in the autumn of 2010 also helped to activate dialogue. Cooperation developed intensively even on the economic level, with the bilateral Partnership for Modernisation declaration, whose wording began to be drafted in 2010, also contributing to this.

##### *Countries of the Eastern Partnership*

In 2010, the contractual relationship between the Czech Republic and the *Republic of Armenia* greatly solidified. Agreements that contributed to the deepening of mutual relations were signed, especially an agreement in the field of culture and education, an aviation agreement and a readmission agreement.

In early 2010, the Czech Republic opened its embassy in Baku, which confirmed strengthening relations with the *Republic of Azerbaijan*. The Czech Republic considers Azerbaijan to be an important supplier of raw materials and a key partner.

Active dialogue with the *Republic of Belarus* continued in 2010, both on the bilateral level and in the framework of the European Union. The presidential elections in December 2010 put an end to this trend, however, as directly after them, the Belorussian government took action against

the opposition and non-government organisations, actions which were sharply criticised by the Czech Republic and all European Union members.

The Czech Republic continued to actively support Georgia's European and Euro-Atlantic ambitions. Intensive, bilateral relations with the *Republic of Georgia* were manifested by the high frequency of visits. The Czech Republic is implementing a number of development and transformational projects in Georgia as well.

The Czech Republic supports the reform efforts being undertaken by the *Republic of Moldova* as well as this country's efforts to create European structures. Moldova remains an important target country for Czech development assistance and transformation cooperation.

The Czech Republic continued to develop bilateral economic cooperation with *Ukraine* and supported its integration into the European Union. In November, the Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Ukraine. The Czech Republic supported Czech compatriots and backed transformation and human rights projects. The Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic in Kharkiv opened on 10 December 2010.

## **Armenia**

### ***(Republic of Armenia)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 3 – 5 March 2010 – visit by a delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, headed by V. Filip
- 26 March 2010 – working visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence M. Barták
- 17 – 18 May 2010 - working visit to Armenia by Prime Minister J. Fischer.

#### *Other meetings*

- 7 May 2010 – Karlovy Vary – meeting between Prime Minister J. Fischer and Armenian Prime Minister T. Sargsian during his private trip to Karlovy Vary
- 25 September 2010 - New York – meeting between First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg with Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs E. Nalbandian on the sidelines of the 65<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly.

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Armenia increased by 25.33% from CZK 458 million in 2009 to CZK 574 million in 2010. Exports increased by 21.96% (2009: CZK 436 million, 2010: CZK 532 million) and imports increased by 90.36% (2009: CZK 22 million, 2010: CZK 43 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 489 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: pulp, paper and paperboard products and cellulose wadding; hair care products; electricity distribution and control boards and panels; food processing machinery and their parts; water turbines and their parts; oscilloscopes; spectrum analysers; automatic data processing equipment; razors and razor blades; audio/visual recording media; glassware for households and offices; soap; oral hygiene preparations.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: aluminium; aluminium alloys; ores and concentrates of molybdenum, niobium, tantalum, and titanium; ferro-alloys; spirits; textile products; glass products.

### *Transformation and development cooperation*

Trilateral projects aimed at developing social enterprise in Armenia continued in 2010.

### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia, Yerevan, 26 March 2010;
- Air Transport Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Air Transport, Yerevan, 17 May 2010;
- Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Republic of Armenia on the Exchange of Readmission of Persons Staying without Authorisation and the Implementing Protocol between the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Territorial Administration of the Republic of Armenia implementing the Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Republic of Armenia on the Exchange of Readmission of Persons Staying without Authorisation, Yerevan, 17 May 2010;
- Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Youth and Sport, Yerevan, 10 December 2010.

## **Azerbaijan**

### ***(Republic of Azerbaijan)***

In 2010, the Embassy of the Czech Republic commenced operation in the Azerbaijan capital of Baku. The Czech Embassy officially opened on 13 May 2010.

### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 13 – 14 May 2010 – official visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout
- 27 September – 1 October 2010 – business mission of the delegation of the Committee on European Affairs of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Azerbaijan increased by 71.47% from CZK 14 500 million in 2009 to CZK 24 862 million in 2010. Exports increased by 20.90% (2009: CZK 1 642 million, 2010: CZK 1 985 million) and imports increased by 77.92% (2009: CZK 12 857 million, 2010: CZK 22 877 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK – 20 892 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: freight motor vehicles; glass products; hair care products; automatic data processing equipment; construction materials for railways, tramways; products made from pulp, paper, paperboard, and cellulose wadding; razors and razor blades; lighting; tableware and kitchenware; soap; steel structures; oral hygiene preparations; electronic integrated circuits; motor vehicles for the carriage of passengers; furniture for doctor offices.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: petroleum; petroleum oils; telephone sets; fresh or dried edible nuts; storage tanks; barrels; rubber; parts and accessories for telecommunication equipment; diodes; transistors; semiconductor elements.

### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation, 30 March 2010 – entered into force
- Air Transport Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Baku, 14 May 2010.

### *Cultural relations*

On 10 - 16 December 2010, the *Festival of European Film* took place in Baku. As part of this festival, which had more than 3000 visitors, J. Svěrák's film *Vratné lahve* was screened to a very enthusiastic audience.

The second annual International Children's Art Competition *Lidice* was held in 2010. On 29 October 2010, certificates of merit were awarded to the children authors on the premises of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Baku.

The Czech Language and Cultural Centre at the Baku Slavic University was opened on 13 October 2010. The centre houses, among other things, Czech scientific literature and fiction, which was obtained thanks to the support of Charles University in Prague (Faculty of Education), the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, and the Lidice Memorial.

The Cooperation Agreement between the Faculty of Natural Science of Charles University in Prague and the Faculty of Biology of the State University in Baku was signed in October 2010.

## **Belarus**

### ***(Republic of Belarus)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 5 – 6 May 2010 – working visit of Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade M. Hovorka and Deputy Minister of Transport J. Král (attendance at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Inter-Government Commission on Industrial, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation together with representatives of other Czech public administration bodies)
- 27 May 2010 – working visit of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs V. Galuška
- 16 – 20 August 2010 – working visit of a delegation of the Standing Commission on Assistance to Worldwide Democracy of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
- 17 – 19 November 2010 – working visit by the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic D. Vodrážka and Committee Deputy Chairman J. Hamáček

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Belarus increased by 64.46% from CZK 5 042 million in 2009 to CZK 8 292 million in 2010. Exports increased by CZK 68.47% (2009: CZK 3 701 million, 2010: CZK 6 235 million) and imports increased by 53.40% (2009: CZK 1 341 million, 2010: CZK 2 056 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 4 179 million. In 2010, exports to Belarus reached the highest level since 1993.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: electric appliances; automatic data processing equipment; electricity generation equipment; electric appliances for switching circuits; cosmetic and toilet preparations; passenger automobiles; electric rotating machines and their parts; pumps and conveyors for liquids and their parts; heating and cooling equipment; plastic pipes, pipelines and hoses; food processing machinery (for industrial use only); pumps; compressors; fans; electric machinery (non-rotating) and their parts; structures, including parts made from iron, steel, and aluminium.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: artificial fertilisers; wire products, fencing; textile yarns; ferrous and steel wire; motor vehicle parts and accessories; rough or roughly squared wood; electricity distribution equipment; tractors; metal nails, screws, nuts, bolts, rivets etc.; fuel wood (not wood residue); charcoal; structures and parts thereof made from iron, steel, and aluminium; petroleum oils; woven fabrics; iron and steel bars, rods, angles, profile shapes (sections) etc.; special yarn; special fabrics.

#### *Transformation cooperation*

As part of the Transformation Cooperation Programme, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic continued its support of Belarusian NGOs and independent media. This included

the following projects: European Radio for Belarus (international project for broadcasting to Belarus from abroad, with its seat in Warsaw, which the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs has supported since 2005); Belarusian Human Rights House, with its seat in Vilnius; and the European Humanities University (EHU), with its seat in Vilnius.

#### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Protocol to the Convention between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Republic of Belarus for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital, Minsk, 11 August 2010 (agreement in force since 1998)

#### *Cultural relations*

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Minsk actively supported the conclusion of a cooperation agreement between the Prague State Opera, Brno National Theatre, and the Big Opera and Ballet Theatre in Minsk. Cooperation between the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague and the Academy of Art in Minsk developed auspiciously. In the framework of cooperation with civil society, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Minsk organised three exhibitions of Belarusian artists. The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Minsk presented the most modern teaching technology to the Belarusian State University in Minsk, a gift from the Czechoslovak Foreign Affairs Institute.

## **Georgia**

#### *Visits by the representatives of Georgia*

- 19 April 2010 – working visit by Deputy Prime Minister and State Minister for Euro-Atlantic Integration of Georgia G. Baramidze; meeting with Minister for European Affairs J. Chmiel
- 25 November 2010 – working visit of Deputy Prime Minister and State Minister for Euro-Atlantic Integration of Georgia G. Baramidze; meeting with First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg

#### *Other meetings*

- 12 February 2010 – Vancouver – meeting between Prime Minister J. Fischer and President M. Saakashvili on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games
- 13 April 2010 – Washington – meeting between Prime Minister J. Fischer and President M. Saakashvili on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit
- 24 September 2010 – New York – meeting between First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg and Georgian Minister of Foreign Affairs G. Vashadze on the sidelines of the 65<sup>th</sup> meeting of the UN General Assembly

- 25 October 2010 – Luxembourg – meeting between First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg and Georgian Minister of Foreign Affairs G. Vashadze during the ministerial meeting of the New Group of Friends of Georgia
- 20 November 2010 – Lisbon – meeting between Prime Minister P. Nečas and President M. Saakashvili on the sidelines of the NATO Lisbon Summit.

### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Georgia increased by 28.23% from CZK 1 065 million in 2009 to CZK 1 366 million in 2010. Exports increased by 31.51% (2009: CZK 870 million, 2010: CZK 1 145 million) and imports increased by 13.60% (2009: CZK 195 million, 2010: CZK 221 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 924 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: motor vehicles for the carriage of passengers; hair care products; pulp, paper and paperboard products and cellulose wadding; electric apparatus; automatic data processing equipment; electronic integrated circuits; artificial guts; motor vehicle parts and accessories; soap; razors and razor blades; oral hygiene preparations; cells and electric accumulators; electricity distribution and control boards and panels; cigarettes.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: edible nuts; oxides of zinc, chrome, manganese, iron and lead; motor vehicles for the carriage of passengers; water turbines and their parts; storage tanks; barrels; textile products; air pumps and compressors; fruit preserves; wine from fresh grapes.

### *Transformation and development cooperation*

Georgia belongs to one of the ten priority countries of the Transformation Cooperation Programme. In 2010, five projects were executed under this programme. These projects supported the development of cooperation on the local level in Georgia, development of civil society and its participation in public life in Georgia, implementation of the Anti-Corruption Legal Advice Centre in Georgia, development of the communication skills of young Georgians, and operation of a human rights centre in Tbilisi.

Water supply and sanitation was the most important sector for Czech development assistance in Georgia. Projects in this area included: boring wells in the buffer zone, support of development of laboratories for quality drinking water, and reconstruction of the water supply for the general regional hospital with a maternity ward in Senaki. Agricultural, migration, and healthcare projects, economic development projects in neglected areas of Georgia, projects for the integration of the handicapped into society, and environmental protection projects were also supported.



### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of Georgia, Tbilisi, 8 November 2010.

### *Cultural relations*

On the occasion of the state reception on 28 September 2010, an exhibition of photographs of Czech development assistance was organised at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Tbilisi. The exhibition displayed black and white photographs that captured the implementation of development, social, health and cultural activities by Czech entities in Georgia. The authors of the photographs were I. Zimová and P. Šilhánek. The aim of this event was to promote the Czech Republic's development efforts and present Czech documentary photography.

## **Moldova**

### ***(Republic of Moldova)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 25 – 26 May 2010 – Minister of Agriculture J. Šebesta
- 29 September – 1 October 2010 – meeting between First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg and Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration I. Leanca on the occasion of the meeting of EU ministries of foreign affairs

#### *Visits by the representatives of the Republic of Moldova*

- 25 – 27 October 2010 – Minister of Agriculture V. Cosarciuc

#### *Other meetings*

- 2 March 2010 – Budapest – meeting between Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout and Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration I. Leanca on the sidelines of the Visegrad Group Summit
- 13 December 2010 – Brussels – meeting between First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg and Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration I. Leanca on the sidelines of the Eastern Partnership ministerial meetings

### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Moldova increased by 25.89% from CZK 849 million in 2009 to CZK 1 069 million in 2010. Exports increased by 31.64% (2009: CZK 660 million, 2010: CZK 869 million) and imports increased by CZK 5.81% (2009: CZK 189 million, 2010: CZK 200 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 669 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: motor vehicles for the carriage of passengers; telephone sets; polyethylene; artificial guts; paper and cardboard for writing and printing; boilers and central heating units; water heaters; medicaments; automatic data processing equipment; gas generators; heat exchange units; cells and electric accumulators; epoxide resins; textile products; food products, e.g. malt, sugar beet.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: wine from fresh grapes; iron rods and poles; food products, e.g., jams; fermented beverages; plastic products; leather footwear; sunflower seeds; linen seeds; textile products; edible nuts.

### *Transformation and development cooperation*

Moldova is one of the ten priority countries for Czech transformation cooperation. Four projects aimed at involving youth in politics, supporting the developing of civil society in selected regions, transferring Czech know-how in the area of innovation, and reinforcing civil society in Transnistria were implemented in Moldova in 2010. The Czech Republic also made a special contribution to the *Moldova Fair* project, whose aim was to strengthen cooperation of Moldovan NGOs on both banks of the Dniester with European Partners.

Moldova also belongs to the priority countries for Czech development cooperation and is one of the five programme countries. In 2010, thirteen development cooperation projects with the Czech Republic in the area of environmental protection, social infrastructure and services, support for capacity of public administration in the area of reintegration of migrants, education and agriculture were underway or commenced. The Czech Republic also supported a number of small-scale local development projects. In terms of volume of expended resources, the biggest projects in 2010 were as follows: creation of a flood warning and monitoring system on the Prut River, exploration and cleanup of sites with oil pollution in the municipalities of Lunga and Mărculești, renovation of the waste water treatment system in the municipality of Nisporeni, and agro-technical measures to deal with drought problems.

### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on Cooperation in the Fields of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports, Chișinău, 30 September 2010.

### *Cultural relations*

The most important cultural events took place on the occasion of Europe Day on 15 May 2010 (photography exhibition about the Czech Republic, P. Růžičká's Cimbalom Music Concert, and opening of the Czech lecture theatre at the Universitatea Liberă Internațională din Moldova (ULIM)). On 14 May 2010, ULIM signed the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Chișinău based on which open Czech courses were launched. An exhibition of

the work of Czech artist of Moldovan decent T. Buzu was held on the occasion of his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. T. Buzu was pronounced a Moldovan cultural celebrity in 2010.

## **Russia**

### ***(Russian Federation)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 9 May 2010 – attendance by President V. Klaus at the end of World War II celebrations in Moscow
- 16 – 18 June 2010 – visit to Kazan, Ulyanovsk and Moscow by President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic P. Sobotka
- 18 – 19 October – 6<sup>th</sup> session of the Czech-Russian Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Industrial and Scientific-Technical Cooperation in Moscow (the Czech delegation was headed by Minister of Industry and Trade M. Kocourek, who met with Deputy Prime Minister A. Žukov)
- 11 – 12 November 2010 – private trip by President V. Klaus to a conference in Moscow at the invitation of Alfa-Bank

#### *Visits by the representatives of the Russian Federation*

- 7 – 8 April 2010 – meeting between President V. Klaus and President D. Medvedev on the sidelines of the RF – USA summit
- 26 August 2010 – visit by Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces – First Deputy Minister of Defence N. Makarov (meeting with representative of the Czech Ministry of Defence)
- 8 October 2010 – consultation between the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Schneider and Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs V. Titov

#### *Other meetings*

- 23 September 2010 – meeting in New York between First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg and Minister of Foreign Affairs S. Lavrov on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly

#### *Economic relations*

The Russian Federation continues to be one of the Czech Republic's key trading partners. In terms of turnover, it was in eighth position in 2010. In terms of total imports to the Czech Republic, it moved from fifth to fourth position. In terms of Czech exports, the Russian Federation moved up from twelfth to ninth place. The Czech Republic has the second largest balance of trade deficit with Russia (after China).

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Russia increased by 29.52% from CZK 152 222 million in 2009 to CZK 197 162 million in 2010. Exports increased by 35.8% (2009: CZK 49 618 million, 2010: CZK 67 405 million) and imports increased by CZK 26.46% (2009: CZK 102 604 million, 2010: CZK 129 757 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK – 62 352 million.

A meeting of the Czech-Russian Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Industrial and Scientific-Technical Cooperation took place in Moscow in September 2010. The meeting identified the main direction of the future development of bilateral economic relations.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: road vehicles (including motor vehicle parts and accessories); office machines and equipment for automatic data processing; machines and equipment for general industrial use; electronic equipment, instruments and appliances; various industrial products (esp. children's gear, toys, games, sporting goods, and stationery); medicaments and pharmaceutical products; power production machines and equipment; machinery for mechanical engineering, metallurgy, civil engineering, and agriculture; plastics; plastics in non-original forms (esp. plastic tubes, pipes, hoses); other means of transport and carriage (esp. airplanes).

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: natural gas; petroleum; power production machines and equipment; iron and steel; metal ores and scrap metal; inorganic chemicals; raw rubber; non-ferrous metals; rubber products; coal, coke and briquettes.

### *Cultural relations*

The Czech Centre in Moscow is responsible for presenting Czech culture. As far as it is able, it is also responsible for more distant regions (Nizhny Novgorod, Tver, Kaliningrad and others). The General Consulate of the Czech Republic in St Petersburg and in Yekaterinburg, which partially draw from what the Czech Centre has to offer, contributed significantly to promoting Czech culture.

The programme of cultural events in the given territory, which is culturally very specific, included all types of fine art (art and photography exhibitions, music and theatre productions, film screenings, literary evenings and so on) as well as various event formats (from intimate sittings with eminent personalities to extensive festivals and projects of all genres).

The most important events included the Czech Republic's participation in the Moscow international book fair *Non/Fiction 2010*, also thanks in part to the extensive accompanying programme prepared with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic.

The guest appearance of the National Theatre Ballet in St Petersburg in October, where it performed the production entitled *Sólo pro tři (Solo for Three)* (choreography by P. Zuska, artistic director of the National Theatre Ballet) was of exceptional cultural importance. A series of cultural and presentation events in Yekaterinburg, during which the Centre for Czech Language and Literature at the V.G. Belinsky Library was officially opened, contributed to making 2010 a

successful year for presenting Czech culture in the various regions of Russia. The opening of the Centre was a key event in support of Czech language education in Yekaterinburg and in the entire Sverdlovsk region.

## **Ukraine**

### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 7 March 2010 – attendance by a delegation of the Ministry of Defence at the celebrations of the anniversary of the Battle of Sokolovo
- 26 – 28 April 2010 – attendance by Senator A. Vondra and Special Envoy for Nuclear Security V. Bartuška at the Ukraine–Europe Conference
- 28 – 30 November 2010 – official visit by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg to Kiev and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea

### *Visits by the representatives of Ukraine*

- 23 – 24 September 2010 – attendance by a delegation from Ukraine at the 4th session of the Czech-Ukrainian Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Industrial and Scientific-Technical Cooperation

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Ukraine increased by 51.26% from CZK 25 338 million in 2009 to CZK 38 326 million in 2010. Exports increased by 25.27% (2009: CZK 14 250 million, 2010: CZK 17 851 million) and imports increased by 59.24% (2009: CZK 12 858 million, 2010: CZK 20 475 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK – 2 624 million.

On 23 – 24 September 2010, the 4th session of the Czech-Ukraine Mixed Commission for Economic, Industrial and Scientific-Technical Cooperation was held in Prague.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: automobile bodies and other motor vehicle parts and accessories; chemical products, such as polyethylene and polyvinylchloride; dyes and colorants; airplanes; telephone sets; boilers and central heating units; water heaters; motor vehicles for the carriage of passengers; electric apparatus; insulated wire, cable and other electric conductors; steel structures; food products, such as coffee concentrates; medicaments.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: iron ore and its concentrates; iron ore agglomerates; semi-finished products made from iron and steel; mineral tars; flat-rolled iron products; insulated wire, cables and other electric conductors; coke; ferro-alloys; ores and molybdenum, niobium, tantalum, and titanium concentrates; food oils; aluminium and aluminium alloys.

### *Transformation cooperation*

The Czech Republic focuses transformation coordination projects at reinforcing Ukraine's good government and European orientation and at sharing the experience of Czech institutions. Transformation projects in the Ukraine, which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic supported with a contribution of CZK 3.13 million in 2010, were aimed at the development of civic education, establishing professional anti-corruption NGOs, sharing the Czech Republic's experience with planning sustainable development of rural areas and strengthening initiatives in the Crimea, including micro-grants.

### *Foreign development assistance*

In early November, a development project in the field of forest ecosystem stocktaking was successfully completed. The Czech-Polish Forum provided some of the funding for marking hiking routes in western Ukraine. A similar project for 2011 was prepared in cooperation with the Bakhchysaray regional government

### *Cultural relations*

The Czech Centre in Kiev focused chiefly on presenting contemporary Czech feature and documentary films. As part of the 7th International Human Rights Film Festival Docudays, H. Třeštíková's film *René* was screened. At the European Film Festival, V. Marhoul's film *Tobruk* was screened. A retrospective of V. Chytilová's films took place in November. Guitarist Š. Raka's concerts were also well received.

The General Consulate of the Czech Republic in Lvov organised or took part in the realisation of a wide spectrum of cultural and promotional events in western Ukraine in 2010 – from film screenings, through exhibitions (photography, art, autobiographical, literary etc.), concerts, lectures, to culinary presentations. *Europe Day* celebrations in Lviv, Uzgorod and Dubno, the centre of Volhynian Czechs, were accompanied by an attractive multimedia exposition for children entitled *Evropské pexeso (European Pexeso)*

*Czech Republic Days* in Lviv from mid September to the end of October 2010 was the most extensive project. An exhibition and conference commemorating the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of T.G. Masaryk in Uzgorod in December 2010 topped off the general consulate's year-round activities.

The General Consulate of the Czech Republic in Donetsk covered Donbas, the Kharkiv Oblast, and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea with its events. The cultural events of the Czech General Consulate in Donetsk were also aimed at supporting the activities of expat associations, with their participation in a number of cases.

## 5. The Czech Republic's Relations with Southeast European Countries

The countries of south-eastern Europe continue to rank among the Czech Republic's most important partners. The Czech Republic continued to strengthen cooperation on both Community and bilateral issues with the countries of the region that are members of the European Union: Bulgaria, Romania, Cyprus and Greece. The Czech Republic supports Bulgaria's and Romania's efforts to join the Schengen Area upon the fulfilment of certain technical criteria.

The Czech Republic's foreign policy to non-EU countries of southeast Europe was conducted with the aim of supporting stabilisation, developing democracy and reinforcing the rule of law, executing economic and social reforms, and improving interpersonal contact both on the Community level and bilaterally. Visa requirements for the citizens of Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina for travel to the EU for periods of less than 90 days were abolished. On this occasion, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg received a large group of students from Bosnia and Herzegovina in Prague in December 2010. The visa requirement continues to apply only to citizens of Kosovo.

The Czech Republic continues to support countries in the region in their aspirations to become NATO members.

Non-EU countries of southeast Europe belong to significant recipients of Czech development and transformational assistance. An amount exceeding CZK 100 million was expended in 2010 on projects in the region. Thanks to government scholarships, over 80 young people from the regional study at Czech colleges and universities. The Czech Republic takes part in twinning projects of the European Union and, on the bilateral level, provides such countries with its experience with preparing for EU membership. The Czech Republic is trying to have its entities better involved in Community projects financed by the Pre-Accession Assistance Instrument.

In its bilateral relations with the countries in the region, the Czech Republic strived for their all-round development. Expansion of the contractual framework and further intensification of cultural exchanges both contribute to this effort. Close contact with Czech expatriates and associations of friends of the Czech Republic represented an integral part of foreign policy.

The region remained one of the most sought-after destinations of Czech tourists heading for the sea, despite a slight drop in numbers.

### **Albania**

#### ***(Republic of Albania)***

##### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 30 – 31 March 2010 – visit by a delegation of the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic M. Vlček

### *Visits by the representatives of Albania*

- 30 November 2010 – working visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy I. Meta

### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Albania increased by 60.1% from CZK 592 million in 2009 to CZK 948 million in 2010. Exports increased by 13.7% (2009: CZK 549 million, 2010: CZK 624 million) and imports increased by 771.4% (2009: CZK 42 million, 2010: CZK 324 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 300 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: surface-active organic detergents; motor vehicles for the carriage of passengers; passenger motor vehicles for public transport; board games (automatons); automatic data processing equipment; malt including malt flour; cells (batteries) and electric accumulators (rechargeable batteries); telephone and other instruments for transmitting and receiving voice and data; artificial guts; freight motor vehicles; conduits, pipes and hollow profile shapes (sections); polyvinyl chloride.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: electricity; other leather top footwear; plants for the production of perfumes and medicaments; fresh/dried fruit.

### *Foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid*

In the framework of bilateral and trilateral subsidies for Albania, the project entitled *Budování národní platformy neziskových organizací zaměřených na zdravotní a sociální péči v Albánii* (*Building National Platforms for Non-Profit Organisations Focused on Health and Social Care in Albania*) was approved in 2010. In the framework of "small-scale local projects", three education and health care projects with a total budget of CZK 625 000 were underway.

Furthermore, the second phase of the project entitled *Implementace nových technologií na ochranu životního prostředí v ropném průmyslu v regionu Kučova* (*Implementation of New Technologies for Environment Protection in the Petroleum Industry in the Kučova Region*) was complete.

In connection with the extensive floods in December – especially in the north of Albania – twelve large-capacity tents and accessories were provided based on the basis of a decision of the Government of the Czech Republic.

### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Protocol between the Czech Republic and the republic of Albania on the Amendment to the Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Republic of Albania for the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments, Prague, 8 October 2010



- Protocol on Economic Cooperation between the Czech Republic and the Republic of Albania in the Energy, Mining, Investment, Infrastructure and Environmental Protection Technology Sectors, Prague, 8 October 2010

### *Cultural relations*

In 2010, cooperation took place particularly in the field of film: in June, Czech filmmakers filmed a documentary about Albania; in August, Czech film director M. Šmídmajer attended the IFF in Durres; and Czech documentary film makers attended the 5<sup>th</sup> annual IDFM in Tirana. An exhibition of Plzeň artists entitled *Pozdrav z Plzně (Greetings from Plzeň)* was held in Tirana in September/October 2010. Czech singers enjoyed success at the European festival of choral singing in October 2010.

## **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 16 – 19 May 2010 – working visit of the Committee on European Affairs of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
- 11 July 2010 – attendance of First Vice President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic A. Gajdušková at a commemorative event on the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica

### *Visits by the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina*

- 25 – 27 January 2010 – working visit by Minister of Defence S. Cikotić;
- 5 February 2010 – visit by Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina M. Živković
- 17 – 18 March 2010 – visit by Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations M. Zirojević

### *Other meetings*

- 2 June 2010 – attendance of Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout at the conference *EU – Western Balkans*.

### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Bosnia and Herzegovina increased by 10.2% from CZK 3 688 million in 2009 to CZK 4 065 million in 2010. Exports increased by 6.1% (2009: CZK 2 928 million, 2010: CZK 3 107 million) and imports increased by 26.05% (2009: CZK 760 million, 2010: CZK 958 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 2 149 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger automobiles; coal; soap; detergents; electric engines; waste paper; steel profile shapes (sections); and cotton fabric.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: electricity; iron ore; motor vehicle parts; footwear; aluminium and chemical products.

### *Foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid*

Even after approval of the new Foreign Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic in 2010, Bosnia and Herzegovina remains one of the priority countries for Czech development cooperation.

During 2010, six long-term projects were completed in the area of agriculture, health care, energy, and the economy. At the same time, a project for the repair and modernisation of tramways for the Capital City of Sarajevo, which should be completed during 2011, was underway. Furthermore, eight "small-scale local projects" were successfully executed in 2010.

An identification mission of the Czech Development Agency, which supported the execution of two projects in the municipalities of Zvornik and Tuzla, also took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The mentioned projects will run through to 2013.

An independent contribution to the development of Bosnia and Herzegovina was a de-mining project in the municipality of Lopare carried out by the organisation ITF.

A system of government and university scholarships, thanks to which dozens of college and university students from Bosnia and Herzegovina can study in the Czech Republic, remains an important part of development cooperation.

On 30 December 2010, the ambassador to the Czech Republic in Bosnia and Herzegovina presented to the representatives of the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina humanitarian aid of almost CZK 1.2 million for the inhabitants of the areas affected by the December floods.

### *Transformation cooperation*

In November 2010, two one-year transformation cooperation projects, whose objective was to boost the capacity of Bosnian and Herzegovinian non-profit organisations and support the development of civil society, were completed. The torchbearer of one of projects, which was focused on the fight against human trafficking, was Czech non-profit organisation La Strada. The second project, which focused on the Roma community, was executed by the Czech non-profit organisation Slovo 21. Bosnia and Herzegovina remains one of the Czech Republic's priority countries for transformation cooperation.

### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Interdepartmental Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Prague, 18 March 2010;
- Bilateral Agreement between the Czech Republic and Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Exchange and Mutual Protection of Classified Information, Sarajevo, 28 April 2010.

### *Cultural relations*

In the area of culture, The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Sarajevo continued with its traditional projects, such as Czech Film Week, participation in the International Ecological and Tourfilm Festival Jahorinafest 2010, travelling photography exhibitions (J. Všetěčky's *Praha, město hudby – Prague, City of Music* and R. B. Dvořáka's *Bosna 1905 – Bosnia 1905*), as well as the regular screening of films for expatriates and Czech language students.

At the same time, however, it tried to become involved in new projects, such as participation in the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual International Poetry Meeting in Sarajevo, where Czech poetry (P. Hruška) was presented for the first time. For children, the embassy organised a number of presentations of the marionette theatre Naivní divadlo Liberec.

The intensive, week-long presentation of Czech Culture took place as part of the accompanying programme of *Kulturní dny města Prahy v Sarajevu (Prague Cultural Days in Sarajevo)*, organised in cooperation with Prague's Studio Saga, Office of the Major of Sarajevo, and the embassy on the occasion of a visit to Sarajevo by a delegation from the Capital City of Prague. The show included classical music concerts (*Virtuosi di Praga*), street performances, film screenings, theatre presentations (*La Putyka*), and a photography exhibition (J. Všetěčka).

## **Bulgaria**

### ***(Republic of Bulgaria)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 16 – 18 November 2010 – Visit by President of the Supreme Court I. Brožová

#### *Visits by the representatives of the Republic of Bulgaria*

- 8 April 2010 – Visit by Prime Minister B. Borisov on the occasion of the signing of the START treaty; meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout and N. Mladenov on the sidelines
- 22 May 2010 – visit by Speaker of the National Assembly C. Cačeva on the occasion of Saints Cyril and Methodius Day
- 18 – 19 October 2010 – working visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs N. Mladenov

### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Bulgaria increased by 5.6% from CZK 12 489 million in 2009 to CZK 13 187 million in 2010. Exports increased by 0.3% (2009: CZK 9 790 million, 2010: CZK 9 829 million) and imports increased by 24.5% (2009: CZK 2 699 million, 2010: CZK 3 359 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 6 470 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger automobiles; transport containers; medicaments; combed wool; printing machinery; automatic data processing equipment; iron or steel products; electric machinery and apparatus (including batteries, accumulators/rechargeable batteries and electric circuit switching apparatus); milk, cream and dairy products; polyethylene; insulated wire and cables; plastic pipes and hoses; telephone sets and telecommunications equipment.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: copper; central heating units; electricity distribution equipment; aluminium; electric switches; glassware; footwear; bakery goods; clothing and undergarments; measuring instruments; vegetables; electric motors and generators; alcoholic beverages.

### *Cultural relations*

On the occasion of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between former Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Sofia, headed by Ambassador M. Kepetko, organised a gala concert of the Prague Chamber Orchestra and Sofia's New Symphony Orchestra on 12 September 2010. On 2 November 2010, a gala vernissage of the documentary exhibition that had previously been held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Prague was held at the Czech Centre in Sofia.

The biggest exhibition project of 2010 was the autumn exhibition entitled *České ateliérové sko (Czech Studio Glass)*, which the Czech Centre prepared in cooperation with the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, the Cultural Institute of the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Altera Gallery. The glass sculptures of three generations of Czech glass artists, with Prof. S. Libenský leading the pack, could be seen at the exhibition.

On the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of K. Zeman, the Czech Centre, in cooperation with the Bulgarian National Film Archive, organised a screening of K. Zeman's most famous films in Sofia's Odeon cinema [*Cesta do pravěku (The Road to the Stone Age)*, *Vynález zkázy (Invention of Destruction)*, *Ukradená vzducholod' (The Stolen Airship)*, *Baron Prášil*, and *Čarodějův učeň (The Wizard's Apprentice)*]. An exhibition of the shots from K. Zeman's films prepared by the Film Festival for Children and Youth in Zlín could be seen at the Czech centre.

As part of Sofia Film Fest, the Czech Centre presented eight documentary films from director J. Šíkl's series *Soukromé století (Private Century)*. Director M. Najbrt's film *Protektor (The Protector)*, the most successful film, was also presented.

## **Croatia**

### ***(Republic of Croatia)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 28 – 30 March 2010 – official visit by Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic M. Vlček and entourage
- 18 – 20 November 2010 – working visit by Minister of Justice J. Pospíšil

#### *Visits by the representatives of the Republic of Croatia*

- 8 April 2010 – working visit to Prague by Prime Minister J. Kosorová on the occasion of a dinner of representatives from central European countries with President of the United States B. Obama

#### *Other meetings*

- 23 September 2010 – meeting in New York between President V. Klaus and Croatian President I. Josipović on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Croatia increased by 3.2% from CZK 1 399 million in 2009 to CZK 10 731 million in 2010. Exports increased by 1.8% (2009: CZK 8 379 million, 2010: CZK 8 536 million) and imports increased by 8.6% (2009: CZK 2 020 million, 2010: CZK 2 194 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 6 342 million.

A meeting of the Mixed Czech-Croatian Committee on International Road Traffic met in Zagreb in June.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger automobiles; electricity; heat-rolled iron and unalloyed steel sheets and profile shapes (sections); organic detergents and detergents; data processing equipment; iron and unalloyed steel rods; milk and cream; electric apparatus; seamless pipes and hollow iron profile shapes (sections); extracts; live farm animals; coffee and tea essences and concentrates.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: sugar; electric transformers; aluminium products; seats; polyacetylenes; polyesters and epoxide resins; medicaments; leather and artificial leather products; chocolate and foodstuffs containing chocolate; petroleum and natural gas hydrocarbons; cigarettes and tobacco products; electricity; aluminium etc.

#### *Cultural relations*

In April, a vernissage of an exhibition and concert on the occasion of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Prague Conservatory was held in Zagreb. In cooperation with Badrov Gallery, a photography exhibition entitled *Provinční rekonstrukční tým ČR v Logaru, Afghánistán*

*(Czech Republic's Provincial Reconstruction Team in Logar, Afghanistan)* was organised in June. The traditional Czech Film Week took place in Zagreb and Rieka in October. An exhibition of Czech precious stones was launched for the Independent Czechoslovak State Day reception in October.

## **Cyprus**

### ***(Republic of Cyprus)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 18 – 22 January 2010 – visit by the Standing Commission for Family and Equal Opportunities of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
- 28 February – 3 March 2010 – visit by a delegation of the Economic Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Cyprus increased by 83% from CZK 1 580 million in 2009 to CZK 2 898 million in 2010. Exports increased by 97.9% (2009: CZK 1 093 million, 2010: CZK 2 164 million) and imports increased by 50.7% (2009: CZK 487 million, 2010: CZK 734 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 1 430 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: machinery; electrical apparatus; radios and televisions; base metals and goods made from base metals; motor vehicles; and chemical products.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: chemical products; machinery; electrical apparatus; radios and televisions of various makes; traditional plant products; medicaments.

#### *Cultural relations*

The joint exhibition of graphic artist J. Slíva entitled *Jazz Café Prague* and Cypriot painter H. Tsangaris entitled *My love to Cyprus* held in February was one of the most important cultural events of 2010. The exhibition of war posters entitled *Back Them Up* organised in April at the Leventis Museum in Nicosia in cooperation with the Military History Museum also enjoyed an excellent response. A jazz concert of the Martin Kratochvíl Trio organised in cooperation with the University of Cyprus took place in Nicosia in September.

## **Greece**

### ***(Hellenic Republic)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 10 – 11 May 2010 – Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of the Czech Republic to the European Security and Defence Assembly/Western European Union WEU at a seminar on the role of the European navy

#### *Visits by the representatives of the Hellenic Republic*

- 19 February 2010 – visit by alternating Minister of Foreign Affairs D. Droutsas
- 17 – 19 September 2010 – visit by Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces F. Fragkos

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Greece decreased by 2% from CZK 10 536 million in 2009 to CZK 10 333 million in 2010. Exports decreased by 10.9% (2009: CZK 7 831 million, 2010: CZK 6 984 million) while imports increased by 23.8% (2009: CZK 2.705 million, 2010: CZK 3 348 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 3 636 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger automobiles; monitors, projectors and television sets; automatic data processing equipment; men's clothing and undergarments; paper and cardboard; telecommunication systems; sound and image recording and reproduction equipment; rubber tyres and inner tubes; microwave tubes, x-ray tubes, diodes, transistors etc.; parts; musical instruments; simply worked wood; railway sleepers (cross-ties).

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: aluminium; fresh/dried fruit and nuts; medicaments; fresh, frozen and chilled vegetables; fruit preserves; copper; fats and oils; tobacco.

#### *Cultural relations*

In the area of education and culture, an annual exchange of participants in summer language courses, academic staff and university students was organised under the Programme of Cultural and Educational Cooperation. A new Programme of Cultural and Educational Cooperation between the Czech Republic and the Hellenic Republic for the 2010 – 2013 period was signed in Prague on 16 November 2010, particularly at Czech medical faculties.

During 2010, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Athens organised numerous cultural and education events in a broad spectrum of genres (music, fine arts, literature, and film). Events this year were held mainly in the capital city and were met with significant interest and a positive reception from Greek professionals and the general public. The event *Days of Contemporary Czech Cinematography*, organised by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Athens and held in the open-air cinema of the Greek Film Archive in Athens in June 2010, contributed greatly to the cultural presentation of the Czech Republic. As part of the event, the following films were screened: *Pelíšky*

(*Cosy Dens*) (J. Hřebejk, 1999), *Želary* (O. Trojan, 2003), *Příběhy obyčejného šílenství* (*Wrong Side Up*) (P. Zelenka, 2005) and *Tajnosti* (*Little Girl Blue*) (A. Nellis, 2007).

## **Kosovo**

### ***(Republic of Kosovo)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 30 April – 1 May 2010 – working visit of National Security Authority Director D. Navrátil
- 27 September 2010 – working visit by Minister of Defence A. Vondra

#### *Visits by the representatives of the Republic of Kosovo*

- 29 September – 1 October 2010 – working visit by Minister for European Integration B. Beqaj
- 30 September – 1 October 2010 – attendance of Minister for Community and Repatriation S. Rašić at the 19th session of the International Steering Committee of the Decade of Roma Inclusion in Prague

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Kosovo decreased by 10.5% from CZK 392 million in 2009 to CZK 351 million in 2010. Exports decreased by 10.2% (2009: CZK 384 million, 2010: CZK 345 million) and imports decreased by 25.0% (2009: CZK 8 million, 2010: CZK 6 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 339 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: chemical products, detergents, mineral oils, particle boards.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: cocoa and cocoa products, fuel and oils, boilers, toys.

#### *Development cooperation*

Kosovo belongs to one of the Czech Republic's foreign development cooperation (FDC) priority projects. Projects were implemented in areas of mixed Serbian-Albanian and Ashkali-Albanian settlements and in area where Kosovo's three main denominations (Sunni Islam, Serbian Orthodox, and Roman Catholic) live together.

In 2010, five "small-scale local projects" in the mixed Serbian or majority Serbian municipalities of Viti/Vitina, Ranilug and Klokot–Vrbovac were executed. Two environmental and water management projects and three assistance programmes for hearing and visually impaired Kosovans were executed in the framework of Czech foreign development cooperation. In the area of cooperation with international organisations, the Czech Republic contributed to employment projects (with the World Bank) and education projects (with the International Civilian Office and



OSCE). The Czech Republic provided scholarships to four Kosovan students to attend Czech colleges and universities.

#### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Kosovo approved succession to 15 agreements concluded between the Czech Republic and Yugoslavia or their predecessors.

#### *Cultural relations*

On 21 January 2010, former Czech President V. Havel was awarded the Ibrahim Rugova Gold Medal for Peace, Democracy and Humanism.

In October 2010, the Divadlo na tahu theatre enjoyed success with its performance at Pristina's National Theatre as part of the KosovaInfest festival. It performed three V. Havel plays entitled *Trojí svízel občana Vaňka – Vernisáž (Unveiling)*, *Protest*, and *Audience*. As part of the Dokufest documentary film festival in Prizren, the Czech film *Hranice (The Border)* was screened. K. Bartošová was on the panel of judges for Dokufest.

## **Macedonia / FYROM**

### ***(Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 21 – 22 June 2010 – state visit by President V. Klaus

#### *Visits by the representatives of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)*

- 8 – 10 February 2010 – official visit by Prime Minister N. Gruevski

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Macedonia/FYROM increased by 20% from CZK 1 124 million in 2009 to CZK 1 349 million in 2010. Exports increased by 16.7% (2009: CZK 826 million, 2010: CZK 963 million) and imports increased by 62.2% (2009: CZK 238 million, 2010: CZK 386 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 577 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: motor vehicles; tractors; reactors; boilers; electric apparatus; cleaning and laundry detergents; glass and glass products; sugar and confectionery; foodstuffs of animal origin; paper, carton, and cardboard.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: iron and steel; iron and steel products; beverages; spirits; tobacco and tobacco products; clothing and clothing accessories; woven textiles; transport equipment; vegetables; fruit; zinc and zinc products.

Macedonia/FYROM usually places somewhere between the Czech Republic's 65<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> most important trading partners.

### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on Economic and Industrial Cooperation, Prague, 10 February 2010
- Agreement between the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Macedonia on Cooperation in the Field of Education, Skopje, 21 June 2010

### *Cultural relations*

The highpoint of the 2010 cultural season was V. Hudeček's performance with the Pardubice orchestra Barocco Sempre Giovane on the anniversary of the Ochrid Summer Cultural Festival, organised as an exclusive, festive Czech Republic Day. On the occasion of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of K. H. Mácha, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Skopje supported the publication of the first Macedonian translation of the poem *Máj (May)*. To commemorate the 340<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of J. A. Komenský, a elementary school bearing his name, built with Czechoslovak assistance after a destructive earthquake in 1963, was donated a set of translations of Czech children's books obtained from the Czech language and literature fund.

A strong segment is the field of education focused on university language studies. A Czech lector taught at the University of Cyril and Methodius in Skopje, and Macedonian was taught at Charles University in Prague and Masaryk University in Brno.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic made four places available at a Czech language summer school, and the same number of students from the Czech Republic was invited to a summer Macedonian course. Under the government scholarship project, Macedonia/FYROM was offered four scholarships to Czech colleges and universities; however, the interest shown by students from Macedonia/FYROM is showing a downward trend.

## **Montenegro**

### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 2 – 4 June 2010 – working visit by Minister of Finance E. Janota

### *Other meetings*

- 14 – 15 June 2010 – attendance of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs V. Galuška at the ministerial meeting of the Central European Initiative (CEI)
- 28 October 2010 – attendance of the Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade M. Hovorka at the meeting of economic ministers at CEI

### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Montenegro increased by 13.6% from CZK 323 million in 2009 to CZK 367 million in 2010. Exports increased by 13% (2009:

CZK 298 million, 2010: CZK 337 million) and imports increased by 2.0% (2009: CZK 25 million, 2010: CZK 30 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 307 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger automobiles; detergents; videophone sets; pitch and coke.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: copper waste and scrap; electricity; passenger automobiles.

#### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- CEEPUS III Agreement signed by Deputy Minister of Education, Youth and Sport E. Bartoňová and her Montenegrin counterpart; Podgorica, 26 March 2010
- Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of Montenegro on the Exchange and Mutual Protection of Classified Information, Podgorica, 29 April 2010
- Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Czech Republic on the Amendments to the Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments, Podgorica, 3 June 2010

#### *Humanitarian aid*

Humanitarian aid of CZK 2.6 million provided by the Government of the Czech Republic to help alleviate flood damage, organised together with the foundation Člověk v tísni (People in Need), was officially handed over to Montenegro on 13 December 2010.

## **Romania**

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 1 – 4 March 2010 – visit by a delegation from the Committee on Social Policy of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, headed by its chair, MP D. Kafka
- 11 – 14 June 2010 – visit by a delegation of the Standing Commission on Compatriots Living Abroad of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic to Czech compatriots living within the Romanian Banat

#### *Visits by the representatives of Romania*

- 12 May 2010 – working visit of State Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs B. Mazuru
- 2 November 2010 – working visit of State Secretary of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs B. Aureescu

### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Romania increased by 20.9% from CZK 34 517 million in 2009 to CZK 41 749 million in 2010. Exports increased by 17.9% (2009: CZK 24 212 million, 2010: CZK 28 560 million) and imports increased by 27.9% (2009: CZK 10 305 million, 2010: CZK 13 189 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 15 371 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: automobiles for passenger carriage; wire, cables and conductors; automobile parts; rubber and rubber products; tyres and composite unvulcanised rubber; central heating boilers; electric circuit protection equipment; plastics and plastic products; iron and steel and products thereof; pharmaceutical products; surface-active detergents.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: wire, cables and conductors; wiring sets; aluminium wire and automobile parts; cell phones; electric circuit protection equipment; circuit boards and circuit breakers; rubber and rubber products; tyres; plastic products; and footwear.

### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of Romania on Mutual Protection of Exchanged Classified Information, Bucharest, 31 March 2010

### *Cultural relations*

Cultural presentation of the Czech Republic was chiefly the responsibility of the Czech Centre in Bucharest, which in 2010 organised a total of 67 events, with the third festival of documentary film on the topic of human rights – *One World Romania* – being one of the most important. The children's folklore ensemble Dyjavánek from Znojmo performed at a reception on the occasion of Independent Czechoslovak State Day and at the Bohemian Evening, which officially launched the 2010/2011 academic year for the Department of Slavic Language and Literature of Bucharest University and the operations of the new Romanian Bohemian Association, Societas Romano-Bohemica (SRB).

In 2010, Romania was unable for financial reasons to organise the planned summer Romanian language courses for the second time. Nevertheless, one Czech student was accepted to a summer Romanian language course based on an agreement between the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research and Youth and the University of Constanta. Residencies of university students and academic staff of several months are continuing without any problems. In 2010, a new teacher began to teach Czech language and literature at Bucharest University.

The Compatriot Education Programme and Czech language and literature courses abroad continued in 2010. Three teachers were sent from the Czech Republic for the 2009/2010 school year to teach at elementary schools in Svatá Helena, Gerník and Eibenthál, with one of the

positions being cancelled for the 2010/2011 school year. Compatriots from Romania took part in Czech language courses in Dobruška; one compatriot from Gerník was accepted on a semester scholarship to Prague beginning in September 2010

The new Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic, which opened its doors on 14 October 2010 in Timisoara, is contributing to the development of business, economic, cultural and scholastic cooperation.

## **Serbia**

### ***(Republic of Serbia)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 20 January 2010 – official visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout
- 4 May 2010 – official visit by Minister of Industry and Trade V. Tošovský
- 11 – 13 May 2010 – working visit by Minister of Transport G. Slamečka
- 14 May 2010 – official visit by Minister of Agriculture J. Šebesta
- 4 June 2010 – official visit by Minister of Finance E. Janota
- 26 October 2010 – official visit by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg

#### *Visits by the representatives of the Republic of Serbia*

- 22 – 23 February 2010 – delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of the Republic of Serbia headed by its chairman, D. Mičunović;
- 15 – 16 November 2010 – official visit by Prime Minister M. Cvetković, accompanied by Minister of Environment and Regional Planning O. Dulić and Minister of Mining and Energy P. Škundrić
- 17 December 2010 – working visit of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs I. Dačić

#### *Other meetings*

- 24 February 2010 – meeting between Prime Ministers J. Fischer and M. Cvetković at the energy summit in Budapest
- 25 September 2010 – meeting in New York between Presidents V. Klaus and B. Tadić and Ministers of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg and V. Jeremić at the 65<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly

- 27 September 2010 – meeting between Czech Deputy for European Affairs of the Office of the Government M. Sedláček and Serbian State Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs M. Stefanović on the sidelines of a meeting on implementation and financing of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR).

### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Serbia increased by 22.4% from CZK 7 990 million in 2009 to CZK 9 780 million in 2010. Exports increased by CZK 24.6% (2009: CZK 5 058 million, 2010: CZK 6 310 million) and imports increased by 18.34% (2009: CZK 2 932 million, 2010: CZK 3 470 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 2 840 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: motor vehicles; fuel and oil reactors and furnaces; equipment for recording and reproducing sound and images; railway electrification and security products.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: iron and steel; rubber; fuel and oil; tyres for agricultural machinery.

### *Foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid*

Serbia is one of the project countries for foreign development cooperation. It is one of its biggest beneficiaries in terms of the amount of financial resources and number of executive projects. In 2010, 16 projects worth CZK 185.5 million in total were underway in Serbia. The projects focus chiefly on business promotion, water protection, energy conservation, and health care. Earlier projects which focus on previous priority areas (industrial development, environmental protection and social fields) are also being completed. Foreign development cooperation also includes "small-scale local projects" aimed at specific aid that is smaller in scope. In 2010, five such projects worth CZK 1.25 million were executed in Serbia.

The Czech Republic provided Serbia with a total of eight government scholarships: six for Bachelor's degree programmes and two for Master's degree programmes.

### *Transformational cooperation*

Serbia is one of the priority countries to which transformation cooperation is provided, i.e., the execution of projects in connection with which the Czech Republic draws from its own experience with political and economic transformation and passes it on to the beneficiary. In 2010, the execution of one such project worth CZK 1.844 million was underway.

### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Protocol between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Republic of Serbia to the Agreement on Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro, Belgrade, 4 May 2010

- Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of Serbia on Amendments to the Agreement Between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Federal Government of the Federal Government of Yugoslavia on Reciprocal Support and Protection of Investments, Belgrade, 4 June 2010
- Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on Police Cooperation in the Fight against Crime, Prague, 17 December 2010

### *Cultural relations*

The performance of organist P. Kohout in June at the opening of the 10<sup>th</sup> *Dies organorum* pipe organ festival in Belgrade and the performance of *Don Giovanni* by Prague's Marionet National Theatre during the BEMUS festival were among the most successful and most important cultural events.

Worthy of mention was the participation of the theatre ensemble Continuo in the international festival of alternative and new theatre *INFANT* in Novi Sad or the performance of Prague's Letí theatre, which commenced the international festival *Europe in Belgrade – After the Fall* with its performance *Immured*. The vernissage of Serbian painter P. Djaković, who studied at Prague's Academy of Fine Arts and now also lives in Prague, was also a successful cultural event. Music was represented in 2010 by the Brno band Lesní zvěř, which performed as part of the international music festival *Jazzire* in Subotica.

## **Turkey**

### ***(Republic of Turkey)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 2 – 5 March 2010 – visit by a delegation of the Committee on Defence and Security of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic headed by its chairman, F. Bublan

#### *Visits by the representatives of Turkey*

- 17 February 2010 – political consultation of the ministries of foreign affairs in Prague – Turkish delegation headed by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs S. Yenel, Czech delegation headed by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs V. Galuška

### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Turkey increased by 27.6% from CZK 30 167 million in 2009 to CZK 38 479 million in 2010. Exports increased by 22.7% (2009: CZK 16 160 million, 2010: CZK 19 822 million) and imports increased by 33.2% (2009: CZK 14 007 million, 2010: CZK 18 657 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 1 165 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: motor vehicle parts and accessories; passenger automobiles and other vehicles used for the carriage of passengers; office machines and equipment for automatic data processing; electronic equipment; instruments and appliances; telecommunications equipment and accessories for recording and reproducing sound and images; iron and steel; textile yarns and fabrics; rubber products; heating and cooling equipment; pumps and conveyors.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: clothing articles; linens and accessories; passenger automobiles and other vehicles used for the carriage of passengers; motor vehicle parts and accessories; telecommunications equipment and accessories for recording and reproducing sound and images; foodstuffs.

### *Cultural relations*

In March, the *Czech Press Photo* exhibition was held in Edirna. At the *Istanbul Documentary Days* film festival, the film *Auto\*Mat* by Czech director M. Mareček was screened. On 26 October 2010, the official opening of the *Pebbles and Art* project took place in Hasköy Park in Istanbul as part of the event *Istanbul, Capital City of Culture 2010*. Contributing to this event was sculptor D. Šubrtová of the Prague Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design. Czech musicians T. Fialová and R. Patočka performed at the celebrations of the Independent Czechoslovak State Day in Istanbul. In November, the exhibition entitled *Czech Press Photo 15 Years* was held in Istanbul.



## 6. The Czech Republic's Relations with Middle East and North African Countries

In 2010, the Czech Republic continued to conduct an active policy toward Middle East and North African countries, both in the field of bilateral cooperation with each of the states in the region and through promoting Czech positions and approaches in the framework of common EU foreign and security policy.

From the perspective of the Czech Republic, this area is of importance as a partner for trade, resources, or even investment and as a supplier of energy raw materials, but especially as a neighbour of the EU, whose stability, prosperity and conflict-free development are fundamental for European security.

Numerous visits by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and other high representatives to the region were a concrete manifestation of the Czech Republic's efforts in respect of the Middle East and North Africa. Their important objective was promotion of greater interest in trade with countries in this part of the world, as their approx. 2% share in the Czech Republic's overall balance of trade does not correspond to mutual potential by far. Attention was focused particularly on expanding economic and scientific-technological cooperation with Israel, Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, and some of the countries of the Arabian Peninsula.

The Czech Republic permanently pays special attention to crisis areas and sources of risk in the Middle East. In 2010, Iran, whose non-transparent nuclear programme continued to worry the world and led to the adoption of new international sanctions, stood at the forefront. The Czech Republic also called attention to the need to focus just as much on the issue of human rights in Iran.

Another area of the Czech Republic's foreign policy interest was the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian – or, more precisely, Israeli-Arab – conflict and the stagnating Middle East peace process. The Czech Republic's efforts to achieve headway in this area were not only in the form of declarations, but also in the form of meetings with Israeli and Palestinian representatives on the highest levels. In relation to the Israel, the Czech Republic supported its greater involvement in cooperation with the EU in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy. The Czech Republic's development assistance was directed at the Palestinian territories; the aim of this assistance was to contribute to building infrastructure for the future independent Palestinian state.

The Czech Republic was actively involved in the work of *Friends of Yemen*. At its meetings in 2010, this international group dealt with the possibilities of receiving support from the international community for this country, which is suffering from social and economic problems and internal conflicts.

## **Algeria**

### ***(People's Democratic Republic of Algeria)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 20 – 26 March 2010 – working visit of Czech Minister of Industry V. Tošovský and Czech Minister of Agriculture J. Šebesta, who were accompanied by their respective deputies and a delegation of Czech business representatives

#### *Other meetings*

- 29 November 2010 – meeting between President V. Klaus and President A. Bouteflika on the sidelines of the EU-Africa summit (Tripoli, Libya)

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Algeria decreased by 10.4% from CZK 3 233 million in 2009 to CZK 2 897 million in 2010. Exports decreased by 25% (2009: CZK 3 095 million, 2010: CZK 2 320 million) while imports increased by 318% (2009: CZK 138 million, 2010: CZK 577 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 1 743 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: irons and steel rods and poles; passenger automobiles; computer technology and equipment; civilian weapons; tyres; diesel engines; road rollers; gas turbines; machine tool accessories; sugar industry machines; lathes; airplane engines and equipment; polyethylene sheeting; razors and razor blades; glass brick; non-woven textiles.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodity: petroleum.

#### *Cultural relations*

A number of cultural events took place in 2010: a concert of the music ensemble Klarinet Faktory as part of a European cultural festival, a concert by Dua Brikcius as part of the Algiers International Symphonic Music Festival, and attendance of writer T. Boučková at the meeting of writers organised by the EU Delegation. Negotiations on cooperation of the Czech HAMU (Music and Dance Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague) and its Algerian counterpart were initiated.

## **Bahrain**

### ***(Kingdom of Bahrain)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 18 – 19 May 2010 – consultations between Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H. H. Kmoníček and Bahraini Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Abdullatif Abdulla and opening of the new Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic in Manama

### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Bahrain fell by 6.3% from CZK 278 million in 2009 to CZK 261 million in 2010. Exports fell by 8.2% (2009: CZK 270 million, 2010: CZK 248 million) while imports increased (2009: CZK 8 million, 2010: CZK 13 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 235 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: circuit boards; lighting; computer technology equipment; passenger automobiles; compressors; glass fibre mats; sugar; ceramic sanitary fixtures; plastic pipes; aerials; construction wood.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: ferro-manganese; shaped aluminium and plastic sanitary ware.

## **Egypt**

### ***(Arab Republic of Egypt)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 7 – 9 February 2010 – working visit by President V. Klaus
- 2 – 6 March 2010 – visit by Minister of Transport G. Slamečka accompanied by a business delegation
- 13 – 16 March 2010 – working visit by a delegation of the Committee on European Affairs of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
- 20 – 26 March 2010 – working visit by Minister of Education, Youth and Sport M. Kopicová

#### *Other meetings*

- 20 – 22 February 2010 – attendance of First Vice President of the Senate A. Gajdůšková and Deputy Speaker of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Affairs and member of the Standing Commission for Equal Opportunities of the Chamber of Deputies A. Čurdová at the regional conference of the Union for the Mediterranean entitled *Women Parliamentarians as Active Agents of Change*; meeting with the Speaker of the Shura Council (Consultative Council) Safwat El-Sherif.

### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Egypt increased by 20% from CZK 4 658 million in 2009 to CZK 5 590 million in 2010. Exports increased by 22.2% (2009: CZK 3 956 million, 2010: CZK 4 834 million) and imports increased by 7.7% (2009: CZK 702 million, 2010: CZK 756 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 4 078 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger automobiles; machinery and industrial equipment; computer technology equipment; civilian weapons; electrical apparatus; glassware; rails; pressure containers; paper; machinery; tyres; aerals.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: clothing and undergarments; vegetables and fruit; cables and conductors; cotton yarn; polyester fabric; carpets; brakes; raw aluminium.

### *Development cooperation*

As part of foreign development cooperation, the Czech Republic provided Egypt with four government scholarships for Master's degree and Doctorate degree programmes for the 2010/2011 academic year.

### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- 20 March 2010 – Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Education, Science and Research

### *Cultural relations*

- February 2010 – Czech film festival in Cairo; fashion show of M. Drápalová in Cairo; performance of the Štěpán Markovič Quartet in Cairo
- March to June 2010 – exhibition entitled *Martin Roubík – Architect* in Aswan; performance of A. Dvořák's Stabat Mater in Cairo
- May 2010 – performance of A. Dvořák's Mass in D Major in Cairo; performance by I. Bittová in Cairo
- November 2010 – performance by H. Blochová in Cairo; performance of a selection of Czech music (A. Dvořák, B. Smetana) in Cairo
- December 2010 – exhibition entitled *Martin Roubík – Architect* in Alexandria

## **Iraq**

### ***(Republic of Iraq)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 18 – 20 October 2010 – business mission of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs T. Dub to the Iraqi Kurdistan. The main objective of the trip was to promote Czech businesses taking part in the International Fair in Arbil. Deputy Minister T. Dub was received by the highest representatives of Iraqi Kurdistan: President of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Massoud Barzani, KRG Prime Minister Barham Saleh, Speaker of the Parliament Kamal Kirkuki, Minister for Foreign Affairs Falah Mustafa Bakir and a number of KRG ministers.

### *Visits by the representatives of Republic of Iraq*

- May 2010 – visit by Minister of Municipalities and Public Works Riyadh Gharib

### *Other meetings*

- 24 October 2010 – meeting in New York between Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg and Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs Hoshyar Zebari on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly

### *Economic relations*

In 2010, The Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Iraq fell by 2.1% from CZK 2 651 million in 2009 to CZK 2 594 million in 2010. Exports decreased by 2.3% (2009: CZK 2 651 million, 2010: CZK 2 589 million) while imports increased (2009: CZK 0.1 million, 2010: CZK 5 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 2 584 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: clothing and undergarments; turbogenerators; passenger automobiles; electrical apparatus; steam turbines; heat exchangers; razors and razor blades; pumps; iron and steel structures; construction industry vehicles; pistols; lighting; eggs.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodity: t-shirts.

### *Development cooperation and humanitarian aid*

- 7 March 2010 – The Czech Republic dispatched eleven Czech diplomats to Iraq to monitor the Parliamentary elections.
- 10 – 18 May 2010 – residency of five Iraqi diplomats at the Diplomatic Academy of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of a memorandum of understanding between the Czech and Iraqi foreign ministries.

The implementation of a long-term transformation project organised by the non-profit organisation Člověk v tísní (People in Need), whose aim was to support the Iraqi non-profit sector, especially in south Iraq. As part of the programme, which is financed from the budget of the Czech Ministry of Interior, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) organised training in the Czech Republic for representatives of the Iraqi public administration focused on migration issues, border security issues, and public administration work in this area.

The Czech Republic contributed financially to certain UNESCO projects in Iraq.

### *Cultural relations*

A piano concert of Czech composers and exhibitions of Czech glass, Czech manuscripts and legends of Czech castles and manors were organised in Baghdad and Arbil. An independent photography exhibition in the Plastic Arts Gallery was devoted to the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the November events. The Embassy of the Czech Republic also issued a catalogue of photographs from the expeditions to

Iraq by travellers Hanzelka and Zikmund and a postcard gift set. A children's day and a Christmas concert was organised for orphans.

## **Iran**

### ***(Islamic Republic of Iran)***

#### *Other meetings*

- 25 September 2010 – meeting in New York between Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg and Minister of Foreign Affairs Manouchehr Mottaki on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Iran increased by 89.8% from CZK 2 035 million in 2009 to CZK 3 862 million in 2010. Exports increased by 20.3% (2009: CZK 1 528 million, 2010: CZK 1 838 million) and imports increased by 299.3% (2009: CZK 507 million, 2010: CZK 2 023 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –185 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: razors and razor blades; glassware; industrial machinery and equipment; globe valves; electric engines and equipment; railway rolling stock axles; toiletries and cosmetics; toothbrushes; pharmaceutical substances; steel rods and poles; kaolin; machining centres; pressure tanks.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: petroleum; pistachios; raisins; carpets.

#### *Development cooperation and humanitarian aid*

In November 2010, the Czech Republic contributed CZK 3 million to projects intended to help Afghan refugees in Iran through the United National High Commissioner for Refugees. Furthermore, a small-scale local project worth CZK 100 000 was executed. The funds were provided by the NGO Society for Protection of Working and Street children with its headquarters in Tehran to provide assistance to the Hesarak School for the children of Afghan refugees in the municipality of Karafa near Tehran.

#### *Cultural relations*

Participation of M. Procházková's film *Kdopak by se vlka bál (Who's Afraid of the Wolf)* in European Film Week on 22 – 27 May 2010.

## **Israel**

### ***(State of Israel)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 1 – 2 February 2010 – visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence M. Barták, who appeared at the Herzliya security conference, met with the Deputy Prime Minister and

- 26 – 27 April 2010 – visit by Minister of Health D. Jurásková
- 4 – 6 May 2010 – visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout; the Minister met with his counterpart A. Liberman, President Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu
- 1 – 4 June 2010 – visit by President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic P. Sobotka; the senate president met with Speaker of the Knesset Reuven Rivlin, President Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu
- 26 – 29 June 2010 – visit by a delegation of senators from the Committee for Economy, Agriculture and Transport of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, headed by J. Hajda
- 28 – 30 June 2010 – visit by Deputy President of the Police V. Čech

#### *Visits by the representatives of Israel*

- 20 September 2010 – visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs A. Liberman, who met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg, Prime Minister P. Nečas, President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic P. Sobotka, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic M. Němcová, and Minister of Defence A. Vondra

#### *Other meetings*

- December 2010 – meeting between Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg and Israeli Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Strategic Affairs Moshe Ya'alon in Astana on the sidelines of the OSCE meeting in Kazakhstan

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Israel increased by 45.3% from CZK 11.253 million in 2009 to CZK 16 356 million in 2010. Exports increased by 66.5% (2009: CZK 6 971 million, 2010: CZK 11 604 million) and imports increased by 11% (2009: CZK 4 282 million, 2010: CZK 4 752 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 6 852 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger automobiles; computer technology equipment; razors and razor blades; electric and telecommunications equipment; semiconductor and optical media; appliances; toiletries and cosmetics; laundry detergents; pharmaceutical substances; paper; construction industry vehicles; rails.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: medicaments; printed circuit boards; electronic and telecommunications equipment; herbicides and fungicides; carbide blades; refined chemicals; medical devices and instruments; plastic products; peppers; computer technology equipment; cosmetics; food preparations.

#### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Memorandum of Cooperation between the ministries of defence, signed in February 2010 during a visit by Minister of Defence M. Barták

#### *Cultural relations*

- In 2010, the embassy in Tel Aviv organised the following cultural events:
- Dance performance *Proměnná (Variables)* by T. Lenerová – Einat Ganz
- Commemorative evening on Memorial Day for the Victims of the Holocaust with the “girls” from room No. 280 in Terezín
- Israeli premiere of the theatre play *Hanin kufřík (Hana's Suitcase)*
- Participation in the 13<sup>th</sup> International Student Film Festival in Tel Aviv
- Regular *Czech the Issues* discussion panels (A. B. Jehoshua, A. Lustig, M. Arens, etc.)
- Czech Film Week in Tel Aviv, in Jerusalem, Haifa, and Sderot
- *Meet the Czech Literature* – two discussion panels on Czech literature
- J. Slíva exhibition and participation in the international caricature competition
- Sivan Rotem and Virtuosi di Praga concerts
- Celebration of the anniversary of the Velvet Revolution [screening of N. Dudinský's film *Holky z fildy (Revolution Girls)*]
- Participation in the Haifa Film Festival

The Czech Republic donated CZK 1 million to the Bejt Terezín monument, museum and education centre.

## **Jordan**

### ***(Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 6 – 9 March 2010 – visit by Deputy Minister of Defence J. Fulíka
- 20 – 24 March 2010 – delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic, headed by Deputy Minister K. Tureček



- 11 – 15 April 2010 – visit by the Committee on Health Care and Social Policy of the Senate of the Czech Republic
- 30 May – 1 June 2010 – official visit of President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic P. Sobotka

#### *Visits by the representatives of Jordan*

- 3 – 7 June 2010 – visit by the Chief of Air Staff of the Royal Jordanian Air Force Brigadier General Malek Al Habashneh
- 22 – 25 June 2010 – visit by the Minister of Agriculture Said Masri

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Jordan increased by 172.2% from CZK 495 million in 2009 to CZK 1 349 million in 2010. Exports increased by 181.5% (2009: CZK 473 million, 2010: CZK 1 332 million) and imports decreased by 25.8% (2009: CZK 22 million, 2010: CZK 17 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 1 315 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: steam and gas turbine parts; passenger automobiles; circuit boards; computer technology equipment; kraftliner (containerboard); civilian weapons; razors and razor blades; tobacco machinery; cables and conductors; steel structures; sugar; apparatus.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: melons; metal imitation jewellery; medicaments; tobacco; toiletries and cosmetics.

#### *Development cooperation and humanitarian aid*

On 25 January 2010, a recycling paper project in the Azraq natural reservation worth USD 24 100 was officially handed over. The project was organised by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in cooperation with the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

On 2 March 2010, an agreement was concluded between the Embassy of the Czech Republic and the RSCN on a joint project for 2010 aimed at utilising solar energy in the Dana reservation and to support the local handicrafts. The project was put into operation on 31 October 2010.

A demining mission of the Military of the Czech Republic (MCR) was underway from April to August 2010. Nine demining experts from the MCR with two Božena 5 demining tanks were involved. During this mission, a few hundred hectares of mine fields on the Jordanian-Israeli border were demined and checked

#### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Memorandum of Understanding in the Field of Demining between the Ministry of Defence and the National Center for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR)

- Agreement on Exchange of Historical Military Technology between the Military History Institute in Prague and the Royal Tank Museum
- Bilateral cooperation plan of the defence ministries for 2010

### *Cultural relations*

- 11 March 2010 – a concert of the Prague Chamber Orchestra in Amman
- May 2010 – exhibition of promotional posters from World War II entitled *Back them up!* from the collections of the Military History Institute in Prague
- 2 November 2010 – An evening in Amman dedicated to the work of world renowned Czech Middle East expert A. Musil organised by the Embassy of the Czech Republic, in cooperation with the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR)

## **Kuwait**

### ***(State of Kuwait)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 31 October – 2 November 2010 – state visit by President V. Klaus and his wife, accompanied by a business mission organised by the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic. The president met with the highest public officials: Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah), Speaker of the National Assembly Jassem Mohammed Al-Kharafi, and CEO of the Kuwait Investment Agency Farouk Bastaki. During his visit, the president opened the business forum and three bilateral agreements were signed in his presence.

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Kuwait increased by 3.5% from CZK 805 million in 2009 to CZK 833 million in 2010. Exports decreased by 1% (2009: CZK 759 million, 2010: CZK 752 million) and imports increased by 76.7% (2009: CZK 46 million, 2010: CZK 81 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 671 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: computer technology equipment; air filtering systems; sugar; electrical apparatus; iron and steel conduits; passenger automobiles; shovel loaders; cheeses; medicaments; tyres; compressors.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: diethylene glycol; polyethylene.

#### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Protocol between the Czech Republic and the State of Kuwait on Amendments to the Agreement between the Czech Republic and the State of Kuwait for the Promotion and Protection of Investments, 31 October 2010

- Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in connection with Consultations, 31 October 2010
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Confederation of Czech Industry and the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 31 October 2010

### *Cultural relations*

On 31 May 2010, a concert of classical baroque music was performed by pianist J. Klepáč and trumpet player M. Zvolán. Kuwait Provided the Czech Republic two one-year scholarships for Arabic language studies at Kuwait University.

## **Lebanon**

### ***(Republic of Lebanon)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 17 – 18 February 2010 – working visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout
- 16 – 19 March 2010 – visit by a delegation of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, headed by Committee Chairman J. Dienstbier
- 19 – 21 March 2010 – visit by Minister of Finance E. Janota
- 22 – 24 September 2010 – visit by Police President Major-General O. Martinů

### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Lebanon increased by 40.1% from CZK 712 million in 2009 to CZK 996 million in 2010. Exports increased by 38.5% (2009: CZK 698 million, 2010: CZK 966 million) and imports increased by 116.4% (2009: CZK 14 million, 2010: CZK 30 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 936 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: powdered milk; computer technology equipment; cheeses; razors and razor blades; glassware; passenger automobiles; paper; beef cattle; shovel loaders; toiletries and cosmetics; wafers; machinery; toothbrushes.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodity: tobacco.

### *Development cooperation and humanitarian aid*

One Lebanese student applied for a government scholarship.

The Czech Republic provided its annual contribution of CZK 3 million to the UNRWA general fund.

The Czech Republic donated USD 10 000 for the operation of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

#### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Protocol to the Agreement on the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments between the Czech Republic and the Republic of Lebanon, which was agreed with regard to the Czech Republic's membership in the EU and amends the wording of the Agreement to comply with the commitments of the Czech Republic under Community law, 20 March 2010

#### *Cultural relations*

- On 9 May 2010, violinist and singer I. Bittová performed in Beirut.
- On **28 October 2010**, the Embassy of the Czech Republic, in cooperation with the Lebanese National Philharmonic, organised a concert on the occasion of Independent Czechoslovak State Day. The philharmonic was conducted by Czech conductor J. Štván.

## **Libya**

### ***(Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)***

#### *Other meetings*

- 28 – 30 November 2010 – Czech President V. Klaus attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> EU-Africa summit, heading the Czech delegation, which included Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs T. Dub and Chief of Staff of the Army of the Czech Republic V. Pícek.

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Libya fell by 74.9% from CZK 3 319 million in 2009 to CZK 833 million in 2010. Exports decreased by 73% (2009: CZK 3 080 million, 2010: CZK 833 million) and imports were insignificant (2009: CZK 239 million, 2010: CZK 0.2 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 833 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: undergarments; glassware; porcelain; construction industry vehicles; electrical apparatus; tyres; used semi-trailers; sheet piling; screws; lighting; pectin substances; machinery; toiletries and cosmetics; razors and razor blades.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodity: petroleum.

## **Morocco**

### ***(Kingdom of Morocco)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 17 – 19 March 2010 – working visit of Minister of Finance E. Janota.

### *Other meetings*

- 29 November 2010 – meeting between President V. Klaus and Prime Minister Abbas El Fassi on the sidelines of the EU-Africa summit (Tripoli, Libya)

### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Morocco increased by 14.5% from CZK 2 993 million in 2009 to CZK 3 429 million in 2010. Exports increased by 26% (2009: CZK 1 795 million, 2010: CZK 2 262 million) and imports decreased by 2.6% (2009: CZK 1 198 million, 2010: CZK 1 167 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 1 095 million.

On 19 March 2010, the Additional Protocol to the Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investments was signed.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: computer technology equipment; electrical apparatus; passenger automobiles; tyres; plastic products; railway rolling stock axles; paper; aluminium sheeting; iron and steel conduits; machinery; and mineral fertilisers.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: vegetables; clothing; electric engines and apparatus; fruit; footwear; fish and tinned fish.

### *Bilateral agreements*

- Additional Protocol to the Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investments, 19 March 2010

### *Cultural relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic executed a number of bilateral cultural events and participated in joint EU cultural events. On 8 May 2010, it organised a cultural and tourist presentation on the occasion of Europe Day, which was held under the auspices of the European Delegation in Casablanca. In April, the Czech Republic was the guest of honour at the 10<sup>th</sup> FICAM International Animated Film Festival in Meknes, where the film *Na Pudě (In the Attic)* was screened, following which was a discussion with the film's director J. Bárta. On 18 July 2010, the dance ensemble *C-Dance* performed in Meknes as part of the 11<sup>th</sup> *Volubilis* International Dance Festival. On 25 September 2010, the Czech Republic took part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual *Feast of Languages*, organised by the Instituto Cervantes in Casablanca, by providing Czech courses.

## **Oman**

### ***(Sultanate of Oman)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 16 – 17 May 2010 – political consultation in the Sultanate of Oman between Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H. Kmoníček and Omani Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmed bin Yusuf al Harthy

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Oman increased by 24.4% from CZK 394 million in 2009 to CZK 490 million in 2010. Exports increased by 33.7% (2009: CZK 214 million, 2010: CZK 286 million) and imports increased by 13.5% (2009: CZK 180 million, 2010: CZK 204 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 82 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: data processing equipment; front-end shovel loaders; kraftliner (containerboard) for bags; steam turbines; passenger automobiles; water filtration equipment; seamless pipes; tyres; glass; storage units; lighting.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: brakes and components thereof; polyethylene terephthalate; semi-finished products from unalloyed steel; medicaments; glass products; wall and floor tiles; resins.

## **Palestinian Autonomous Territories**

### ***(Palestinian National Authority)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 6 May 2010 – visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout, who met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Riad al-Malki and informally with Minister of National Economy Hasan Abu Libdeh
- 27 June 2010 – visit by a delegation of the Committee for Economy, Agriculture and Transport of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Parliament, headed by J. Hajda

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with the Palestinian Autonomous Territories great greatly from CZK 8 million in 2009 to CZK 60 million in 2010. Exports rose significantly (2009: CZK 8 million, 2010: CZK 60 million) while imports remained just as insignificant as in 2009. The balance of foreign trade for 2010 thus amounted to CZK 60 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: automobiles; measuring instruments; dryers; mechanical products; crushers; motor-powered cranes; metal processing machinery; ergot alkaloids; cosmetics; pharmaceutical products.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: cut flowers; coins.

### *Development cooperation and humanitarian aid*

The Palestinian Autonomous Territories are among the Czech Republic's priority countries for foreign development cooperation. Even in 2010, the Czech Republic expended much effort in this region. In November 2010, the construction of a transformer service centre, to which the Czech Republic contributed CZK 49 million, was successfully completed in Tubas. The repair centre should become the foundation for a new industrial zone pending a decision of the regional authority in Tubas.

The implementation of an important long-term energy project to bring power to the Tubas region continued. This project is aimed at building small and medium power sources and related distribution networks. The work focused on stabilisation and maintenance of distribution networks. CZK 9 million was the budget for this project in 2010.

The Czech Republic implemented a number of other small-scale development projects, which included in particular a project for the implementation of a modern Water Allocation System (WAS).

The Czech Republic continued to support the construction of Palestinian institutions by providing three members of the Police of the Czech Republic for the EUPOL COPPS mission.

In 2010, the Czech Republic provided humanitarian support of CZK 3 million via UNRWA to assist Palestinians and refugees both in Gaza and in the West Bank.

## **Saudi Arabia**

### ***(Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 8 – 13 May 2010 – political consultations between Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H. Kmoníček and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs for Economic Matters Yousef Al-Sadoun. Deputy Minister Kmoníček was received by the State Minister of Foreign Affairs Nizar Madani, met with Deputy Chairman of the National Security Committee Rehab Massoud) and dealt with the Chief Commander of the Royal Saudi Land Forces Abdulrahman Al-Marshad.

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Saudi Arabia increased by 11.6% from CZK 4 237 million in 2009 to CZK 4 730 million in 2010. Exports increased by 9.9% (2009: CZK 4 113 million, 2010: CZK 4 522 million) and imports increased by 68.3% (2009: CZK 124 million, 2010: CZK 208 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 4 314 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: data processing equipment; front-end shovel loaders; flat-rolled iron and steel products; men's and boys' clothing; passenger cars; high voltage distribution boards and parts thereof; cooling compressors; cheeses and quark; storage units; kraftliner (containerboard) for bags; tyres; safety fuses and caps; chandeliers and lighting.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: ethylene polymers; ether alcohols and phenols; impregnated textiles; laminated plastics; polypropylene; plastic products; mandarin oranges; electric meters; detergents.

## **Syria**

### ***(Syrian Arab Republic)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 16 – 17 February 2010 – visit by Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout
- 14 – 16 March 2010 – visit by Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate of the Czech Republic J. Dienstbier

#### *Visits by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic*

- 24 – 26 March 2010 – Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Diala Al-Haj Aref

#### *Other meetings*

- 24 September 2010 – meeting between Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg and Syrian Minister of Foreign Affairs Walid al-Moallem on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Syria fell by 17% from CZK 1 248 million in 2009 to CZK 1 036 million in 2010. Exports decreased by 21.1% (2009: CZK 1 193 million, 2010: CZK 941 million) but imports increased by 73.8% (2009: CZK 55 million, 2010: CZK 95 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 846 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger automobiles; electric rotating machinery; textile machinery; cutlery; glass; construction machinery; heating and cooling equipment; other road motor vehicles; steam generation boilers.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: textile yarns; cotton; clothing accessories; lighting equipment; clothing and undergarments.

#### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Social Security Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Syrian Arab Republic.



## **Tunisia**

### ***(Tunisian Republic)***

#### *Visits by the representatives of the Tunisian Republic*

- 12 October 2010 – working visit of Secretary of State for Foreign Trade Chokri Mamoghli

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Tunisia increased by 52.6% from CZK 1 869 million in 2009 to CZK 2 851 million in 2010. Exports increased by 48.3% (2009: CZK 1 163 million, 2010: CZK 1 725 million) and imports increased by CZK 59.6% (2009: CZK 706 million, 2010: CZK 1 126 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 599 million.

The first session of the Mixed Commission of Czech-Tunisian Cooperation was held in October 2010.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: personal computer parts; airplane parts; cast-iron axels and wheels; gas turbine parts; printed circuit boards; electronics industry products; steel tubes; glass; construction iron and steel.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: clothing and accessories; footwear; leather products; electrical apparatus; ignition wiring sets; oil filters for combustion engines; machinery; inductors; switches; fruits; vegetables.

#### *Bilateral agreements*

- Memorandum on Cooperation between the Diplomatic Academies of the Czech Republic and Tunisia, 3 May 2010

#### *Cultural relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic participated in a number of cultural festivals and trade fairs: the *Foire du livre* book fair in Tunis on 23 April – 2 May 2010; the 16<sup>th</sup> Carthage Musical October (*Octobre musical de Carthage*), at which L. Brabec gave a guitar recital on 26 October 2010; and the *European Film Festival (Journée du Cinéma Européen)* in October 2010, with the film *Kdopak by se vlka bál (Who's Afraid of the Wolf)* being screen in four Tunisian cities.

## **United Arab Emirates**

#### *Other meetings*

- 18 – 20 January 2010 – Special Envoy for Energy Security V. Bartuška took part in the World Future Energy Summit (conference and trade fair) in the United Arab Emirates.
- 21 – 22 November 2010 – Special Envoy for Energy Security and Government Plenipotentiary for Completion of the Temelín Nuclear Power Plant V. Bartuška met in Abu

### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with the United Arab Emirates decreased by 1.7% from CZK 10 900 million in 2009 to CZK 10 716 million in 2010. Exports decreased by 1.7% (2009: CZK 10 218 million, 2010: CZK 10 040 million) and imports decreased by 0.9% (2009: CZK 682 million, 2010: CZK 676 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 9 364 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: glass products; comprehensive digital data processing systems; electricity distribution boards and panels; pumps; iron and steel.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: raw aluminium and alloys thereof.

### *Cultural relations*

On 19 – 28 October 2010, Abu Dhabi hosted Prague's marionette theatre Tineola, which performed the play *Kolem světa v čajové konvici* (*Around the World in a Teapot*).

## **Yemen**

### ***(Republic of Yemen)***

#### *Other meetings*

- 24 September 2010 – meeting between Minister of Foreign Affairs Schwarzenberg and Yemeni Minister of Foreign Affairs Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York
- 24 September 2010 – attendance of Minister of Foreign Affairs at the ministerial meeting of the Friends of Yemen group in New York

### *Economic relations*

In 2010, the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover in Yemen increased by 48.3% from CZK 565 million in 2009 to CZK 838 million in 2010. Exports increased by 48.2% (2009: CZK 565 million, 2010: CZK 837 million) and imports grew (2009: CZK 0.02 million, 2010: CZK 0.5 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 837 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger automobiles; civilian weapons; diesel engines; aircraft launching gear; computer technology equipment; electrical apparatus; aerials.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodity: scrap precious metals.

### *Development cooperation and humanitarian aid*

In the period 2006 – 2010, Yemen was one of the Czech Republic's eight priority countries for foreign cooperation development. Cooperation was aimed in particular at the underdeveloped south and focused on two sectors: energy and water. In November 2010, the al-Hiswa power plant reconstruction project in Aden was successfully completed (total budget CZK 49.0 million). Three long-running projects were also completed: a waste water treatment plant construction project in al-Mukalla (total budget CZK 6.0 million), a waste water treatment project in Ghail Bawazir (total budget CZK 9.7 million), and a sludge treatment project in Hadibo (total budget CZK 15.0 million). Three "small-scale local projects" worth CZK 891 000 were realised in Sana'a via the embassy in Sana'a: furnishing a school in Salah al-Deen in the Ibb region, purchase of sporting goods and clothes for the Association of Physically Handicapped Athletes, and purchase of medical supplies and garments for the medical centre in Sana'a.

Five scholarships for Bachelor's/Master's programmes were designated for Yemen in the 2009/2010 academic year, with 18 government scholarship recipients from Yemen studying in the Czech Republic this academic year.

## **7. The Czech Republic's Relations with the Countries of Sub-Saharan Africa**

Developing relations with both traditional and less traditional partners remained one of the principal objectives of the Czech Republic's foreign policy in respect of sub-Saharan Africa in 2010. In addition to strengthening political ties with African countries the Czech Republic sought to make use of the potential markets for Czech products on the African continent. The Czech Republic continued to provide development cooperation to certain African countries, with Ethiopia becoming one of the five highest-priority countries in 2010. The Czech Republic also provided humanitarian aid to certain African countries and, in keeping with tradition, paid attention to cultural presentation.

The year 2010 was significant for Africa in that it brought the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Year of Africa, which marked the definitive end of colonial rule over the continent (seventeen African countries gained their independence in 1960). This occasion, as well as the annual Africa Day, was commemorated in the Czech Republic at a colloquium held on 24 May 2010 at the UN Information Centre in Prague and attended by Under-Secretary-General of the UN and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries C. S. Diarra.

The most important bilateral event in relation to sub-Saharan Africa in 2010 was the official visit to Ethiopia and Zambia by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic J. Kohout. The visit was also used as an opportunity for talks with top-level representatives of the African Union Commission.

The Czech Republic played an active role in preparing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa-EU summit that was held in Tripoli, Libya, in November 2010. The Czech delegation to the summit was led by President V. Klaus, who met with several of his African counterparts during the event.

For reasons of economy the embassy in Luanda, Angola, was closed as of 31 March 2010 and the Government of the Czech Republic decided in August 2010 to close certain other embassies, including two in sub-Saharan Africa (in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and in Nairobi, Kenya) with effect from 31 January 2011.

## **Angola**

### ***(Republic of Angola)***

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in this country was closed as of 31 March 2010. Diplomatic and consular competence for the Republic of Angola was taken over by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in the Republic of South Africa.

### *Economic relations*

The Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Angola increased by 161.5% from CZK 215 million in 2009 to CZK 562 million in 2010. Exports increased by 147.8% (from CZK 215 million in 2009 to CZK 532 million in 2010) and imports by even more (from CZK 0.2 million to CZK 30 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 502 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: computer equipment, iron and steel products, travel goods, second-hand clothing.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: polished granite.

### *Foreign development cooperation*

The Republic of Angola is part of the wider circle of priority countries for the Czech Republic's foreign development cooperation. Two projects concerning leisure activities for children and youth and poultry farming were completed in 2010. Projects supporting elementary and secondary education went ahead. All the projects were implemented in Bié province. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also implemented a small-scale local mine clearance project in this province.

Angola received two scholarships for the 2010-2011 academic year.

## **Botswana**

### ***(Republic of Botswana)***

### *Other meetings*

- On 22 September 2010 there was a bilateral meeting between Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg and Minister of Foreign Affairs and

- On 29 November 2010 there was a meeting between Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs T. Dub and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation P. T. C. Skelemani on the sidelines of the Africa-EU summit in Libya.

### *Economic relations*

The Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Botswana increased by 132% from CZK 8 million in 2009 to CZK 18 million in 2010. Exports grew (from CZK 3 million in 2009 to CZK 14 million in 2010) and imports fell (from CZK 5 million to CZK 4 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 10 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: kraft paper, electrical and air conditioning equipment.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: beef.

## **Cape Verde**

### ***(Republic of Cape Verde)***

#### *Visits by representatives of Cape Verde:*

- 12-16 July 2010 – visit by Minister of the Environment, Housing and Spatial Planning S. Lopes with a group of geographers and cartographers. The main purpose of the visit was to hold talks at the Ministry for Regional Development and the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre with a view to gaining the necessary information for creating and managing a real estate register.

### *Economic relations*

The Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Cape Verde increased by 19.7% from CZK 9.2 million in 2009 to CZK 11 million in 2010. Exports increased by 17.6% (from CZK 8.9 million in 2009 to CZK 10.4 million 2010); imports were also up (from CZK 0.3 million to CZK 0.6 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 9.8 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: storage tanks, turboprop engines.

### *Cultural relations*

The Czech Republic took part in the first European film festival in Cape Verde, which was held from 5 to 9 May 2010 on the occasion of Europe Day. The film *Kolya* was screened in the capital city Praia on 8 May 2010. On the occasion of the anniversary of liberation, documentaries on the Lidice tragedy were screened and an art workshop on the Lidice monument was held in the Brazilian cultural centre in Praia.

### *Miscellaneous*

The Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Cape Verde in the Czech Republic was opened on 6 May 2010. One of the authorisations of the honorary consul Z. Trkal is to grant visas for travel to Cape Verde.

## **Democratic Republic of Congo**

On 25 August 2010 the Government of the Czech Republic issued Resolution no. 618 deciding to close the Embassy of the Czech Republic in the Democratic Republic of Congo with effect from 31 January 2011. Having operated continuously since 21 February 1948, the embassy was one of the oldest on the African continent. The Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic headed by M. Rawji will continue to operate in the DRC.

### *Economic relations*

The Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with the DRC increased by 6.3% from CZK 64 million in 2009 to CZK 68 million in 2010. Exports increased by 22.3% (from CZK 45 million in 2009 to CZK 55 million 2010;) while imports decreased by 31.4% (from CZK 19 million to CZK 13 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 42 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: second-hand clothing, antennas, plastic products.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: wood.

### *Transformation and development cooperation*

A trilateral project entitled *Improving Hygiene Conditions and Access to Drinking Water for the War-affected and Relocated Inhabitants of the Kalehe Zone* continued in 2010. The small-scale local project was supported by the Czech Republic through the non-governmental organisation People in Need.

### *Cultural relations*

On the occasion of Czech National Day on 28 October 2010 the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Kinshasa organised a concert by pianist J. Klepáč. The concert was attended by approximately 400 guests and thus contributed to the cultural life of the capital of the DRC in the year of the fiftieth anniversary of independence.

### *Miscellaneous*

Three Czech citizens served in the UN mission in the DRC (MONUSCO, formerly MONUC) in 2010.

## **Djibouti**

### ***(Republic of Djibouti)***

#### *Other meetings*

- Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs T. Dub and Chief of General Staff of the Army of the Czech Republic General V. Picek held a meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Djibouti M. A Youssouf on the sidelines of the Africa-EU summit held in Tripoli, Libya, on 29 and 30 November 2010.

#### *Economic relations*

The Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Djibouti decreased by 41.5% from CZK 2.8 million in 2009 to CZK 1.7 million in 2010. Exports grew (from CZK 0.1 million in 2009 to CZK 1.3 million in 2010) but imports decreased by more (from CZK 2.7 million to CZK 0.3 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 1 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: filtration apparatus.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: furniture accessories.

## **Ethiopia**

### ***(Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic:*

- 8-10 March 2010 – official visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout, accompanied by a business mission. The minister was received by President Girma Woldegiorgis; he also met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Seyoum Mesfin, Minister of Finance and Economic Development Sufian Ahmed, Chairperson of the African Union Commission J. Ping, its deputy chairperson E. Mwencha and commissioners for social affairs and for infrastructure and energy B. P. Gawanas and E. M. A. Ibrahim.

#### *Economic relations*

The Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Ethiopia decreased by 44.5% from CZK 313 million in 2009 to CZK 173 million in 2010. Exports decreased by 69% (from CZK 252 million in 2009 to CZK 78 million in 2010) while imports increased by 57% (from CZK 61 million to CZK 95 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK -17 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: machinery and industrial equipment, electrical equipment, light fittings, non-military arms, grinding balls, parachutes, razors and razorblades, synthetic rubber, powdered milk.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: coffee, pulses, cut flowers, leather footwear, leather.

### *Transformation and development cooperation*

Under Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic no. 366 of 24 May 2010 Ethiopia was the only African country included among the group of priority countries for the Czech Republic's foreign development cooperation for the years 2010-2017. The principal sectors of cooperation are the environment, agriculture and social development (including education and healthcare).

Development projects in the existing cooperation format of small-scale local projects also went ahead in 2010.

In addition, the Czech Republic provided Ethiopia with humanitarian aid worth CZK 1.8 million in 2010 to mitigate the negative impacts of the recurring drought in the Somali region.

Ethiopia has traditionally been one of the principal beneficiaries of government scholarships, and received nine for the 2010-2011 academic year.

### *Cultural relations*

The 2010 European Film Festival was held in Addis Ababa on 12-20 May 2010. The Czech film *Tobruk* by V. Marhoul was screened at the festival.

On 11-14 July 2010 the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Addis Ababa staged an exhibition entitled *Roll out the Barrel*, at which visitors could taste beer of Czech origin and beer from Ethiopian breweries built by Czech contractors (breweries in the cities of Harar and Bedele). The exhibition took place as part of AGRIFEX Ethiopia III, the international trade fair of agricultural and food industry technologies and products. The Czech stand at the trade fair showcased Czech supplies for the brewing industry.

27 Ethiopian children took part in the *Lidice 2010* children's international art competition, winning one medal and three honorary mentions.

## **Ghana**

### ***(Republic of Ghana)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Republic of Ghana:*

- Speaker of Parliament J. A. Bamford Addo visited the Czech Republic in April 2010. As well as meetings with her counterparts from the Parliament of the Czech Republic, on 28 April 2010 she met with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H. Kmoníček.
- The Ghana-Czech Trade and Investment Forum took place in Prague on 9-12 November 2010. The Ghanaian delegation was led by Vice-President J. D. Mahama, who was received by President V. Klaus and met with Prime Minister P. Nečas. Trade and economic relations between the two countries were at the forefront of attention. Vice-President Mahama also held talks at the Ministry of Industry and Trade and visited certain machine engineering companies in Plzeň.



### *Other meetings*

- On 30 November 2010 President of the Czech Republic V. Klaus met with President of Ghana J. A. Mills on the sidelines of the Africa-EU summit.

### *Economic relations*

The Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Ghana increased by 28.2% from CZK 279 million in 2009 to CZK 358 million in 2010. Exports stayed at 2009 levels (2009: CZK 223.4 million; 2010: CZK 223 million) while imports increased by 142% (2009: CZK 55.6 million; 2010: CZK 135 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 88 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: razors and razorblades, passenger cars, parts for agricultural machinery and tractors, second-hand clothing, glass pearls, electrical equipment, cotton fabrics.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: bananas and other fruit, crude rubber, coffee, cotton, wood, lead.

### *Development cooperation*

The Czech Republic provided Ghana with two government scholarships for the 2010-2011 academic year.

### *Cultural relations*

On 4 May 2010, on the occasion of the European Film Festival in Ghana, the cartoon serial *Pat and Mat* was screened at an improvised open-air cinema in the capital Accra. The public interest was so great that the crowds entirely blocked the traffic on a busy transport artery.

## **Kenya**

### ***(Republic of Kenya)***

On 25 August 2010 the Government of the Czech Republic issued Resolution no. 618 deciding to close the Embassy of the Czech Republic in the Republic of Kenya with effect from 31 January 2011. An Office of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia will continue to exist in the Republic of Kenya, dealing solely with Czech-Kenyan relations. The Office is staffed by the Czech Republic's permanent representative to UNEP and UN-HABITAT.

### *Visits by representatives of the Republic of Kenya:*

- 7-13 February 2010 – working visit by Assistant Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology K. Mwiria. On 9 February she met with Deputy Minister of Education, Youth and Sports E. Bartoňová.
- 26-30 April 2010 – working visit by Minister for Tourism N. Balala. On 27 April 2010 the minister met with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H. Kmoníček and on 28 April 2010 with First Deputy Minister for Regional Development M. Plachý. On 27 April 2010 Minister Balala

### *Economic relations*

The Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Kenya increased by 32% from CZK 467 million in 2009 to CZK 617 million in 2010. Exports increased by 42.5% (from CZK 371 million in 2009 to CZK 528 million in 2010) while imports decreased by 7.5% (from CZK 96 million to CZK 89 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 439 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: computer equipment, telecommunications and audiovisual equipment, polyethylene and softened polyvinyl chlorides, printing machinery, turboprop engines, electrical equipment, razors and razorblades, paper, pistols and non-military arms.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: cut flowers, coffee, avocados.

### *Foreign development cooperation*

Under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior the Czech Republic implemented a project targeting computer literacy and work with the internet. In addition, a small-scale local project supporting Dadaab refugee camp by the border with Somalia was executed. Kenya received three scholarships for the 2010-2011 academic year. In addition, one Kenyan student attended in the European Studies Summer School organised by the Diplomatic Academy of the MFA.

### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Agreement between the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Kenya on Cooperation in the Field of Tourism, Prague, 28 April 2010.

### *Cultural relations*

In March the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Nairobi organised a cultural evening dedicated to promoting the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. The 2010 European Film Festival was held in Nairobi on 12-30 May 2010. Czech films *Protector* and *Shameless* were screened at the festival. J. Pavlica and J. Fojta from the band *Hradiš'an* toured Kenya in November 2010.

## **Mali**

### ***(Republic of Mali)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic:*

- 22-25 March 2010 – working visit by a six-member delegation of the Committee on Defence of the Chamber of Deputies of Parliament, led by its chairman J. Vidím. The delegation held talks with its counterparts from the foreign relations and defence committees and was received by the president of the National Assembly and the minister of defence.

#### *Visits by representatives of the Republic of Mali:*

- 15-20 September 2010 – visit by two members of the National Assembly: chairman of the defence committee B. Dicko and member of the foreign committee B. Niakate. In addition to meetings with their counterparts from the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of Parliament they also held talks with the minister of industry and trade and with the deputy ministers of the foreign affairs and defence ministries.

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Mali remained at the same level as in 2009, i.e. CZK 735 million. However, exports decreased by 1.8% (from CZK 714 million in 2009 to CZK 701 million in 2010) while imports increased by 60.4% (from CZK 21 million to CZK 34 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 667 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: cotton fabrics, lorries, bicycle tyre inners, tyres, antennas.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: cotton.

#### *Cultural relations*

On 7 December 2010, the exact day of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, an exhibition entitled *The Czech Republic – an Affair of the Heart* was inaugurated in the Bamako Regional Museum. Minister of Youth and Sports H. Niang was one of many prominent guests attending the opening ceremony.

## **Namibia**

### ***(Republic of Namibia)***

#### *Other meetings*

- 5 May 2010 – Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H. Kmoníček and Minister of Foreign Affairs U. Nujoma met on the occasion of the Non-proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York;

- 29 November 2010 – meeting between Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs T. Dub and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs P. Mushelenga on the sidelines of the Africa-EU summit in Libya.

### *Economic relations*

The Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Namibia decreased by 23% from CZK 96 million in 2009 to CZK 74 million in 2010. Exports decreased by 70% (from CZK 57 million in 2009 to CZK 17 million in 2010) while imports increased by 44.5% (from CZK 39.5 million to CZK 57 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –40 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: rubber moulds, footwear machinery, pistols, non-military arms, antennas, paper bags.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: beef, printing machine and washing machine parts, wine, zinc.

### *Foreign development cooperation*

Namibia received three government scholarships for the 2010-2011 academic year.

### *Cultural relations*

The main theme of the EU Film Festival held in Windhoek at the start of the beginning of the 2010 World Cup in the RSA was football. The Czech Republic was represented at the festival by the timeless film *Men Offside*.

## **Nigeria**

### ***(Federal Republic of Nigeria)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic:*

- 12-15 October 2010 – visit by Deputy Minister of Agriculture J. Chmiel.

#### *Visits by representatives of the Nigerian Federal Republic:*

- October 2010 – visit to Prague by President O. Obasanjo at the invitation of the Forum 2000 Foundation. President Obasanjo met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg at a working lunch.
- 14-15 December 2010 – a further round of political consultations between the foreign affairs ministries of the Czech Republic and Nigeria was held in Prague. For the Czech side the talks were conducted by Deputy Ministers T. Dub and V. Galuška; the head of the Nigerian delegation was Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs M. Uhomoibhi. A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the foreign ministries on the occasion of the consultations. The Nigerian delegation was also received at the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic.

### *Economic relations*

The Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Nigeria increased by 124.5% from CZK 529 million in 2009 to CZK 1,189 million in 2010. Exports increased by 224% (from CZK 518 million in 2009 to CZK 1,161 million in 2010) and imports increased by 146% (from CZK 11 million to CZK 28 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 1,133 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: computer equipment, razors and razorblades, passenger cars, regulatory apparatus, fezzes, brooms and brushes, batteries, switchboards, wires, explosives.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: cotton, scrap lead and scrap precious metal, rubber, syringes, aquarium fish, raw vegetable materials for pharmaceuticals, cashew nuts, coffee, ginger.

### *Transformation and development cooperation*

On 12-15 October 2010, on the occasion of an agriculture trade fair, a small-scale local project entitled *Support for Selected Nigerian Farming Cooperatives through a Delivery of High-quality Farming Technology*. In the presence of Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Czech Republic J. Chmiel, six sets of mini-tractors and accessories were handed over to three farming associations.

The Czech Republic provided Nigeria with one government scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year.

### *Cultural relations*

To mark Czech National Day, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Abuja organised a series of concerts by young pianist L. Vondráček and his partner Yu-Chcien from 25 October to 2 November 2010. The two musicians played at Muson Centre, Lagos's most important cultural venue, for members of the Musical Society of Nigeria and then in the Hilton Hotel in Abuja for a local audience and members of the diplomatic corps.

## **Republic of Congo**

### *Other meetings*

- 5-7 May 2010 – visit to the Czech Republic by a business mission headed by D. Mavouenzela, president of the Chamber of Commerce of Pointe-Noire, an important port and commercial centre in the south of the country, as part of *Economic Days of Congo in Prague*. The event was organised by the Embassy of the Republic of Congo in Berlin. On 6 May 2010 businessmen from the Republic of Congo and their Czech counterparts took part in a seminar at the Chamber of Commerce in Prague, which was addressed by representatives of the Czech Republic's foreign affairs and industry and trade ministries, among others. The seminar was co-organised by the Czech Republic – Sub-Saharan Africa Mixed Chamber of Commerce.

### *Economic relations*

The Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with the Republic of Congo increased slightly from CZK 66 million in 2009 CZK 67 million in 2010. Exports decreased by a quarter (from CZK 53 million in 2009 to CZK 38 million in 2010) but imports more than doubled (from CZK 13 million to CZK 29 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 9 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: second-hand clothing, pressurised containers, switchboards.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: wood, coffee, cobalt sheet.

### *Miscellaneous*

The Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic in Brazzaville was officially opened on 8 December 2010. The Honorary Consulate is headed by Mr S. Mpoungui.

## **RSA**

### ***(Republic of South Africa)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic:*

- 22-27 March 2010 – working visit by First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H. Bambasová. The Deputy Minister held bilateral consultations with Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation S. van der Merwe, and met with Deputy Minister of Science and Technology D. Hanekom and Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation of the National Assembly T. Nxesi. In Cape Town Deputy Minister Bambasová officially opened Visegrad House, a pilot project of V4 consular cooperation.

#### *Other meetings*

- On 29 November 2010 there was a meeting between Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs T. Dub and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation M. Nkoana–Mashabane on the sidelines of the Africa-EU summit in Libya.

### *Economic relations*

The Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with the RSA increased by 57.4% from CZK 8,249 million in 2009 to CZK 12,987 million in 2010. Exports increased by 61.8% (from CZK 4,796 million in 2009 to CZK 7,759 million in 2010) and imports by 51.4% (from CZK 3,453 million to CZK 5,228 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 2,531 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: computer equipment, passenger cars, electrical equipment, tyres, wires, coke.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: gas filters, parts for metallurgical equipment, wool, aluminium tubes, fruit, ferrous alloys, iron and chrome ores, vanadium oxides, exhaust silencers, wine.

### *Cultural relations*

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in the RSA organised several cultural events. In February 2010 it inaugurated an exhibition of works by J. Lammel entitled *Symbol of Czech Statehood* in Cape Town. The same city hosted a series of performances by Czech jazz instrumentalist L. Kytnar in October and, in Visegrad House, a presentation of the V4 countries as tourist destinations in November.

The European Union Film Festival was held in four South African cities from 13 August to 13 September 2010. The Czech Republic was represented by the film *Fimfárum 2*.

## **Senegal**

### ***(Republic of Senegal)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Republic of Senegal:*

- 19-21 September 2010 – working visit by a ten-member delegation of the Senate of Senegal, led by chairperson of the foreign affairs committee F. Gaye and the chairperson of the defence and security committee P. Diop. The delegation held talks with its counterparts from the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of Parliament and met with the deputy ministers of foreign affairs, of the environment and of defence.

#### *Other meetings*

- 30 November 2010 – meeting between President of the Czech Republic V. Klaus and President of Senegal A. Wade on the sidelines of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa-EU summit in Tripoli, Libya.

### *Economic relations*

The Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Senegal decreased by 51.4% from CZK 374 million in 2009 to CZK 182 million in 2010. Exports decreased by 54.5% (from CZK 354 million in 2009 to CZK 161 million in 2010) while imports grew slightly (from CZK 20 million to CZK 21 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 140 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: cotton and polyester fabrics, paper, herbicides, fezzes, washing machines, table and bed linen, razors and razorblades, batteries, glass pearls and glass bricks, fertiliser, antennas, wires, sections.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: tomatoes, cotton, fish.

## **Sudan**

### ***(Republic of Sudan)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Republic of Sudan:*

- 30 March – 3 April 2010 – official visit by Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports M. Y. Abdallah. Minister Abdallah met with representatives of the National Museum and the Ministry of Culture and with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H. Kmoníček.

#### *Economic relations*

The Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Sudan increased by 53% from CZK 144 million in 2009 to CZK 220 million in 2010. Exports increased by 52.3% (from CZK 140 million in 2009 to CZK 213 million in 2010) and imports by 77.5% (from CZK 4 million to CZK 7 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 206 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger cars, diesel and electric motor parts, oils and petrol filters, cables and conductors, electrical equipment, glass pearls, fuel pumps, light fittings.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: cotton, raw vegetable materials for pharmaceuticals.

#### *Cultural relations*

There was a further deepening of cooperation in the field of archaeology between Sudan and the National Museum in Prague and the Philosophy Faculty of Charles University in Prague, based on licences obtained in 2009. In December 2010, on the occasion of the start of the second season of archaeological work in the Wadi Ben Nagaa locality north of Khartoum, the National Museum in Prague organised an exhibition of unique photographs entitled *Sudan a Century Ago*, drawn from its collection of photographs by Czech explorers, in the National Museum of Sudan in Khartoum.

The Sudanese, Czech and Slovak Society is very active in Sudan, bringing together dozens of former students at Czech and Slovak universities.

## **Zambia**

### ***(Republic of Zambia)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic:*

- 10-11 March 2010 – official visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout, accompanied by a business mission. The minister was received by President R. Banda; he met with his counterpart K. Pande, Minister of Livestock and Fisheries B. Machila and Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry F. Mutati. The mission to Zambia confirmed the importance the Czech Republic places on relations with this country.



### *Economic relations*

The Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Zambia increased by 189.3% from CZK 23.6 million in 2009 to CZK 68.1 million in 2010. Exports increased by 187% (from CZK 22.9 million in 2009 to CZK 65.6 million in 2010) while imports increased by 266.5% (from CZK 0.7 million to CZK 2.5 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 63.1 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: textile machinery, rubber industry machinery, printing machinery, machine tools, antennas, railroad vehicle axles, electrical equipment, pistols and non-military arms.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: cut flowers, peas.

### *Foreign development cooperation*

Zambia is in the wider circle of priority countries for the Czech Republic's foreign development cooperation. In 2010 a project addressing the impacts of the extraction and processing of ores on the environment and the health of the population in Central Province and Copperbelt Province was completed and a project supporting primary healthcare in Western Province, focusing on care for the mother and child, went ahead. The Czech Republic also implemented several small-scale local projects in the country, mainly targeting healthcare and sanitation.

Zambia received three government scholarships for the 2010-2011 academic year.

### *Cultural relations*

An exhibition documenting the ethnographic work of E. Holub in the Zambezi river basin, opened in Livingstone Museum by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout during his visit to Zambia, met with great success.

## **Zimbabwe**

### ***(Republic of Zimbabwe)***

#### *Economic relations*

The Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Zimbabwe increased by 36% from CZK 35 million in 2009 to CZK 48 million in 2010. Exports increased by 84% (from CZK 9 million in 2009 to CZK 16 million in 2010) while imports increased by 20% (from CZK 26 million to CZK 32 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK -16 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: razors and razorblades, antennas, relays, cigarette paper, hops, toothbrushes.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: citrus fruit, raw minerals, cashew nuts, cut flowers.

### *Foreign development cooperation*

The Czech Republic executed several small-scale local projects in the country providing support for education, help for women with HIV/AIDS and protection for the rhinoceros population.

The Czech Republic provided humanitarian aid worth CZK 3 million to Zimbabwe through the organisation Médecins Sans Frontières.

### *Transformation cooperation*

The Czech Republic supported the activities of human rights defenders and university students.

### *Cultural relations*

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Harare organised a number of cultural events. A touring exhibition documenting the oral tradition of the Ndebele ethnic group was presented in the city of Gweru. A book published to accompany the exhibition was included as supplementary reading matter in schools in areas inhabited by the Ndebele. The performance of V. Havel's one-act play *Protest* at the Harare International Festival of Arts in Harare was also a success.

## 8. The Czech Republic's Relations with North America Countries

The Czech Republic has for long ranked the transatlantic link as one of its foreign policy priorities. The Czech Republic shares with the United States of America and Canada social and cultural values, respect for fundamental rights and freedoms and views on the majority of strategic questions. It cooperates closely with both countries in the security and military field and takes part in international peace operations, transformation aid to selected countries, protection of human rights, the fight against terrorism and illegal migration and protection of the environment. In addition, the Czech Republic also develops mutual trade and economic cooperation.

The key aspect of relations with the United States of America in 2010 was the effort to intensify cooperation in other areas besides the security and military pillar of relations, i.e. in trade and economic relations, science and research, and intellectual and cultural ties.

In this context, on 6 December 2010 Minister of Industry and Trade M. Kocourek and US Secretary of Commerce G. Locke formally opened Economic Dialogue between the Czech Republic and the USA, which is intended to strengthen economic relations and implement measures leading to increased mutual trade exchange and investments. In addition, Minister Kocourek and Secretary Locke together with US Secretary of Energy S. Chu signed a Joint Declaration Concerning Industrial and Commercial Cooperation in the Nuclear Energy Sector. The signing of this declaration confirms the two countries' priority interest in the nuclear energy sector and launches intensive bilateral cooperation on a commercial basis as well as in the science and technology field.

As regards Canada, October 2010 brought the ninetieth anniversary of the opening of the Czechoslovak consulate in Montreal. Nevertheless, the celebrations had to take place without the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Montreal, which was closed in March 2010 for reasons of economy. A new honorary consul for the province of Québec and British Columbia is currently being selected.

As in 2009, bilateral relations were affected by the reintroduction of a visa requirement for Czech citizens travelling to Canada. Talks went ahead in the Czech-Canadian expert working group in 2010 with a view to bringing about the restoration of visa equality, but the negotiations did not result in a concrete timetable for the removal of the visa requirement. The Czech Republic is today the only Schengen area country for which Canada has re-introduced a visa requirement. The Czech Republic has therefore repeatedly demanded that the EU, specifically the European Commission, address the problem as the guardian of common policies.

### Canada

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic:*

- 11-15 February 2010 – Prime Minister J. Fischer attended the Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver;

- 20 January – 8 February 2010 – Minister of Education, Youth and Sports M. Kopicová attended the Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver;
- 11-20 February 2010 – Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence M. Barták attended the Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver;
- 18-22 February 2010 – President of the Senate of Parliament P. Sobotka attended the Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver;
- 23 February – 1 March 2010 – President of the Chamber of Deputies M. Vlček attended the Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver;
- 31. 10. – 3. 11. 2010 - 31 October – 3 November 2010 – visit by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs V. Galuška in connection with the celebrations of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of consular relations between the then Czechoslovakia and Canada. The deputy minister met with Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism J. Kenney.

#### *Visits by representatives of Canada:*

- 27 May 2010 – visit by J. Kur, Director General for the EU of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade;
- 11-15 October 2010 – official visit by Speaker of the Senate of Canada N. A. Kinsell (at the invitation of the President of the Senate of the Czech Republic).

#### *Other meetings*

- 19 November 2010 – meeting between prime ministers P. Nečas and S. Harper on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Lisbon (Portugal).

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Canada decreased by 6.31% from CZK 6,623 million in 2009 to CZK 6,205 million in 2010. Exports increased by 1.17% (from CZK 2,820 million in 2009 to CZK 2,853 million in 2010), but imports decreased by 11.86% (from CZK 3,803 million to CZK 3,352 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –449 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: iron or steel rails, parts of lighting and signalling devices, miscellaneous cast iron and steel products, artificial guts of hardened protein, new rubber tyres, plastic panels, sheets, films and similar articles, medicines in measured doses (not blood, antiserums), numerically controlled boring-milling machines, textiles from natural silk and chemical fibres, beer from malt.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: medicines in measured doses (not blood, antiserums), dog food and cat food, non-alloy aluminium, food preparations, dry lentils,

aircraft and helicopter components, articles of asphalt or similar materials, mechanical spraying devices, fire extinguishing devices, printers, computer keyboards.

### *Cultural relations*

During 2010 the embassy and other missions of the Czech Republic in Canada co-organised with local partners several dozen cultural and presentation events that helped raise the profile of the Czech Republic and presented Czech culture from various artistic fields. The activities did not focus solely on the capital; cooperation with the provinces was also successful.

The most significant events included the Czech presentation of selected animated films at the Ottawa International Animation Festival in October 2010. Music was presented throughout the year, including gala concerts marking Czech National Day and the anniversary of the birth of T. G. Masaryk and a charity concert in support of the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. The embassy in Ottawa staged an exhibition entitled *1989 as Seen by Photographers* marking the anniversary of the fall of communism and *Czech Gems*, accompanied by several presentation events including the Travel and Vacation Show. Book readings by prominent Czech authors featuring V. Nosková and I. Jirous also took place. The Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Toronto took part in a commemorative evening in honour of the memory of M. Horáková. *Kawasaki Rose* by director J. Hřebejk was presented at the EU Film Festival in Ottawa and Vancouver, and in J. Švankmajer's film *Surviving Life* was screened in Toronto as part of the same festival.

At the initiative of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Ottawa preparations are going ahead for a project to build a memorial to the victims of communism in the capital Ottawa. In 2010 the National Capital Commission decided to allocate a site on which to build the memorial in the centre of Ottawa.

## **USA**

### ***(United States of America)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic:*

- 4-10 January 2010 – political consultations in Washington by Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies of Parliament L. Zaorálek and Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies J. Hamáček;
- 16-17 February 2010 – working visit by Prime Minister J. Fischer to California, where he met with business representatives, among others, and took part in a debate at Stanford University;
- 22-23 February 2010 – working visit by President of the Senate of Parliament P. Sobotka to New York, where he met with members of the Czech community, among others;

- 23-26 February 2010 – working visit to Washington by Senator K. Schwarzenberg, during which, among other things, he took part in a debate entitled *Back to the Future* in the US Congress organised by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington;
- 3-6 March 2010 – conference trip to Florida by President V. Klaus;
- 9-14 April 2010 – working visit to New York and Washington D.C. by Prime Minister J. Fischer, which included participation in the Nuclear Security Summit;
- 23-25 May 2010 – working visit to New York and Washington D.C. by Senator A. Vondra. Senator Vondra met with, among others, Deputy Secretary of State J. Steinberg and NSC senior director for European affairs E. Sherwood-Randall and gave a public address at the *Atlantic Council of the United States*;
- 31 May – 8 June 2010 – visit to Chicago, New York and Washington by a delegation of the Senate of Parliament, led by Vice-President of the Senate M. Štěch;
- 4-9 August 2010 – visit to Washington D.C., Plant Vogtle and the head office of Westinghouse in Pittsburgh by V. Bartuška, Government Plenipotentiary for the Nuclear Tender for Temelín Nuclear Power Plant and Ambassador-at-Large for Energy Security;
- 12-15 September 2010 – visit by Deputy P. Gandalovič to Washington D.C., where he took part in the Parliamentary Forum of the Community of Democracies;
- 21-25 September 2010 – visit to Washington D.C. and Ithaca by President V. Klaus on the sidelines of his trip to the opening of the UN General Assembly;
- 4-6 October 2010 – visit by Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg to Washington D.C., where he held talks with, among others, Secretary of State H. Clinton;
- 20-25 October 2010 – consultations in Washington D.C. by M. Topolánek, the Czech Republic's candidate for the post of IEA executive director, and V. Bartuška, Government Plenipotentiary for the Nuclear Tender for Temelín Nuclear Power Plant and Ambassador-at-Large for Energy Security;
- 7-11 November 2010 – working visit to Washington D.C. by First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Schneider;
- 5-7 December 2010 – visit to Washington D.C. by Minister of Industry and Trade M. Kocourek, accompanied by deputy ministers M. Hovorka and T. Hüner; during his visit the Minister of Industry and Trade and the US Secretary of Commerce G. Locke and US Secretary of Energy S. Chu signed a Joint Declaration Concerning Industrial and Commercial Cooperation in the Nuclear Energy Sector ;

- 6-7 December 2010 – representatives of the Permanent Delegation of Parliament of the Czech Republic J. Hamáček and A. Sed'a represented the Czech Republic at the 10<sup>th</sup> NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Washington D.C.

#### *Visits by representatives of the USA:*

- 10 January 2010 – the second round of the Czech-US Strategic Dialogue took place in Prague, led by Assistant Secretary P. Gordon and Deputy Minister T. Pojar; P. Gordon was also received by Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Kohout;
- 8-9 April 2010 – visit by President B. Obama, accompanied by Secretary of State H. Clinton. On this occasion the US president signed a new START Treaty on the reduction of the strategic nuclear arsenal with President of the Russian Federation D. Medvedev. During his stay President B. Obama met both with top-level representatives of the Czech Republic and with leaders of other Central European and East European countries.
- 13-15 July 2010 – visit by a US energy mission, led by US Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade F. Sanchez;
- 11 November 2010 – visit by US Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs J. McHale, who gave an address at a conference entitled *Young Leaders Dialogue with America*.

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with the USA increased by 28.23% from CZK 76,187 million in 2009 to CZK 97,691 million in 2010. Exports increased by 29.01% (from CZK 34,299 million in 2009 to CZK 44,248 million in 2010), and imports increased by 27.59% (from CZK 41,888 million to CZK 53,443 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK -9,195 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: mechanical devices, consumer electronics and components, rubber products, optical instruments, passenger cars, tractors, lorries, chemical products, toys and sports products, aircraft and parts for helicopters, glass, plastics and plastic products.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: mechanical devices and instruments, consumer electronics, aircraft and aviation industry parts, optical instruments, pharmaceutical products, passenger cars, tractors and other motor vehicles, chemical products, tools, wood fibre.

#### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Memorandum of Agreement between the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic and the United States Department of Defense regarding Assignment of Liaison Officers, Norfolk, March 2010;

- Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the United States of America for Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation Activities, Brussels, June 2010.

### *Cultural relations*

In the USA, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington D.C., the Czech Centre in New York and Consulates General play the lead role in implementing cultural diplomacy and developing relations between the Czech Republic and the USA in the cultural field, but honorary consulates and local Czech communities also organised a number of interesting cultural activities in 2010.

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington D.C. offered both the US and Czech public in the capital and surrounding area a cultural programme composed of traditional film screenings (*Lions of Czech Film* series, the documentary film *Václav Havel, Prague – Castle*), exhibitions staged in the embassy (an exhibition of photographs by T. Němec documenting the Velvet Revolution, an exhibition of photographs by T. Cudlín, *Czech Fresh Design*), concerts of classical and popular music (*Music from Prague, New York and Terezín*; concert by Chinaski) and theatre performances in cooperation with the American University in Washington D.C. (*Voices of Terezín* and *I Haven't Seen a Butterfly Here*). In the first half of the year the embassy's programme focused thematically on Jewish culture and history; the most significant event was a conference entitled *Bohemian and Czech Jews in America*, which was held in April 2010 and was opened by Prime Minister J. Fischer during his visit to the USA. On 25 February 2010 the US Congress hosted a panel discussion commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of V. Havel's speech to the joint session of Congress; the panel discussion was attended by a number of prominent figures, including M. Albright and Z. Brzezinski. At the end of 2010 the Embassy of the Czech Republic organised several events in Washington D.C. as part of the project entitled *Tomáš G. Masaryk – Mutual Inspirations*, which mapped the first Czechoslovak president's influence on Czech and United States history and culture. One significant part of the programme was a series of events for children, the most important of which was the Czech participation in the *Kids Euro Festival*, the festival's third year in Washington D.C.

In May 2010 there was a series of coordinated events in New York co-organised by the Consulate General of the Czech Republic and the Czech Centre and entitled *Czech Republic in Manhattan* (including a trade presentation *Doing Business in the Czech Republic* and participation in the ICFE design fair in New York). Other events by the Consulate General of the Czech Republic included the traditional Czech-Slovak Velvet Revolution Party and the screening of a film about K. Hašler *The Immortal Balladeer of Prague* in November 2010. In 2010 the Czech Centre in New York added to its programme the CCNY Film Club involving regular Tuesday screenings, thus broadening its existing film programme that includes summer screenings on the roof of Bohemian National Hall and the regular November festival of *New Czech Films* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. A new exhibition project entitled *Windows on Madison* was also launched, comprising a



series of exhibitions of contemporary Czech and international artists whose works are displayed in the windows of the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the UN on Madison Avenue. This and more than 100 other events resulted in the CCNY being ranked among the five best cultural centres in New York by Time Out New York magazine.

With the support of the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago, two exhibitions of Czech photography of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the present day were opened in the Museum of Contemporary Photography of Columbia College in January 2010. In May 2010 the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago also organised a literary evening devoted to commemorating B. Hrabal and his American literary tour in 1989. At the invitation of the Consulate General Czech jazz pianist E. Viklický performed in Chicago's BluJazz club, accompanied by R. Cole and his band. On the occasion of Czech National Day on 28 October an exhibition of original historical photographs entitled *Journey to the New World 1902-1903* was inaugurated in the Consulate General.

In December the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago also hosted the premiere of a trailer for a documentary film entitled *Czechs in Chicago*, which deals with the history and present day of the Czech community and its contribution to the development of Chicago. As part of the US tour of I. Jirous, in December 2010 the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago organised an author's reading from the book *Magor dětem*.

## 9. The Czech Republic's Relations with Central and South American and Caribbean Countries

From the point of view of Czech foreign policy, Central and South America, also known as Latin America, is a remote area and not a priority. Nevertheless, the reality of recent years has shown that this region, with similar civilisational traits and built on the same cultural values and shared history, merits greater attention in Czech foreign policy, if not only because of its economic potential.

The growing international political weight of certain countries, above all Brazil and Mexico, and the gradually proceeding integration of the South American continent are making the region a more interesting partner for the European Union as well. Although the Czech Republic has neither the position nor the interests that Spain or France has in respect of this region, it is aware of the current trend and is striving to actively influence the European Union's relations with the countries of Latin America.

The Caribbean area, composed of a group of island states and a beneficiary of humanitarian aid and development cooperation from both the European Union and the Czech Republic, has a specific status.

The biggest event in 2010 relative to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean was the May summit of heads of state of European Union and Latin American and Caribbean countries (EU-LAC) in Madrid. Besides being a meeting of the top-level representatives of all the countries in the two regions, the summit resulted in the approval of an Action Plan for cooperation between the EU and Latin America on the theme of *Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development and Social Inclusion* and the creation of the EU-LAC Foundation, which is intended to help strengthen the partnership between the two regions. A number of bilateral meetings took place on the sidelines of the summit, including meetings between the president and minister of foreign affairs and their counterparts from Panama, Chile, Costa Rica and Peru. In keeping with tradition, the September session of the UN General Assembly in New York was another major opportunity for bilateral meetings; there, top-level representatives of the Czech Republic held talks with their partners from Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia and Honduras. September brought the first ever visit to the Czech Republic by a defence minister of the Federative Republic of Brazil. Bilateral political consultations between foreign affairs ministers took place with Brazil, Chile and Uruguay.

The government's economy measures led to the definitive closure of the Czech embassy in Bogotá, Colombia, as of 30 September 2010 and a decision to close the embassies in Caracas, Venezuela, and San José, Costa Rica (both as of 31 January 2011). These circumstances have naturally impelled the Czech foreign service to endeavour to expand its network of honorary consulates – for example, honorary consulates were established in Surinam and St Vincent and the Grenadines during 2010.

The Czech Republic is fully aware of the growing significance of economic diplomacy and is consequently adjusting the future orientation of the entire foreign service to place greater emphasis on economic diplomacy. The dimension of human rights and support for democracy is a long-term theme of Czech foreign policy towards the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

## **Argentina**

### ***(Argentine Republic)***

#### *Other meetings*

- At the EU-LAC summit in Madrid (15-19 May 2010) there was a short, unofficial meeting of the presidents of the two countries in the course of lunch, during which the Czech president received an invitation to make an official visit to the Argentine Republic.

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Argentina increased by 51.9% from CZK 131 million in 2009 to CZK 199 million in 2010. Exports increased by 54.55% (from CZK 55 million in 2009 to CZK 85 million in 2010) and imports increased by 50% (from CZK 76 million to CZK 114 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –29 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: parts of air conditioning equipment, cast iron and steel products, parts of water turbines, unwoven textiles, ball bearings, programmable permanent memories, office machinery, machines for crushing, sorting and mixing minerals, iron and steel pressurised gas containers.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: uncombed wool, gear boxes, lemons, peanuts, grapes, combed wool, dried fruits for animal nutrition, combustion engine parts, soya pellets, maize.

#### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Agreement on Cooperation in Matters of the Antarctic between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Argentine Republic, Buenos Aires, 2 March 2010. *(The government agreement also deals with cooperation between the two sides in Antarctic territory in the field of science, technology, logistics and the environment.)*

#### *Cultural relations*

The second year of the *Biennial Borges – Kafka/Buenos Aires – Prague* took place in Buenos Aires from 19 April to 10 May 2010. This festival, inspired by two eminent literary figures and the two cities they came to symbolise, is the most important cultural event in Czech-Argentine relations in any given year. In 2010 the Argentine side added the biennial to the calendar of cultural events celebrating the anniversary of the independence of Argentina and the Office of the President of the

Argentine Republic issued a special decree declaring the event “a cultural event of extraordinary significance”.

Under the programme of cooperation between education ministries four Argentine scholarship beneficiaries received places at the Slavonic studies summer school.

## **Barbados**

### ***(Barbados)***

#### *Other meetings*

- There was a working meeting between the deputy minister of foreign affairs V. Galuška and his Barbadian counterpart S. Chandler on the sidelines of EU-LAC Madrid summit in May. Besides summarising bilateral relations, the talks covered the planned opening of an honorary consulate of the Czech Republic in Barbados.

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Barbados decreased by 25.1% from CZK 26 million in 2009 to CZK 20 million in 2010. Exports decreased by 33.5% (from CZK 3 million in 2009 to CZK 2 million in 2010) and imports decreased by 24.1% (from CZK 24 million to CZK 18 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –16 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: motor vehicle parts and accessories, electrical equipment for engine starting and ignition, hair care products, vulcanised rubber, fuel and lubricant pumps for piston engines, air compressors, locksmiths equipment, safes, strongboxes, parts for piston engines with internal combustion, sewing machines, ventilation and cooker hoods, transmission equipment, prepared liquids for hydraulic transmission.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: orthopaedic devices, splints, spirits, liqueurs and other alcoholic beverages, electrical resistors, electromechanical hand tools with electric motors, fruit, men's shirts, block and tackle assemblies and hoists, winches and windlasses, instruments for medical and veterinary purposes.

#### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation between the Czech Republic and Barbados, Prague, August 2010.

## **Brazil**

### ***(Federative Republic of Brazil)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 16-17 March 2010 – visit by Deputy Minister of Defence for International Affairs J. Fulík;

- 12-19 April 2010 – a delegation led by Minister of Justice D. Kovářová took part in a UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Salvador, Brazil.

#### *Visits by representatives of the Federative Republic of Brazil*

- 20-22 February 2010 – mission of the Brazilian state of Goiás led by Governor A. R. Filho;
- 27-28 May 2010 – 1<sup>st</sup> session of the Czech-Brazilian Mixed Commission in Prague; the Brazilian delegation was headed by Vice-Minister of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade I. Ramalho;
- 25 June 2010 – consultations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic by Vice-Minister of External Relations V. Machado;
- 23-25 July 2010 – mission of the Brazilian state of S. Catarina led by Governor L. Pavan;
- 11-14 September 2010 – visit by Minister of Defence N. Jobim, including consultations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic on 13 September 2010.

#### *Other meetings*

- 11-14 May 2010 – visit by the director general of the agency CzechTrade who, with a group of businessmen, attended the Mecanica trade fair in Sao Paulo and held talks on further cooperation with his counterpart from the agency APEX.

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Brazil increased by 15.8% from CZK 1,051 million in 2009 to CZK 1,217 million in 2009. Exports decreased by 0.3% (from CZK 682 million in 2009 to CZK 680 million in 2010) but imports increased by 45.53% (from CZK 369 million to CZK 537 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 143 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: fuel pumps, gear boxes, compression engine parts, medical furniture, motor vehicle parts, aircraft, crankshafts, ferrovanadium, artificial guts, construction sets.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: salted meat, soya pellets, frozen hens, non-roasted coffee, cow hide, engine parts, conserved meat, printing machine parts, tobacco, conserved turkey.

#### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- A bilateral governmental Agreement on Cooperation in Defence Matters (Ministry of Defence) and a ministerial Declaration of Intent to Cooperate in the Field of Military Air Transport (Ministry of Defence) were concluded and a ministerial Letter of Intent to Cooperate in the Field of Space Technologies (Ministry of Transport) was signed in 2010.

### *Cultural relations*

On 4-6 May 2010 Czech Republic Days, an event intended to present Czech culture and strengthen cooperation in trade and tourism, was held in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul; the event was organised by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Brasilia, the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Sao Paulo and the local Czech community. The event opened with the inauguration of two exhibitions: *History of Czech Beer Production* and *Enrique Stanko Vráz – Explorer*.

From 21 September to 1 October 2010 Czech Republic Days, an event aimed at presenting Czech culture and trade and tourism opportunities, was held in the state of Espírito Santo; the event was organised by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Brasilia, the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Sao Paulo and the Honorary Consulate in Vitória. The event opened with the inauguration of an exhibition entitled *Jože Plečnik – Architect of Prague*.

On the occasion of the publishing of a Brazilian version of the book *You Who Write*, a collection of stories by a team of twenty Czech female writers, a series of supporting events was staged on 8-10 December 2010 in Brasilia and Sao Paulo with the participation of one of the authors, I. Pekárková.

## **Chile**

### ***(Republic of Chile)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Republic of Chile*

- 30 June 2010 – consultations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic by Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs F. Schmidt.

#### *Other meetings*

- 23 September 2010 – meeting between President V. Klaus and his Chilean counterpart S. Piñera on the sidelines of the 65<sup>th</sup> UN GA;
- Bilateral meeting of foreign ministers on the sidelines of the OECD meeting in Paris on 27 May 2010; at the EU-LAC Madrid summit (15-19 May 2010) there was a short unofficial meeting of the two countries' presidents during lunch instead of the originally planned bilateral meeting.

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Chile increased by 18.9% from CZK 29,223 million in 2009 to CZK 34,749 million in 2010. Exports increased by 29.2% (from CZK 15,493 million in 2009 to CZK 20,012 million in 2010) and imports increased by 7.3% (from CZK 13,730 million to CZK 14,737 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 5,275 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: construction sets, programmable permanent memories, artificial guts, electric conductors, steam turbines, combed wool, passenger

cars, plastic plates and film, hand tools with self-contained electric motor, iron and steel shut-off valves.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: ferromolybdenum, bleached wood pulp, grapes, frozen pork, wine, molybdenum ores, dried plums, apples, dried kiwi fruit.

### *Development cooperation*

After the earthquake that hit Chile in February 2010 the Czech foreign affairs minister decided to provide humanitarian aid worth CZK 4 million for the renewal of the city of Quillón (rebuilding of a church and repairs to a school).

A development project to rehabilitate part of the Torres del Paine national park affected by a destructive fire started by a negligent Czech tourist was completed in 2010. The total value of the Czech aid was CZK 19 million.

### *Cultural relations*

On 17-18 November 2010 the City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra took part in the most important cultural event of the year in Santiago de Chile. At the invitation of the Beethoven Foundation and under the auspices of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Chile the orchestra accompanied one of the greatest living violinists I. Perlman for two concerts. Each concert drew enthusiastic audiences of around 10,000 people.

## **Colombia**

### ***(Republic of Colombia)***

#### *Visits by representatives of Colombia*

- 26 March 2010 – Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H. Kmoníček received Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs of the Republic of Colombia A. M. Hernandez. The meeting took place on the sidelines of a trip to EU countries (Brussels, Geneva, Warsaw) to support the approval process of a Multilateral Trade Agreement between the EU, Colombia and Peru in the European Parliament and the Council of the EU. Other topics discussed were human rights in Colombia and bilateral cooperation.

#### *Other meetings*

- There was a meeting between Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia M. Á. Holguín Cuéllar on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. Minister Schwarzenberg appreciated the Colombian government's successes in the fight against guerrillas. He informed his counterpart about the closure of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Bogotá and the decision to transfer accreditation to the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Lima. The Colombian foreign affairs minister emphasised her country's economic development and interest in strengthening

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Colombia increased by 39.5% from CZK 76 million in 2009 to CZK 106 million in 2010. Exports increased by 36.4% (from CZK 22 million in 2009 to CZK 30 million in 2010) and imports increased by 40.8% (from CZK 54 million to CZK 76 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –46 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger cars, eye make-up preparations, toys, artificial guts, whey, building machinery, voice reception, conversion and transmission devices, parts of galvanic batteries, turboprop engines, cement flagstones.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: bananas, carnations, unroasted coffee, cough sweets, coffee concentrates, roses, foil of polymers of ethylene.

### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Negotiations on a double taxation avoidance treaty were completed in February 2010 in Bogotá (the treaty remains to be signed and ratified by both countries' parliaments).

### *Cultural relations*

The Czech Republic again participated in Eurocine, the annual European Union film festival.

## **Costa Rica**

### ***(Republic of Costa Rica)***

#### *Other meetings*

- May 2010 – there was a meeting of the two countries' foreign affairs ministers during the EU-LAC Madrid summit;
- September 2010 - there was a meeting between the two countries' presidents on the sidelines of the UN GA.

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Costa Rica increased by 45.2% from CZK 1,373 million in 2009 to CZK 1,992 million in 2010. Exports increased by 27.1% (from CZK 129 million in 2009 to CZK 163 million in 2010) and imports increased by 47% (from CZK 1,244 million to CZK 1,828 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –1,665 million.



The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: construction sets and toys, artificial guts of hardened protein, coins that are not legal tender, connectors for wires and cables, plastic tubes and hoses, razorblades, arms, leather straps and belts, lipstick.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: bananas, pineapples, electronic systems for machinery, melons, leaves, branches and other plant parts without flowers, artificial body parts, memory units, canned fruits, coconuts, rum, grapes.

### *Development cooperation*

The second three-year phase of the successful project *Geological Risks Prevention* implemented in Miramar and San Ramón by the Czech Geological Survey was completed at the end of 2009. The results of the study were officially presented to the Costa Rican environment and energy minister on 18 April 2010. A small-scale local development project entitled *Football as Prevention against Drug Addiction in Young People* was approved for 2011.

## **Cuba**

### ***(Republic of Cuba)***

#### *Economic relations*

Bilateral trade exchange is negatively affected by Cuba's payment and insolvency problems, which were not completely resolved during 2010. This fact impacted on leading Czech firms doing business with Cuba.

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Cuba increased by 129.4% from CZK 276 million in 2009 to CZK 633 million in 2010. Exports increased by 162% (from CZK 180 million in 2009 to CZK 471 million in 2010) and imports increased by 68.8% (from CZK 96 million to CZK 163 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 308 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: malt, central heating boilers and radiators, water heaters, bus and lorry tyres, motorcycles and bicycles with auxiliary motors, iron and steel pipe and tube fittings, turbine parts, cells and electric accumulators, machinery for sorting, screening and separating earth, invalid chairs, household washing machines, machines for tanning, dressing and processing leather, tyres for passenger cars and motorcycles, oats, vitamins.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: spirits, liqueurs and other alcoholic beverages, cigars, molasses from sugar extraction or refining, grapefruit juice, confectionery, oral hygiene preparations, roasted coffee, packing cases and cable drums of wood, drafting equipment, frozen shellfish, ladies' trousers, citrus fruit, fruit, wood products for decorative purposes, reaping machines.

### *Foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid*

In 2010 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic implemented rural development and private agriculture development projects.

### *Transformation cooperation*

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic supported certain projects intended to promote democracy and the protection of human rights.

### *Cultural relations*

In March 2010 the Czech Republic took part in Francophonie week with the screening of the film *Fimfárum* and an exhibition of works by A. Mucha in Pinar del Río. The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Cuba hosts literary evenings in its premises that are attended by Cuban writers and poets.

## **Dominican Republic**

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with the Dominican Republic increased by 2.24% from CZK 421 million in 2009 to CZK 431 million in 2010. Exports increased by 29.7% (from CZK 135 million in 2009 to CZK 175 million in 2010) but imports decreased by 10.7% (from CZK 286 million to CZK 256 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –81 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: kraft paper, paperboard, whey, storage tanks, barrels, cans up to 300 l, passenger cars, pens, pencils and fountain pens, artificial guts, dishwashing machines (not for households), bottle washers, laundering, cleaning, drying and ironing machines, tricycles, toys, leather treatment and processing machines, vulcanised rubber hoses, tubes and pipes, dental equipment and apparatus.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: bananas, plastic articles, machines for medical and veterinary purposes, pharmaceutical products (other than medicaments), cigars, spirits, liqueurs, citrus fruits, mechanical appliances for projecting, dispersing or spraying, gas turbines, men's windcheaters, miscellaneous footwear with leather or composite leather uppers, compound optical microscopes, ladies' jackets, fresh or chilled vegetables.

### *Foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid*

In cooperation with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Venezuela a small-scale development project was implemented in the Dominican Republic, consisting in the modernisation of the Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic in Santo Domingo. The consulate's older and used equipment was devoted to school facilities affected by the natural disaster in the neighbouring country of Haiti through the St Jude charitable foundation.

## **Ecuador**

### ***(Republic of Ecuador)***

#### *Other meetings*

- 21 October 2010 – Ambassador V. Zemanová was received in Quito by Ambassador P. Villagómez Reinel, Director General for North America and Europe, to discuss new prospects for bilateral relations with the Czech Republic. The Ecuadorian side expressed an interest in signing a bilateral agreement on visa-free travel for holders of diplomatic and service passports.

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Ecuador increased by 26.4% from CZK 72 million in 2009 to CZK 91 million in 2010. Exports increased by 16.2% (from CZK 37 million in 2009 to CZK 43 million in 2010) and imports increased by 37.1% (from CZK 35 million to CZK 48 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –5 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: passenger cars, medical furniture, glass pearls, textile machinery, starches, rubber casts, carding machines, electricity distribution systems, construction sets, tyres.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: bananas, self-adhesive gummed paper, coffee extracts, canned fruits, cut flowers, roses, coffee confections, plastic self-adhesive strips, pineapples.

#### *Foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid*

In the first half of 2010 the implementation of a foreign development cooperation project in the Loja area of Ecuador ended with a final assessment. The project entitled *Reducing Vulnerability and Maintaining Urban Infrastructure in the Unfavourable Geological Conditions of the City of Loja in Southern Ecuador*, implemented by the firm of GEKON, s.r.o., Karlovy Vary, focused on preventing natural disasters in the country's seismic conditions.

One government scholarship for an Ecuadorian student was awarded in 2010.

## **El Salvador**

### ***(Republic of El Salvador)***

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with El Salvador increased by 51.9% from CZK 909 million in 2009 to CZK 1,382 million in 2010. Exports increased by 45% (from CZK 840 million in 2009 to CZK 1,218 million in 2010); imports increased by 134.3% (from CZK 70 million to CZK 163 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 1,055 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: electrical apparatus, pigments, paint materials, flat-rolled products of alloy steel, metal products, plastic tubes and pipes, inorganic oxides, textile and leather-working machinery.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: coffee, clothing components, tools, plastic articles, live animals (cattle, poultry), automobiles, vegetables, men's clothing, fish.

#### *Development cooperation*

Two projects, *School Farm to Support Food Production by Women and Children* and *Cartography and Surveying of Erosion Processes in the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador*, were implemented in 2010.

## **Haiti**

### ***(Republic of Haiti)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- In July 2010 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic based in Venezuela S. Slavický presented his credentials to President R. Préval. On this occasion he also spoke with Haitian Minister of Foreign Affairs M. M. Rey about Czech aid for Haiti after the earthquake.

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Haiti increased by 181.6% from CZK 11 million in 2009 to CZK 30 million in 2010. Exports increased by 170.6% (from CZK 11 million in 2009 to CZK 30 million in 2010) but imports decreased by 33% (from CZK 0.35 million to CZK 0.23 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 29 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: prefabricated buildings, kraft paper, cardboard, motor vehicle parts and accessories, passenger cars, building and mining machinery, aircraft tyres, hand tools, sun-lamps, vices, clamps, locksmith equipment, safes, strong-boxes, alternate current generators, filtering and purification apparatus for liquids or gases, safety glass, furniture, ready-made meals.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: dried vegetables, T-shirts and vests, spirits, liqueurs and other alcoholic beverages, audio and video recording discs, sweaters, pullovers, waistcoats, electrical resistors.

The marked change in the volume of exports and imports was connected to the destructive earthquake in Haiti (January 2010).

#### *Foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid*

After the catastrophic earthquake in January 2010 the Czech government approved sending aid worth CZK 20 million for the renewal effort in Haiti. An expert mission of the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs also undertook a visit to Haiti. Of the money earmarked for aid for Haiti following the earthquake, immediately after the disaster the first CZK 5 million was provided through UNICEF for drinking water supplies. From May to August 2010 the remaining CZK 15 million was distributed among humanitarian renewal projects in the fields of agriculture, education and social assistance and to prevent catastrophes in the affected areas to the west of the capital. These projects were implemented through Czech NGOs, the Order of the Knights of Malta and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

## **Honduras**

### ***(Republic of Honduras)***

#### *Other meetings*

- In September 2010 there was a meeting between the two countries' foreign affairs ministers on the sidelines of the UN GA.

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Honduras increased by 55.4% from CZK 137 million in 2009 to CZK 212 million in 2010. Exports increased by 71.2% (from CZK 56 million in 2009 to CZK 97 million in 2010) and imports increased by 44.2% (from CZK 80 million to CZK 116 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –19 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: double salts, plastic insulators for electrical machines, plastic tubes and hoses, new passenger cars 1500-3000 cm<sup>2</sup>, glass cubes and bricks used in construction, artificial guts of hardened protein, driving sprockets.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: unroasted coffee, bananas, ignition cable sets, cotton T-shirts, melons, pineapples, dried paprika, turboprop engines, cigars, sweaters, cotton waistcoats, grapefruits.

#### *Development cooperation*

A small-scale local project entitled *Well for Drinking Water Supplies* was approved for 2011.

## **Mexico**

### ***(United Mexican States)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- October 2010 – a delegation of the Czech Republic led by Chairman of the Czech Telecommunication Office T. Dvořák took part in the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union in Guadalajara;

- November/December 2010 – the delegation of the Czech Republic to the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP-16 held in Cancún was led by Deputy Minister for the Environment I. Hlaváč.

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Mexico increased by 44% from CZK 7,574 million in 2009 to CZK 10,917 million in 2010. Exports increased by 40% (from CZK 3,907 million in 2009 to CZK 5,472 million in 2010) and imports increased by 48.5% (from CZK 3,667 million to CZK 5,444 million). The foreign trade balance for January-November 2010 was CZK 29 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: industrial motors, air-conditioning equipment parts and components, components of passenger cars, lorries and tractors, circuit-breakers and switches, speedometers for vehicles, tyres, sanitary tampons, electrical conductors, turbo-compressors, switchboards, printed circuits, parts and components of mechanical machinery and apparatus, parts of lighting equipment, antibiotics, imitation gemstones, exhaust-pipe mufflers, seat parts and components, metal and steel construction products.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: ceramic dielectric fixed capacitors, sound reception and conversion equipment, electric condensers, pectinates, medical instruments and devices, spectacle lenses, electrical instruments for measuring pressure, memory units, motor parts, switchboards, distribution panels, ignition reels for engines, antennas, photosensitive semiconductor devices, apparatus for filtering and purifying liquids.

### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Memorandum of Cooperation between the Agencies CzechInvest and ProMéxico, 12 April 2010.

### *Cultural relations*

Czech mezzo-soprano E. Randová performed a solo recital in Cuernavaca, the capital city of the state of Morelos. The group Rhythm Desperados took part in the traditional Jazz Festival. A tour of eight concerts took in the capital city of Mexico, the seaside resort of Acapulco and the city of Cuernavaca, with an audience of almost 6,000 attending the main concert in the CENART cultural centre in Mexico City alone. The November concert by the Talich Quartet was one of the highlights of the traditional music festival in Morelia, the capital city of the popular tourist state of Michoacán. The Reloj exhibition hall in the capital city of Mexico hosted a photography exhibition entitled *Travels of Franz Kafka*, combined with an exhibition of photographs of the Czech Republic by young photographer Z. Muellerová. A festival of student films took place in the capital in cooperation with the Prague Academy of Performing Arts. Two exhibitions showcasing the Czech Republic at two busy metro stations in the centre of the capital were very well received by the Mexican public: the two exhibitions were *The Czech Republic – an Affair of the Heart* by V. Richterová and M. Cihlár, and the simultaneously staged exhibition entitled *The Czech Republic*,

presenting to the Mexican public traditional Czech products such as glass, beer, animated films, folk art etc. There is no doubt that these two exhibitions were the most widely seen presentations of the Czech Republic in Mexico in the history of mutual relations. The Czech Republic also took part in a presentation of culture and gastronomy at the prestigious University Club in the capital.

## **Panama**

### ***(Republic of Panama)***

#### *Other meetings*

- May 2010 – there was a meeting of the two countries' presidents during the EU-LAC Madrid summit.

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Panama increased by 43.9% from CZK 321 million in 2009 to CZK 462 million in 2010. Exports increased by 60.4% (from CZK 129 million in 2009 to CZK 206 million in 2010) and imports increased by 32.8% (from CZK 193 million to CZK 256 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –49 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: construction sets and toys, ignition cable sets, metal and iron construction products, drinking glassware, erasers, unroasted malt, pencils, rubber-coated textiles, switchboards, plastic tubes and hoses.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: bananas, melons, pineapples, rum, ladies' footwear, specially designed containers, turboprop engines, men's footwear, grapefruits, cherries, sour cherries, coffee.

#### *Development cooperation*

Panama received two master's study scholarships for the 2010-2011 academic year, one for study in Czech and the other in English.

## **Paraguay**

### ***(Republic of Paraguay)***

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Paraguay increased by 66.7% from CZK 3 million in 2009 to CZK 5 million in 2010. Exports increased by 100% (from CZK 2 million in 2009 to CZK 4 million in 2010); imports were unchanged at CZK 1 million. The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 3 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: cigarettes, revolvers and pistols, voice reception, conversion, transmission and regeneration apparatus, artificial guts, construction sets,

metal drapery, cigarette paper, second-hand road towing vehicles, plastic tubes, meat processing machines.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: animal entrails, fresh beef, plants for the pharmaceutical and perfume industries, wood profiles, raw cane sugar, refined sugar, citrus fruit peel, printing machine parts, vehicle body parts, brushes and brooms.

### *Development cooperation*

A small-scale local project to support education was implemented in 2010. The selected Czech project is part of a programme by the NGO Fundación Paraguaya to promote small-scale enterprise between the rural population and economic and financial education. The Czech Republic contributed CZK 400,000 to the development of a dairy production line of the self-sufficient agricultural school at Cerrito, not far from Asunción.

As in the previous year, one Paraguayan student was awarded a Czech government scholarship for study at a Czech university.

## **Peru**

### ***(Republic of Peru)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- March 2010 – visit by a delegation of the Committee on Environment and the Committee on Petitions of the Chamber of Deputies of Parliament;
- April 2010 – visit by First Deputy Minister of Culture S. Karabec.

#### *Visits by representatives of the Republic of Peru*

- March 2010 – visit by Vice-Minister of the Environment R. Gómez;
- August 2010 – visit by Minister of Defence R. Rey.

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Peru increased by 5.9% from CZK 51 million in 2009 to CZK 54 million in 2010. Exports increased by 57.9% (from CZK 19 million in 2009 to CZK 30 million in 2010), but imports decreased by 25% (from CZK 32 million to CZK 24 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 6 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: electric multi-phase motors, construction sets, glass bricks, electric motor parts, automatic vending machines, wool tops, offset machines, paper article manufacturing machines, road rollers, pistols.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: coffee, fish meal, zinc sheet and foil, grapes, dyes of animal origin, tropical fruit, fish fillets, canned sardines, asparagus, citrus fruit.



### *Educational and scientific cooperation*

Cooperation in the field of scholarship-funded exchanges continued under the signed Programme of Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science and Sports between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of Peru for the Years 2010-2012. The Czech Republic provided Peru with three government scholarships for the 2009-2010 academic year and two for 2010-2011.

Cooperation between the Diplomatic Academies of the two countries' foreign affairs ministries is developing. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic regularly sends young diplomats on study visits to Peru. In 2010 one student completed a two-year study course in Peru.

Over and above the awarded government scholarships, student exchanges are developing in the context of direct cooperation between universities, namely Charles University and the Prague University of Economics and Universidad de Lima and Universidad del Pacífico.

### *Development cooperation*

A project in the Piura region in northern Peru focusing on prevention of natural disasters was completed in November 2010. A small-scale local project worth CZK 400,000 was approved for 2010 as part of a continuing project with Universidad Nacional de Ucayall in Pucallpa.

### *Cultural relations*

Contacts between the National Archive in Prague and the General Archive in Peru continued. The Peruvian side expressed an interest in tuition of Peruvian restorers and archivists of historical archive documents by experts from the National Archive in Prague. The tuition of restorers took place in Peru in November 2010. The assistance offered by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic for the restoration of the chapel of *Nuestra Señora de la Soledad* in the San Francisco complex in Lima is still under negotiation.

In 2010 the Embassy of the Czech Republic organised a theatre production entitled *Kafka and the Travelling Doll* and an exhibition of photographs by V. Jirásek entitled *Industria*. The Czech film *Tobruk* was screened at the EU film festival in Peru.

## **Uruguay**

### ***(Eastern Republic of Uruguay)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay*

- 29 September 2010 – consultations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs R. Conde.

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Uruguay increased by 33.3% from CZK 30 million in 2009 to CZK 40 million in 2010. Exports increased by 23.1% (from CZK 13 million in 2009 to CZK 16 million in 2010) and imports increased by 41.2% (from CZK 17 million to CZK 24 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –8 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: leather, tyres, mineral water, raw grease from sheep's wool, electrical heating resistors, programmable permanent memories, memory semi-conductor devices, antibiotics, iron and steel tubes, catheters and cannulae.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: wood pulp, wool tops, uncarded wool, fresh beef, honey, leather, mandarin oranges, polyester yarn, animal entrails, lemons.

### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay on the Establishment of a Mechanism for Political Consultations on Questions of Common Interest, Prague, 29 September 2010.

### *Cultural relations*

To underline the good bilateral relations between the two countries the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Buenos Aires held a reception in October 2010 marking Czech National Day in non-resident Montevideo.

## **Venezuela**

### ***(Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)***

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Venezuela increased by 88% from CZK 340 million in 2009 to CZK 639 million in 2010. Exports increased by 82.3% (from CZK 317 million in 2009 to CZK 578 million in 2010) and imports increased by 168% (from CZK 23 million to CZK 61 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 516 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: boiler parts, insulated wires, cables, artificial guts, microscopes, paper, paperboard, tricycles, toys, parts of block-and-tackle assemblies and hoists, furniture, weaving, knitting and sewing machines, filament or discharge light bulbs, arc lamps, flexible tubes, carnival articles, Christmas decorations, nativity scenes.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: aluminium, aluminium alloys; tobacco products, spirits, liqueurs, imitation jewellery, fruit, citrus fruit, plants for manufacture of perfumes and medicaments, plastic articles, parts for internal combustion piston engines, conveyor

belts, flat-rolled products of alloy steel, air-conditioning equipment, plastic products for the transport or packaging of goods.

### *Cultural relations*

At the end of April a concert of Dvořák's *Symphony from the New World* was staged at the Goethe Institute in the capital Caracas at the initiative of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Venezuela. The symphony was performed by the Juvenil del Vasco orchestra and was extremely well received by several hundred guests.

As part of the cooperation between Charles University in Prague and the Central University of Venezuela in Caracas, Professor Sary Levy, dean of the economics and social sciences faculty of the Central University of Venezuela, visited Prague on 9 May 2010. Here she held talks on cooperation and student exchanges with representatives of both Charles University and the Prague University of Economics.

## **10. The Czech Republic's Relations with Asian and Pacific Countries**

The Czech Republic's relations with the countries of Asia and the Pacific are as diverse as this territory itself. The importance of the Asia and Pacific region is growing for the Czech Republic, not solely from the political point of view, but also in view of the extensive economic and trade opportunities in this dynamically developing region and its supplies of energy raw materials. The region also contains hotspots of instability and security risks, however.

The Asia and Pacific region, and above all China, India, the Republic of Korea and certain countries from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), displays rapid economic growth, and its overall global influence is on the increase. Another clear trend is the strengthening of regional integration: ASEAN is the main grouping but the significance of other regional forums, such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), is also growing.

The Czech Republic develops its relations with countries in Asia and the Pacific region both on a bilateral basis and within the EU framework. The Czech Republic is actively involved in Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) dialogue, whose summit took place in October 2010, and in EU-ASEAN talks, and also contributes to the formulation of European Union policy in relation to strategic partners such as China, India and Japan, and in relation to other countries in the region.

After something of a stagnation in economic and trade exchange with countries in the Asia and Pacific region in 2009 caused by the global economic and financial crisis, 2010 brought a revival and trade exchange with a number of Asian countries registered growth. Considering this territory's great potential, the Czech Republic is interested in further strengthening both trade and economic exchange and also investments.

In 2010 the cultural dimension of bilateral relations between the Czech Republic and countries of the Asia and Pacific region also developed successfully. The defining event of the year was the Czech presentation at EXPO 2010 Shanghai, where the Czech national pavilion and its accompanying cultural and social programmes registered great success.

In the context of its foreign policy orientation in Asia and the Pacific the Czech Republic is highly active in supporting human rights and democracy. It also focuses on security issues and contributes to the stabilisation and reconstruction of Afghanistan.

The Czech Republic also provides countries in the Asia and Pacific region with humanitarian aid and development cooperation, which also contributes to strengthening traditional ties with this region.

## **Afghanistan**

### ***(Islamic Republic of Afghanistan)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 3-5 March 2010 – visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence M. Barták;
- 2-4 April 2010 – working visit by General V. Pícek, Chief of General Staff of the Army of the Czech Republic;
- 29 April – 4 May 2010 – visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence M. Barták;
- 24-25 May 2010 – working visit by General V. Pícek, Chief of General Staff of the Army of the Czech Republic;
- 19-20 July 2010 – Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg attended the international Kabul Conference;
- 4-7 November 2010 – joint visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg, Minister of Defence A. Vondra and Chief of General Staff of the Army of the Czech Republic General V. Pícek (received by First Vice President M. Fahim and by Minister of Defence A. Wardak; visit to units of the Army of the Czech Republic; talks with ISAF representatives; visit to the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT));
- 17-19 December 2010 – working visit to units of the Army of the Czech Republic by General V. Pícek, Chief of General Staff of the Army of the Czech Republic.

#### *Visits by representatives of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan*

- 14-22 November 2010 – study visit by 18 representatives of Logar state institutions/branches of Afghan ministries in Logar province.

#### *Economic relations*

As a result of the security situation, in 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Afghanistan decreased by 35.42% from CZK 638 million in 2009 to CZK 412 million in 2010. Exports decreased by 36.61% (from CZK 631 million in 2009 to CZK 400 million in 2010), but imports increased by 71.43% (from CZK 7 million to CZK 12 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 388 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: motor vehicles, machinery and plant for industry (pumps).

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: fruit, plants for the manufacture of perfumes and medicaments.

### *Development cooperation*

Development cooperation takes place mainly through the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Logar province. CZK 80.3 million was earmarked for the PRT's development and reconstruction projects in 2010, which were implemented in close cooperation with the provincial government and local communities. In addition, the Greek government contributed EUR 300,000 to the Czech PRT's work in the fields of agriculture and education. In 2010 the PRT's work rested on three priority pillars: support for the government; support for economic development; and support for independent media. Besides these priority areas the PRT also worked on the completion of a number of projects in other areas, mainly education, healthcare and smaller-scale infrastructure construction. The PRT completed a total of 42 development projects in 2010.

Also in 2010 the Czech Republic provided CZK 8 million in the form of a voluntary contribution to the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) for rural development.

Out of the Czech foreign development cooperation budget the Czech Republic supported activities by Czech NGOs aimed at developing secondary agricultural education and financial stability in the northern provinces.

In the Concept of Foreign Development Cooperation for the Years 2010-2017 Afghanistan was included in the highest category of partner countries, i.e. priority countries with a cooperation programme.

There are currently six government scholarship beneficiaries from Afghanistan studying in the Czech Republic.

### *Humanitarian aid*

In 2010 the Czech Republic provided a sum of CZK 3 million for “*quick impact projects*” (e.g. equipment for schools and hospitals, post-flood renewal *et al.*) that were handled by the civilian part of the Logar PRT. Humanitarian demining in central Afghanistan also went ahead from September 2009 to August 2010, with the Czech Republic contributing CZK 4 million to the British non-governmental organisation HALO Trust. In addition, the Czech Republic earmarked CZK 3 million for aid to Afghan refugees living in Iranian refugee camps in 2010.

### *Cultural relations*

For the second time Afghan children took part in the Lidice International Children's Art Competition. The children sent in over a hundred artworks, four of which were awarded honourable mentions.

## **Australia**

### ***(Commonwealth of Australia)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 2-6 February 2010 – official visit by a Senate delegation led by President of the Senate of Parliament P. Sobotka;
- 3 February 2010 – Minister for European Affairs J. Chmiel (who was a member of the official Senate delegation led by President of the Senate of Parliament P. Sobotka) held talks with Minister for Resources and Energy M. Ferguson and, accompanied by Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade M. Hovorka, held talks with Parliamentary Secretary for Trade and Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister A. Byrne, MP.

#### *Other meetings*

- 24 September 2010 – bilateral meeting between First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Rudd on the sidelines of the UN GA in New York.

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Australia increased by 40.53% from CZK 5,490 million in 2009 to CZK 7,715 million in 2010. Exports increased by 55.85% (from CZK 3,626 million in 2009 to CZK 5,651 million in 2010) and imports increased by 10.73% (from CZK 1,864 million to CZK 2,064 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 3,587 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: toys, motor vehicles, wood, food industry machinery, air-conditioning equipment, compressors, electric recording devices, paper, plastic products, explosives, microscopes, light fittings, wall tiles, railroad vehicle components, glass, tyres.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: wool, pharmaceutical products, electric recording devices, hearing aids, wine, coal briquettes, filtration apparatus, coloured sand.

#### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Air Service Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, New York, 24 September 2010 (signed during the bilateral meeting between the foreign affairs ministers of the Czech Republic and Australia on the sidelines of the UN GA).

#### *Cultural relations*

As part of a joint cultural event of EU member states the Czech Republic took part in the *Windows on Europe 2010* film festival in February, presenting the film *Tobruk* by director V. Marhoul. Films

were also screened in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. The presentation of Czech films *Shameless* and *Kawasaki Rose* in Sydney in March 2010 was attended by their director J. Hřebejk.

In keeping with tradition, the Czech Republic took part in the 14<sup>th</sup> Canberra International Film Festival in October and November, at which the organisers showed their appreciation for the long-term Czech participation by asking a representative of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Canberra to present the awards and by closing the festival with the non-competition film *Kawasaki Rose* by director J. Hřebejk.

A number of cultural and social events was organised on a wide variety of occasions, among them an exhibition entitled *A Tribute to PET Bottles*; on the occasion of Mother's Day in May exhibitions entitled *Manuscripts in Czech Libraries* and *The Life and Work of Writer Karel Čapek* were staged in Gallery Domov in Melbourne, accompanied by a musical performance and readings of excerpts of K. Čapek's book *Reading about TGM*. The day of the founding of the independent Czechoslovakia was commemorated by an exhibition entitled *Milestones in the History of the Czech State* in the Beseda club in Canberra.

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Canberra participated in the National Multicultural Festival in Canberra, which culminated on 6 February 2010 with the presentation of the participants in the centre of the Australian capital. The Embassy of the Czech Republic had its own stall in "Europe Street".

Czech students are interested in studying a wide variety of courses at Australian universities; there are estimated to be around 2,000-4,000 Czechs currently studying in Australia.

## **Bangladesh**

### ***(People's Republic of Bangladesh)***

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Bangladesh increased by 3.90% from CZK 2,668 million in 2009 to CZK 2,772 million in 2010. Exports increased by 19.04% (from CZK 457 million in 2009 to CZK 544 million in 2010) and imports increased by 0.72% (from CZK 2,212 million to CZK 2,228 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK -1,684 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: condensed milk, textile, spinning, weaving and knitting machines, whey, telephones, washing, cleaning, wringing and drying machines, military weapons, industrial machinery and parts, printing machines, paper and cardboard, electric steel products, clay and non-refractory products, non-military arms, telecommunications accessories.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: clothing and knitted products, headwear, bed linen, yarn from textile fibres, carpets, tobacco, engine parts, shellfish and molluscs.



## **Bhutan**

### ***(Kingdom of Bhutan)***

#### *Economic relations*

Trade exchange between the Czech Republic and Bhutan is minimal. In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Bhutan increased by 50.77% from CZK 65 thousand in 2009 CZK 98 thousand in 2010. Exports decreased from CZK 35 thousand in 2009 to zero in 2010; imports increased by 226.7% (from CZK 30 thousand to CZK 98 thousand). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –98 thousand.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: rubber hoses.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: electrical devices, insulated wires and cables, coffee extracts, essences and concentrates.

## **Brunei**

### ***(Sultanate of Brunei)***

#### *Economic relations*

Economic relations between the Czech Republic and Brunei have for long been at a low level. In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Brunei increased by 150% from CZK 2 million in 2009 CZK 5 million in 2010. Exports increased by 150% (from CZK 2 million in 2009 to CZK 5 million I, 2010); imports were negligible in both 2009 and 2010. The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 5 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: pumps, pipe fittings, glass products.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: tropical fruit and coffee.

## **Cambodia**

### ***(Kingdom of Cambodia)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- The activities of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Cambodia in 2010 focused on the first-ever official visit by Prime Minister J. Fischer with a business delegation scheduled for 25-28 April 2010. The visit was postponed for urgent reasons, however.

#### *Visits by representatives of the Kingdom of Cambodia*

- 18 March 2010 – King Norodom Sihamoni was officially received by President V. Klaus during a private visit to the Czech Republic.

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Cambodia increased by 18.60% from CZK 301 million in 2009 to CZK 357 million in 2010. Exports decreased by 86.11% (from CZK 36 million in 2009 to just CZK 5 million in 2010), but imports increased by 32.83% (from CZK 265 million to CZK 352 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –347 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: electronic measuring apparatus, electric lights, antennas, sewing machines, soles.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: textile products, footwear, bicycles.

### *Humanitarian aid*

The *MEDEVAC* (Medical Evacuation) programme of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic that began in 2009 continued in 2010. Thanks to the work by the Czech embassy in Bangkok and Motol Teaching Hospital the programme was expanded to Cambodia in 2009. Under this programme two children from Cambodia had successful operations in the children's heart surgery department of Motol hospital in 2010 (the same number as in 2009).

### *Foreign development cooperation*

Cambodia is included in the "project countries" category. The priority areas for development cooperation in Cambodia are support for social development, education and healthcare.

A two-year development project entitled *Support for Efficiency Initiatives – Nutrition for the Poor Population of Cambodia* was launched in 2010. The budgeted grant for 2010 was CZK 1.3 million.

Two government scholarships were offered to Cambodian students for 2010; one candidate was selected.

## **China**

### ***(People's Republic of China)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 7-10 May 2010 – visit to EXPO 2010 Shanghai by L. Rouček, Vice-President of the European Parliament;
- 16-23 May 2010 – visit by President of the Supreme Audit Office of the Czech Republic F. Dohnal (lecture tour in Shanghai and Nanjing);
- 15-17/18 May 2010 – national day at EXPO 2010 Shanghai – J. Kohout, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs; J. Chmiel, Minister for European Affairs; J. Šebesta, Minister of Agriculture (who also visited Suzhou); S. Karabec, First Deputy Minister of Culture; M. Hovorka, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade; S. Kozák, Deputy Minister of Agriculture;

- 24-25 May 2010 – member of the European Parliament, vice-chairman of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia J. Maštálka – participation at the China-Europe High-Level Political Parties Forum, Beijing;
- 4-9 June 2010 – visit to EXPO 2010 Shanghai by H. Bambasová, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; talks with Vice Minister of the Ministry for Science and Technology (MOST) Cao Jianlin; talks with the Tianjin local government;
- 18-22 June 2010 – visit to EXPO 2010 Shanghai by M. Sedláček, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- 27-28 June 2010 – visit to Wenzhou by Vice President of the Senate of Parliament M. Štěch;
- 11-23 July 2010 – visit to EXPO 2010 Shanghai by a delegation of Czech regions: delegation of the Plzeň region led by Governor M. Emmerová (also to Hangzhou); delegation of the Ústí region led by Governor J. Vaňhová (also to Hefei); delegation of the Karlovy Vary region led by Governor J. Novotný; delegation of the Moravian Silesion region led by deputy governors J. Vzientek and K. Konečný; delegation of the Liberec region led by Governor S. Eichler; delegation of the South Moravian region led by regional assembly member S. Navrkal;
- 20-31 August 2010 – visit by a delegation of the Committee on Public Administration, Regional Development and the Environment of the Senate of Parliament, led by Vice President of the Senate of Parliament M. Štěch; the delegation consisted of senators I. Bárek, the committee chairman, B. Moldan and J. Horník (talks in Beijing, Xi'an and Wenzhou);
- 3-6 September 2010 – visit to EXPO 2010 Shanghai for Prague Day by Minister of Culture J. Besser;
- 3-12 September 2010 – visit to EXPO 2010 Shanghai for Prague Day by a delegation of Prague City Hall;
- 19-21 October 2010 – visit to EXPO 2010 Shanghai by a delegation of the Zlín region led by Deputy Governor J. Ondruš;
- 31 October – 5 November 2010 – members of the European Parliament Z. Roithová (Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party) and O. Sehnalová (Czech Social Democratic Party) attended the 30<sup>th</sup> EU-China inter-parliamentary meeting in Beijing, Wuhau and Chengdu;
- 5-11 December 2010 – series of working meetings in Beijing and at the construction site of the Haiyang NPP by V. Bartuška, Government Plenipotentiary for the Nuclear Tender for Temelín Nuclear Power Plant and Ambassador-at-Large for Energy Security, and Deputy Chairman of the State Office for Nuclear Safety P. Krs.

### *Visits by representatives of the People's Republic of China*

- 8 September 2010 – visit by Director-General of the Department of European Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Li Ruiyi, who was received by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs T. Dub and held consultations with Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs V. Grepl.

### *Other meetings*

- 5 October 2010 – bilateral courtesy meeting between President V. Klaus and Premier Wen Jiabao on the sidelines of the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEM summit in Brussels.

### *Economic relations*

The People's Republic of China is the Czech Republic's third biggest trading partner in terms of foreign trade turnover. China is the second biggest importer to the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic has its biggest balance of foreign trade deficit with China.

In 2010 China moved up to fourth place in the ranking of the Czech Republic's trading partners (behind Germany, Slovakia and Poland) and into second place in terms of imports (again behind Germany). Once again, it remained the country with which the Czech Republic has its biggest balance of trade deficit and with whom mutual trade registered the biggest growth.

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with China increased by 45.81% from CZK 215,793 million in 2009 to CZK 314,658 million in 2010. Exports increased by 46.14% (from CZK 15,853 million in 2009 to CZK 23,167 million in 2010) and imports increased by 45.79% (from CZK 199,940 million to CZK 291,491 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK – 268,324 million.

One key event for economic relations between the Czech Republic and the People's Republic of China in 2010 was the award of a licence to Czech company PPF to develop a Home Credit consumer financing pilot project in the city of Tianjin. PPF is the only foreign company to receive such a licence, paving the way for further expansion on the Chinese market.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: industrial machinery and plant, electrical equipment, devices and appliances, machinery and plant for energy generation, road vehicles, metal products.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: office machinery and automatic data processing equipment, electrical equipment, devices and appliances, telecommunications and sound recording and reproduction equipment, clothing products and accessories.

### *Cultural relations*

The dominant event of 2010 was the successful Czech presentation at EXPO 2010 Shanghai. Cultural and social programmes were implemented in the Czech national pavilion and in the City of Prague pavilion/separate exposition. On *Czech National Day* at the EXPO on 17 May 2010 almost

200 Czech artists performed in the Czech pavilion, in the exhibition grounds and outside (e.g. 4tet Jiřího Korna, pianist E. Viklický with Fen-Yün Song, violinist P. Šporcl with pianist P. Jiříkovský, the Jednotka rychlého nasazení ensemble, Laura a její tygři, Nightwork, Toxique, Čechomor, D. Bárta a Illustratosphere, Tam Tam Orchestra (Batucada), La Putyka theatre, V.O.S.A., National Marionette Theatre, Skutr, Tros Sketos, and actor J. Bartoška). The dramaturgy was the work of M. Caban and the scenography was designed by Š. Caban. The official opening of Czech National Day was moderated by M. Eben with Mrs Feng-Yün Song, and the programme as a whole was presented by puppet figures Spejbl and Hurvínek. Czech National Day closed with a performance by the National Theatre ballet under the artistic guidance of P. Zuska.

On 15-26 July 2010 the Holešov-based children's choir *Moravské děti* took part in a children's singing competition in the city of Shaoxing (Zhejiang province) and also performed at the Czech national pavilion at the EXPO.

E. Eislerová, Hippos design, S. Issa, A. Kozová, Olgoj Chorchoj, D. Piršič, R. Plesl, R. Šulc and H. Zárubová presented their projects during Czech Design Weeks in Shanghai from 8-31 August 2010.

During Czech Fashion Week in Shanghai from 18 to 25 August 2010, fashion collections inspired by the theme "miracles of memory" were presented by designers L. Rochová, K. Nadehlýnská, M. Drápalová, D. Nová and P. Ivančic. The fashion show took place on 18 August 2010 in the prestigious shopping arcade *Bund 18*.

Czech Art and Culture Week in the national pavilion in Shanghai (4-19 September 2010) was opened by author A. Lustig. The event included the inauguration of an exhibition entitled *Franz Kafka and Prague* and a literary evening attended by Chinese Czech scholars organised by the Franz Kafka Society Centre.

*Prague Day* was held on 6 September 2010 in a separate pavilion devoted solely to the capital.

The boy's choir *Boni Pueri* was a guest at the international choir festival in Shanghai on 23-30 September 2010 and also sang at two improvised concerts for the public outside the Czech pavilion at the EXPO.

The V.O.S.A. street theatre company presented its parade show, featuring large-scale puppets, in Shanghai during May, August and October.

During the EXPO the Czech pavilion was visited by almost 8.5 million people, many of whom sampled firsthand a broad range of Czech cultural offerings, including traditional specialities of Czech food and drink from the *Czechia* restaurant in the Czech pavilion and the *Švejk* restaurant in the Prague pavilion/exposition.

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Beijing organised a number of its own cultural events aimed at audiences from Chinese political, artistic, business, media and civic circles, Czech scholars

and the Czech community. Events bringing together Chinese and Czech artists, musicians and literary figures in cultural dialogue under the three-year programme *EmbassyArt* have gradually gained increasing popularity and sponsorship. The embassy's activities were combined with opportunities for Czech artists to participate in large-scale Chinese festivals and tours.

On 8-13 May 2010, as part of the Czech cultural festival marking the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations, there was a series of performances by the National Theatre ballet under the artistic guidance of P. Zuska in Beijing (Meilangfan theatre) and in the city of Yantai (Shandong province). The event was organised by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic. On 10 May 2010 an exhibition of Czech art glass was opened in the prestigious *National Art Museum of China (NAMOC)*; the opening ceremony was attended by Director General of the National Gallery M. Knížák.

On 19 May 2010 music group Čechomor performed in the Yigong Yishang club and the following day, with the cooperation of the local government of Beijing's Chanping suburb, at the Great Wall of China.

Soprano M. Mátlová, accompanied by M. Freml on the guitar, gave a series of performances in July. On 23 July 2010 they performed at the inauguration of an exhibition of works by Wei Qingji at the embassy; on 26 July they were the main guests of a Czech-Chinese cultural evening in the city of Huzhou (Zhejiang province), organised in close partnership between the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Beijing and the Consulate General in Shanghai. On 28 July 2010 they performed a jazz-oriented concert in the Beijing International Orchestra in the Sedan Chair House.

An exhibition about the work of Czech Jesuit K. Slavíček in China was opened in the Beijing Ancient Observatory on 12 July 2010. The inauguration was accompanied by a performance of classical music by a quartet of students from the Central Conservatory of Music.

The *Vsacan* folk ensemble gave several performances at the China International Folklore Festival in October; on 9 October the ensemble performed a concert at Czech Culture Days in Suzhou (Jiangsu province) in the Crown Plaza Hotel designed by Czech architects Ivana and Jan Benda. On 14 October 2010 *Vsacan* performed at the embassy in Beijing as part of *EmbassyArt* and on 17 October gave two performances at the Sino-Czech-Slovak friendship farm in Cangzhou (Hebei province).

Guitar duo J. Bína and Z. Urbanec performed at the traditional jazz festival Nine Gates in Beijing in October. On 21 October the guitar duo accompanied the inauguration of an exhibition of works by Chinese sculptor Zhuo Fan at the embassy in Beijing.

There was a pre-Christmas exhibition of paintings by Czech artist M. Kaufman and a concert of classical music by performers from the Central Conservatory of Music at the embassy in Beijing on 16 December 2010 (the exhibition then moved to the Bloom gallery in Beijing's 978 Art Zone in February 2011).

With the help of the embassy in Beijing, Czech feature films and animated films received considerable attention and praise in 2010. Several examples of older works from the embassy's film library (*Cutting It Short, My Sweet Little Village, Seclusion Near a Forest et al.*) were screened on the sidelines of the Chinese film festival in Chanchun (Jilin province). There was a successful screening of the film *Smart Philip* in March as part of the 15<sup>th</sup> Francophonie film festival in Beijing. The Czech Republic was the guest of honour at the 5<sup>th</sup> AniWow animated film festival and had 10 films shown at the festival; the opening ceremony was attended by last year's award winner, director A. Kýrová. The screening of *Autumn Spring* in large-format cinemas in Beijing, Chengdu (Sichuan province) and Xi'an (Shaanxi province) as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> EU Film in China festival was a great success.

As part of its support for Czech studies in China, on 25 November 2010 the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Beijing staged a discussion about B. Hrabal and his influence on Chinese art, partly thanks to the legacy of translator Yang Leyun. To mark the first anniversary of the death of Mrs Yang, a digest was published in her honour and the film *Cutting It Short* was screened at the discussion evening.

The embassy in Beijing gave organisational support to the publishing of a Chinese translation of the book *White Birches in Autumn* by A. Lustig.

## **Hong Kong**

### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 29-31 August 2010 – working visit by a delegation of the Committee on Public Administration, Regional Development and the Environment of the Senate of Parliament, led by Vice President of the Senate of Parliament M. Štěch.

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Hong Kong increased by 15.13% from CZK 6,776 million in 2009 to CZK 7,801 million in 2010. Exports increased by 9.38% (from CZK 5,576 million in 2009 to CZK 6,099 million in 2010) and imports increased by 41.83% (from CZK 1,200 million to CZK 1,702 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 4,397 million.

On 24-27 August 2010 the second round of talks on a Treaty on the Avoidance of Double Taxation with Hong Kong took place in Prague. The treaty will be signed in 2011.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: condensers, ceramic dielectric fixed capacitors, inductors and ferrite cores, resistors, numerically controlled boring-milling machines, telephones, processors and control units, contacts for wires and cables, glass products including imitation gemstones and semi-precious stones, plastic waste, construction sets and plastic construction toys.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: clothing and clothing accessories, jewellery from precious stones, voice and data reception, conversion, transmission and regeneration devices, photosensitive semi-conductor apparatus, processors and control units, mechanical devices, boilers, wires and cables, optical instruments, plastics and plastic products, toys and models, tricycles, scooters and prams for dolls, printed matter (books, brochures, leaflets).

### *Cultural relations*

The Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Hong Kong arranged for director A. Nellis' film *Little Girl Blue* to be screened at the *European Film Festival 2010* from 21 January to 3 February 2010. Director J. Hřebejk's film *Shameless* had its Asian premiere at the 34<sup>th</sup> *Hong Kong International Film Festival* from 21 March to 6 April 2010. From 25 May to 18 June 2010, at the end of her six-month artistic residency in Hong Kong, designer and curator G. Jurkovičová staged a representative exhibition entitled *Transgression*, which presented the work of more than 40 contemporary Czech artists working in video art and new media at the Videotage gallery in the independent Cattle Depot Artist Village exhibition space. The Jaro dance ensemble took part in *Kaleidoscope of European Dancing* from 16 to 22 July 2010 in Hong Kong. On 29 October 2010 Czech harpist J. Boušková performed in the concert hall of The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts at the invitation of the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Hong Kong. The Consulate General also arranged for L. Přibyl's documentary *Forgotten Transports to Estonia* to be included in the programme of the 11<sup>th</sup> *Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival*, which took place from 13 to 22 November 2010.

## **Macau**

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Macau increased by 16.22% from CZK 74 million in 2009 to CZK 86 million in 2010. Exports increased by 366.67% (from CZK 3 million in 2009 to CZK 14 million in 2010) and imports increased by 1.41% (from CZK 71 million to CZK 72 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK -58 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: leather products (suitcases, briefcases, vanity cases etc.), glass products (imitation pearls and precious stones), pumps, ventilators, plastic products, parts and components of voice and data transmission and reception equipment, massage apparatus.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: clothing and clothing accessories, headwear, colour TV screens and monitors, electric sound amplifiers, bicycles, parts and components of metal furniture.



## Taiwan

### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 11-15 January 2010 – working visit by Deputy Minister of the Interior L. Melicharová–Ptáčková;
- 17-20 October 2010 – working visit by police president O. Martinů;
- 29 November – 3 December 2010 – working visit by a six-member delegation of the Chamber of Deputies of Parliament led by Vice Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs M. Benda.

### *Visits by representatives of Taiwan*

- 2-4 September 2010 – working visit by Minister, Ministry of Finance, Sush-Der Lee;
- 5-7 September 2010 – working visit by Minister, National Science Council, Lou-Chuang Lee;
- 13-15 September 2010 – working visit by Vice Minister, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Kuo-Hsin Liang.

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Taiwan increased by 37.51% from CZK 18,987 million in 2009 to CZK 26,109 million in 2010. Exports increased by 78.07% (from CZK 1,122 million in 2009 to CZK 1,998 million in 2010) and imports increased by 34.96% (from CZK 17,865 million to CZK 24,111 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –22,113 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: parts and accessories for automatic data processing, steam turbines, iron and steel containers for pressurised liquefied gases, alternating current motors, textile spinning machines, imitation jewellery, passenger cars.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: parts and accessories for automatic data processing equipment, digital monolithic integrated circuits, chemicals, parts and accessories for motorcycles and bicycles, screws, clamps and rivets.

### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Letter of Intent signed with regard to the Memorandum on Scientific Cooperation in Prague between the International Visegrad Fund and the National Science Council of Taiwan;
- Memorandum of Understanding signed in Prague between the Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic and the Industrial Technology Research Institute of Taiwan.

### *Cultural relations*

The last installations of the touring exhibition *Czech Gems*, composed of three sets of posters and photographs, namely *Beauties of Czech Baroque Architecture*, *A Tribute to PET Bottles* and *Czech*

*Gems I*, took place during the first half of 2010. The exhibition had toured a total of five Taiwanese cities since February 2009.

The 18<sup>th</sup> *Taipei International Book Exhibition* took place in February 2010. The Czech exposition featured literary productions provided by the Association of Czech Booksellers and Publishers as part of the long-term cooperation with the Prague *World of Books* trade fair.

Under a cultural agreement between Prague and Taipei, a five-member delegation of the City of Prague, led by Deputy Mayor M. Kousalíková, visited Taipei in September 2010. The occasion was marked by a successful concert by a fifteen-member jazz orchestra of the Jaroslav Ježek Conservatory at the Taipei city hall.

The 6<sup>th</sup> European Film Festival took place in December 2010, aimed primarily at young audiences at Taiwanese universities and specialised cultural institutions. Czech cinema has regularly been represented by feature films at the festival since 2007; in 2010 *Loners* was screened at the festival.

## **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with the DPRK decreased by 45.34% from CZK 145,291 thousand in 2009 to CZK 79,419 thousand in 2010. Exports decreased by 69.57% (from CZK 884 thousand in 2009 to CZK 269 thousand in 2010), and imports decreased by 45.19% (from CZK 144,407 thousand to CZK 79,150 thousand). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK – 78,881 thousand.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: lead batteries for starting piston engines.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: candles, other vehicles with ignition engines, new passenger cars, ladies' jackets and windcheaters.

### *Transformation and development cooperation*

As part of the programme of assistance to developing countries, in 2010 the Czech Republic provided the DPRK with two government scholarships for graduate study at public universities, but these places were not filled by the DPRK.

### *Cultural relations*

In 2010 Czech cinema was represented by the film *Tobruk* at the 12<sup>th</sup> Pyongyang International Film Festival.

## **East Timor**

### ***(Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste)***

#### *Economic relations*

Economic relations between the Czech Republic and East Timor have for long been at a low level. In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with East Timor decreased by 84.91% from CZK 53 thousand in 2009 to CZK 8 thousand in 2010. There were no exports in 2009 and 2010; imports decreased by 84.91% (from CZK 53 thousand in 2009 to CZK 8 thousand in 2010). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –8 thousand.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: none.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: spices.

#### *Foreign development cooperation*

A small-scale local foreign development project under the authority of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and entitled *Support for the Development of the Infrastructure of East Timor – Delivery of a Mobile Drinking Water Purification Plant* took place in East Timor in 2010. The project was implemented by Czech firm GEOtest Brno a.s. through its Indonesian subsidiary PT. Indonesian Water Equipment Technology. The project's total budget was CZK 870,000; CZK 500,000 of that sum was provided out of the Czech Republic's foreign development cooperation and CZK 370,000 was provided by the implementing company.

The aim of the development project was to pass on the Czech Republic's experiences in the field of drinking water sources protection and treatment in the form of the supply of a mobile water treatment plant. The plant was supplied as part of the renewal and reconstruction of the areas affected by the tsunami in the Indonesian region of Aceh and has in the past proved its worth in similarly affected areas of Sri Lanka and Mongolia.

#### *Cultural relations*

In December 2010 the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Dili arranged the screening of the film *Gympl* at the EU Film Festival.

## **India**

### ***(Republic of India)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 5-6 February 2010 – visit by Minister of the Environment J. Dušík to attend the *Delhi Sustainable Development Summit*;
- 17-22 February 2010 – visit by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H. Kmoníček to attend DEFEXPO;

- 7-13 March 2010 – visit by Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade T. Hüner with a mission of Czech nuclear energy firms;
- 11-12 May 2010 – visit by Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade L. Vaněk for the first Czech-India Technology Days;
- 22-27 May 2010 – visit by Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade M. Hovorka;
- 28-30 October 2010 – visit by Deputy Minister of the Environment I. Hlaváč;
- 25-28 October 2010 – visit by Deputy Minister of Transport I. Vykydal, with a business mission of transport infrastructure manufacturers;
- 29-30 November 2010 – visit by Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade M. Hovorka for the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the Czech-Indian Mixed Economic Commission.

#### *Visits by representatives of the Republic of India*

- 25-26 February 2010 – visit by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs V. Katju for inter-ministerial consultations;
- 6-8 June 2010 – official visit by Vice President and Chairman of the Council of States M. H. Ansari.

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with India increased by 28.35% from CZK 20,254 million in 2009 to CZK 25,997 million in 2010. Exports increased by 33.64% (from CZK 11,264 million in 2009 to CZK 15,053 million in 2010) and imports increased by 21.74% (from CZK 8,990 million to CZK 10,944 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 4,109 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: components of passenger and goods motor vehicles, bodies of tractors and passenger and goods motor vehicles, transmission shafts and gear boxes, piston compression engines, seats (not medical, including seats convertible into beds), goods motor vehicles, machinery for fibre preparation, other heterocyclic compounds, electric motors and generators, auxiliary equipment for looms and machines, including accessories.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: seamless tubes, pipes and hollow profiles of iron and steel, parts of electric motors and generators, medicines in doses, flat-rolled products of iron and steel, cotton yarns not put up for retail sale, electric transformers, static converters and inductors, T-shirts, singlets and other knitted or crocheted vests, footwear with leather uppers and rubber soles, plastics, blank media for sound recording, wires, cables, electric conductors, fibre-optic cables.

#### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Agreement on Economic Cooperation between the Czech Republic and India, Prague, 8 June 2010;

- Agreement on Social Security, Prague, 8 June 2010;
- Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of India for the Years 2010-2012, 13 September 2010.

### *Cultural relations*

On the occasion of Czech National Day a concert tour of the Czech Ladies String Trio from the Jaroslav Ježek Conservatory was staged on 24 October to 1 November 2010 to bring Czech classical music to a wider public in Delhi and Kolkata. The tour opened on 24 October 2010 with a performance at the university cultural festival *Rendezvous 2010* in Delhi; on 28 October the trio accompanied a reception for Czech National Day; and on 31 October the trio excelled at a Czech-Indian evening entitled *Music-Beyond Barriers* in an exceptionally successful improvised musical fusion of Czech strings and Indian percussion. The tour closed in Delhi's main concert hall on 1 November 2010 with a performance of well-known compositions by A. Dvořák, G. Bizet, W. A. Mozart and Czech folk compositions.

Czech cinema has for long enjoyed great success in India, where it has an enthusiastic audience. On 9-12 November 2010 the south Indian city of Chennai again hosted the *Czech Film Festival* with a selection of contemporary Czech cinema: *Empties*, *Tobruk*, *Dark Blue World* and *Grapes*. On 20 October 2010 the film *Big Beat* opened the *Little Europe* film festival organised annually by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Delhi in cooperation with the University of Delhi; last year the festival was devoted to musical cinema. Czech cinema was also represented at the 15<sup>th</sup> European Union Film Festival held from 24 April to 20 June 2010 in the cities of Panaji, Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi, where A. Nellis' film *Some Secrets* was screened. Two Czech films, *Empties* by director J. Svěrák and *You Cannot Escape Your Shadows* by director L. Kny, were screened at the *International Forum of New Cinema*, which is an independent part of the *Kolkata Film Festival*. Czech films for children were also presented to the Indian public at the *International Children's Film Festival* in Kolkata on 18-22 June 2010 with a programme of 30 films from 13 countries.

## **Indonesia**

### ***(Republic of Indonesia)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 7-10 April 2010 – working visit by General V. Picek, Chief of General Staff of the Army of the Czech Republic;
- 10-11 November 2010 – visit by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs T. Dub.

#### *Visits by representatives of the Republic of Indonesia*

- 29-30 November 2010 – working visit by Chairman of the Investment Coordinating Board G. Wirjawan.

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Indonesia increased by 22.52% from CZK 5,960 million in 2009 to CZK 7,302 million in 2010. Exports increased by 16.62% (from CZK 987 million in 2009 to CZK 1,151 million in 2010) and imports increased by 23.69% (from CZK 4,973 million to CZK 6,151 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –5,000 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: organic chemicals (especially amino-compounds), telecommunications equipment, industrial pipe fittings, machines for preparing textile fibres, kraft paper, glassware, powdered milk, alternate-current motors and generators, electricity distribution equipment, electrical devices, railroad locomotive parts.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: computer equipment, electronic products, rubber, footwear, clothing, wood.

### *Foreign development cooperation*

The foreign development cooperation project *Renewal of the Territory around Lake Tondano* organised by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic was completed in 2010. The project's total budget was CZK 7 million. The project was implemented by Mott MacDonald Praha s.r.o. The aim of the development project was to renew the rural infrastructure and soil in the area around Lake Tondano on Sulawesi Island in Indonesia. In addition, the existing soil maps were integrated with information acquired about the quality of the soil; the maps were then updated using the GIS system in order to prepare an agro-ecological map, a map for a rehabilitation action plan and a map for a farming plan for the territory.

### *Cultural relations*

In October 2010 the Embassy of the Czech Republic organised an exhibition of tapestries *Olga Grulichová – Art Protis* in Jakarta, which was officially opened by minister of the Indonesian government L. Gumelar.

In November 2010 the Embassy of the Czech Republic arranged the screening of the film *Protector* at the *European film festival "Europe in Motion 2010"*.

## **Japan**

### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 21-27 May 2010 – working visit by Minister of Education, Youth and Sports M. Kopicová, combined with participation at the 5<sup>th</sup> Czech-Japan Technology Days in Tokyo;
- 22-28 May 2010 – Ambassador-at-Large for Science, Technology and Education D. Huňátová attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Czech-Japan Technology Days in Tokyo;
- 23-28 May 2010 – working visit by Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade L. Vaněk;
- 23-28 May 2010 – working visit by acting CEO of CzechInvest A. Rudyšarová;

- 23-27 May 2010 – working visit by President of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic K. Klusáček;
- 26-31 October 2010 – First Deputy Minister of the Environment R. Bízková attended the COP 10 Convention on Biological Biodiversity in Nagoya;
- 31 October – 7 November 2010 – working visit by V. Bartuška, Government Plenipotentiary for the Nuclear Tender for Temelín Nuclear Power Plant and Ambassador-at-Large for Energy Security;
- 17-21 December 2010 – Deputy Minister of the Environment T. Tesař attended the closing ceremony of International Year of Biodiversity in Kanazawa.

### *Economic relations*

Japan is one of the Czech Republic's ten biggest trading partners. Japan is the 10<sup>th</sup> biggest importer to the Czech Republic. Japan is the country with which the Czech Republic has the third biggest balance of trade deficit.

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Japan decreased by 2.72% from CZK 70,461 million in 2009 to CZK 68,546 million in 2010. Exports increased by 26.05% (from CZK 8,014 million in 2009 to CZK 10,102 million in 2010), but imports decreased by 6.41% (from CZK 62,447 million to CZK 58,444 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –48,342 million.

The influx of Japanese investments into the Czech Republic continued in 2010, with the cumulated value of Japanese investments reaching USD 3.145 billion. Japanese firms employed over 45,000 people in the Czech Republic. There were more than 259 Japanese firms operating in the Czech Republic, 94 of them manufacturing firms – that is the fourth largest number of Japanese manufacturing firms in Europe, behind Great Britain, France and Germany.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: industrial machinery and plant, machinery and plant for energy generation, toys, organic chemicals, parts and accessories for motor vehicles, wood.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: electrical equipment, devices and appliances, office machinery and automatic data processing equipment, telecommunications and sound recording and reproduction equipment, road vehicles, professional, scientific and control devices and apparatus.

### *Cultural relations*

In 2010 Czech culture was presented in Japan to a very high standard and to considerable public interest. One example was an exhibition by Czech conceptual artist K. Šedá under the auspices of the prestigious Mori Art Museum in Tokyo. Soloists of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, which celebrated the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of its first concert in Japan, again performed in Tokyo. Jazz pianist

and composer E. Viklický performed in the main hall of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Tokyo. Director J. Barta won one of the main prizes at the 13<sup>th</sup> *Japan Media Arts Festival* in Tokyo for his feature film *In the Attic*.

The Czech Centre in Tokyo situated within the grounds of the Embassy of the Czech Republic organised a number of cultural events in cooperation with the embassy; these included exhibitions, presentations, workshops, talks, film screenings and concerts.

There was an exchange of five government scholarships in 2010. Most of the interest from the Japanese side was in the arts and humanities. However, there was a much larger number of Czechs studying at Japanese universities on the basis of bilateral agreements between universities in the two countries. Five scholarships for the Slavonic Studies Summer School were offered to the Japanese side, but in the end eleven scholarships were awarded.

## **Kazakhstan**

### ***(Republic of Kazakhstan)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 23-24 November 2010 – as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Czech-Kazakhstan Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Industrial and Scientific and Technological Cooperation (IGC) there was a meeting between Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic M. Hovorka and Deputy Minister of Industry and New Technologies of Kazakhstan D. Turganov;
- 1-2 December 2010 – First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg attended the OSCE summit in Astana.

#### *Other meetings*

- 30 October – 6 November 2010 – study trip to Prague by nine Kazakh government officials as part of an EU project. The delegation held talks with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Industry and Trade and CzechInvest on matters of development cooperation;
- 28 December 2010 – expert talks at the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic on a readmission agreement and a visa waiver agreement between Kazakhstan and the Czech Republic for diplomatic passports. Consular consultations also took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Kazakhstan increased by 44.93% from CZK 7,786 million in 2009 to CZK 11,285 million in 2010. Exports increased by 34.56% (from CZK



2,399 million in 2009 to CZK 3,229 million in 2010) and imports increased by 49.54% (from CZK 5,387 million to CZK 8,056 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK -4,827 million.

A session of the Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Industrial and Scientific and Technological Cooperation took place in Astana in November 2010.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: automatic data processing equipment, memory units, razors and razorblades, medicaments, motor vehicle bodies, telecommunications equipment, cells and electric accumulators, refined wood, parts for filtration and purification apparatus, desks, electricity control and distribution panels, medical technology, products of wood pulp, paper, paperboard and cellulose wadding, toiletries and hair care products.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: crude oil, petroleum oils, ferrous alloys, liquefied propane, uncarded and uncombed cotton, liquefied butane, wool, tobacco, semi-finished products and products of wolfram, molybdenum and tantalum, oxides of zinc, chrome, manganese, iron and steel, frozen fish, artificial fertilisers, storage tanks and barrels, liquefied gaseous hydrocarbons, liquefied ethylene, propylene, butylene and butadiene.

### *Cultural relations*

The Czech Republic took part in the activities of the EU Delegation promoting university education in Europe under the name *European Union Education Fairs*. The opportunities for university education in the Czech Republic were actively promoted in three cities in Kazakhstan. The Czech government awarded Kazakhstan one scholarship for medical studies and Kazakhstan awarded its students five scholarships for study in the Czech Republic. The *Czech-Polish Film Festival* took place from 2 to 7 June 2010. During this event Czech films were presented, a press conference featuring the presentation of prizes from the *Lidice 2009* international art competition was held and a closing concert was staged featuring dulcimer music by the group Pozdní sběr.

## **Kyrgyzstan**

### ***(Republic of Kyrgyzstan)***

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Kyrgyzstan increased by 11.64% from CZK 107 million in 2009 to CZK 119 million in 2010. Exports increased by 17.75% (from CZK 101 million in 2009 to CZK 83 million in 2010), and imports increased by 602.90% (from CZK 6 million to CZK 37 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 46 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: medicaments, artificial guts, automatic data processing equipment and memory units, paper and paperboard, mixtures of odoriferous

substances, central heating boilers and radiators, water heaters, refrigeration equipment, disinfectants, textile products, accumulators.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: parts for aircraft and helicopters, cotton, hand tools, storage tanks and barrels, ready meals, textile products, shellac, gum arabic.

## **Laos**

### ***(Lao People's Democratic Republic)***

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Laos increased by 52.94% from CZK 17 million in 2009 to CZK 26 million in 2010. Exports increased from CZK 1 million in 2009 to 12 million in 2010, while imports decreased by 12.5% from CZK 16 million to CZK 14 million. The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –2 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: sewing machines, household light fittings (chandeliers, lamps), transformers, telephones, wires, cables.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: textile products, footwear, coffee, rice.

## **Malaysia**

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 9-12 June 2010 – regular inter-ministerial consultations by First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H. Bambasová;
- 13-14 June 2010 – visit by First Deputy Minister for Regional Development M. Plachý.

#### *Visits by representatives of Malaysia*

- 12-15 November 2010 – visit by Minister of Tourism Dato' Sri Dr. Ng Yen Yen for talks with the minister for regional development of the Czech Republic;
- 13-17 December 2010 – visit by General Zulkifeli Bin Mohd Zin, Chief of Army for Land Forces.

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Malaysia increased by 27.97% from CZK 15,234 million in 2009 to CZK 19,495 million in 2010. Exports increased by 52.07% (from CZK 1,089 million in 2009 to CZK 1,656 million in 2010) and imports increased by 26.12%% (from CZK 14,145 million to CZK 17,839 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –16,183 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: machinery and electrical equipment, silicon doped for use in electronics, plastics, plastic products, paper and paperboard, metal

products, steel structures, measuring and optical apparatus, synthetic rubber, chemicals, antibiotics, electrical devices, toys.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: electric and electronic equipment and devices (processors and control units), office machinery and automatic data processing equipment (especially memory units), telecommunications equipment, natural rubber, measuring apparatus, clothing, furniture, products of iron and non-ferrous metals, chemicals, plastic and rubber products.

### *Foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid*

As part of development cooperation a small-scale local project focusing on providing healthcare to refugees from Myanmar was implemented. In this project the Czech Republic, in conjunction with the local branch of the UNHCR and the non-profit organisation Taiwan Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation Malaysia, financed an integrated clinic providing basic medical and dental care to members of the local Burmese community. The amount provided for the development project by the Czech Republic was CZK 450,000.

The humanitarian aid implemented by the Czech Republic in Malaysia in 2010 was also aimed at the community of Burmese refugees. As in the case of the small-scale local project, the humanitarian aid was used to provide basic education for the children of Burmese refugees in cooperation with the local branch of the UNHCR and the non-profit organisation Taiwan Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation Malaysia. The Czech Republic released a total of CZK 700,00 for this humanitarian project.

## **Maldives**

### ***(Republic of Maldives)***

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with the Maldives decreased by 33.33% from CZK 15 million in 2009 to CZK 10 million in 2010. Exports fell by 16.67% (from CZK 12 million in 2009 to CZK 10 million in 2010). Imports fell from CZK 3 million in 2009 to practically zero in 2010. The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 10 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: telephones, machines and parts for washing, cleaning, wringing, drying and ironing, taps and valves, wires and cables.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: fish fillets.

## **Mongolia**

### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 13-15 January 2010 – working visit by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H. Bambasová for the purpose of regular consultations;

- 19-20 May 2010 – official visit by Prime Minister J. Fischer culminating the celebrations of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

#### *Other meetings*

- President V. Klaus met Prime Minister S. Batbold during the UN General Assembly in September 2010 and President T. Elbegdorj at the ASEM summit in Brussels in October 2010.

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Mongolia decreased by 7.56% from CZK 172 million in 2009 to CZK 159 million in 2010. Exports decreased by 7.93% (from CZK 164 million in 2009 to CZK 151 million in 2010); imports remained unchanged (at CZK 8 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 143 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: hair care products, industrial furnaces and ovens, air-conditioning equipment, compressors, food products, electricity control and distribution panels and consoles, trailers and semi-trailers for goods transportation, filtration and purification apparatus, milling industry machinery, razors and razorblades, beer, containers, leather-working machines.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: sands, clothing and accessories, toothed wheels, vegetable fats, raw materials of animal origin.

#### *Foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid*

Mongolia is a priority programme country for the Czech Republic's foreign development cooperation and in recent years has been the biggest overall beneficiary of Czech aid and assistance. A total of approximately CZK 85 million was spent on development projects in Mongolia in 2010.

Two multilaterally co-financed projects were implemented in 2010: a trip to the Czech Republic for Mongolian experts to gain experience with the adoption of EU norms and standards and participation by Caritas Czech Republic in the European Commission's DG ECHO programme focusing on mitigating the consequences of the extreme winter of 2009/2010.

#### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Arrangement between the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of Mongolia on Cooperation in the Fields of Education, Science and Youth;
- Arrangement on Cultural Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of Mongolia for the Years 2010-2011;

- Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of Mongolia on the Termination of Agreements concerning the Real Property of Embassies of Both States.

### *Cultural relations*

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Ulaanbaatar organised a photography exhibition entitled *Czech Republic – Mongolia: 60 Years of Relations*, combined with an exhibition of children's drawings and a presentation of Czech development projects, in several cities in Mongolia. In November 2010 the Czech comedies *Sir, You Are a Widow* and *I Enjoy the World With You* were screened at the EU Film Festival in Ulaanbaatar and Erdenet.

## **Myanmar/Burma** **(Union of Myanmar)**

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Myanmar decreased by 54.55% from CZK 44 million in 2009 to CZK 20 million in 2010. Exports remained unchanged (at CZK 5 million in 2009 and 2010); imports fell by 61.54% (from CZK 39 million in 2009 to CZK 15 million in 2010). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –10 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: components of rubber processing machinery, household light fittings (chandeliers, lamps), imitation jewellery.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: textile products, footwear, beans, ginger.

### *Humanitarian aid*

In 2010 a humanitarian project entitled *Renewal and Modernisation of Housing for People Affected by Cyclone Nargis* was approved and implemented. The total budget was CZK 1.6 billion and the project was implemented by the humanitarian organisation ADRA.

As part of activities in the field of migration and asylum policy, the Embassy of the Czech Republic, in conjunction with the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic and international organisations the UNHCR and IOM, successfully arranged the first-ever resettlement of Burmese refugees from a refugee camp in the Thai border region to the Czech Republic.

### *Cross-border cooperation*

The small-scale local project *Computer Education Programmes in Eastern Burma* went ahead in 2010. The project, with a budget of CZK 400,000, was implemented by the organisation Free Burma Rangers in the form of cross-border cooperation in eastern Myanmar/Burma.

The same organisation implemented a project entitled *Information Network of Burma* with a budget of CZK 250,000, designed to improve satellite links and thus also the opportunity for

early warning of danger for members of the Free Burma Rangers in the territory of Myanmar/Burma.

### *Transformation cooperation*

A two-year project of the ADRA organisation entitled *Kayin Fellowship Programme* was approved for 2010. The programme aims to strengthen community leadership and organisation, to address development requirements according to the priorities of communities and mutual links, and to create communication networks and forums in the Kayin region (Karen state). A grant of CZK 2.5 million was allocated for 2010.

A two-year project of the People In Need organisation launched in 2009 to support the democratic movement in Myanmar/Burma was completed in 2010. The project was one of the “Burma projects” aimed at providing direct assistance to political prisoners, independent journalists, civic groups and all democratic activists in the country, providing financial and material assistance, organising seminars and consultations in the country, and also raising awareness about the country on the international scene.

The implementation of a three-year project of the Burma Center Prague entitled *Indian Base for the Transformation of Burma* and commenced in 2009 continued in 2010. This project’s aim is to develop the lacking capacities of civic society in India and on the Indian-Burmese border with a view to systematically supporting activities focusing on Burma’s transition to democracy.

In 2010 a subsidised project of the Academy of the Performing Arts in Prague entitled *Myanmar Film Centre and Burmese Projects FAMU III* was implemented, following on from the previous successful activities. Besides the holding of two several-week workshops and the expansion of the existing technological resources of the Myanmar Moving Image Centre, school fees and scholarships were provided for two Burmese students to study in Prague.

## **Nepal**

### ***(Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal)***

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic’s foreign trade turnover with Nepal increased by 21.15% from CZK 52 million in 2009 to CZK 63 million in 2010. Exports increased by 29.03% (from CZK 31 million in 2009 to CZK 40 million in 2010) and imports increased by 9.52% (from CZK 21 million to CZK 23 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 17 million.

The Czech Republic’s principal export commodities: passenger cars, glass, book-binding machines, offset printers, glycosides, motor vehicle accessories, pumps, photographic plates.

The Czech Republic’s principal import commodities: ready meals, men’s outer clothing (jackets), carpets and other floor coverings, clothing accessories, travel luggage, iron and steel screws, topcoats.

The Škoda Yeti automobile was officially launched on the Nepalese market in December 2010.

### *Cultural relations*

In December 2010 the Czech Ladies String Quartet performed in Kathmandu (on the occasion of the launch of the Škoda Yeti on the Nepalese market).

## **New Zealand**

### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 6-8 February 2010 – working visit by a Senate delegation led by President of the Senate of Parliament P. Sobotka.

### *Visits by representatives of New Zealand*

- 25 November 2010 – during a working visit to Prague Minister of Foreign Affairs M. McCully met with the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic K Schwarzenberg.

### *Other meetings*

- 7 February 2010 – meeting in Auckland between Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade M. Hovorka and H. Frauenlob of New Zealand Trade and Enterprise and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand M. Welsh and J. Andersen.

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with New Zealand increased by 19.66% from CZK 890 million in 2009 to CZK 1,065 million in 2010. Exports increased by 17.46% (from CZK 607 million in 2009 to CZK 713 million in 2010) and imports increased by 24.38% (from CZK 283 million to CZK 352 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 361 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: toys, compressors, motor vehicles, paper, electric recording devices, tyres, plastic products, light fittings, plant extracts, ropes and cables, glass, medical instruments, wires, arms and ammunition, ultra-light aircraft.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: wool, machines for cleaning and sorting agricultural products, mutton and beef, fruit, electric recording devices, wine, fish.

### *Bilateral agreements concluded in 2010*

- Protocol to the Working Holiday Scheme between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of New Zealand, Prague, 25 November 2010.

### *Cultural relations*

As part of a joint cultural event of EU member states the Czech Republic took part in the *Windows on Europe 2010* film festival, presenting the film *Tobruk* by director V. Marhouf which was screened in Auckland.

## **Pakistan**

### ***(Islamic Republic of Pakistan)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 24-26 March 2010 – visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence M. Barták with a delegation from the arms industry.

#### *Other meetings*

- 20 July 2010 – meeting between Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg and Minister of Foreign Affairs S. M. Qureshi on the sidelines of the Kabul Conference.

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Pakistan decreased by 17.98% from CZK 2,709 million in 2009 to CZK 2,222 million in 2010. Exports decreased by 59.58% (from CZK 1,628 million in 2009 to CZK 658 million in 2010), but imports increased by 44.68% (from CZK 1,081 million to CZK 1,564, million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –906 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: reactors, boilers, mechanical devices and instruments, sound/TV electric recording and reproduction devices, paper, paperboard, cardboard, arms and ammunition, iron and steel products, rubber and rubber products, paints, lacquers, mastics, chemical and pharmaceutical products, glass and glass products.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: clothing, clothing accessories, textile products, bed linen, cotton, leather products, saddlery products and harness products, plastics and plastic products, synthetic fibres, carpets, footwear, cutlery, surgical instruments, sports equipment, rice, wood products.

### *Foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid*

In response to the destructive floods that affected a large part of Pakistan in the second half of 2010 the government of the Czech Republic earmarked CZK 4 million for humanitarian aid in the affected areas. The organisation People In Need, which had implemented humanitarian projects in flood-affected areas of the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh since the start of the floods, won the tender for the implementation of humanitarian projects out of these finances. The amount was later increased by a further CZK 10 million, half of which was implemented through UN organisations and half was earmarked for projects by Czech NGOs.



In the second half of 2010 the Czech civic association *Czech Hospital* implemented a development assistance project to install Czech-made solar panels in a medical centre in the high-altitude village of Arandu in the Gilgit-Baltistan province of Pakistan. *Czech Hospital* has operated a medical centre in Arandu since 2008. The medical centre is partly funded out of the Czech Republic's foreign development assistance, which is largely implemented by the Development Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

The Czech Republic currently provides three government scholarships to Pakistani students studying in the Czech Republic.

## **Republic of Korea**

### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 21-25 March 2010 – visit to Seoul, Yongin and Panumnjeom by Senator J. Dienstbier as the special envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations;
- 11-15 May 2010 – working visit to Seoul and Busan by Minister for European Affairs J. Chmiel;
- 3-9 September 2010 – working visit to Seoul, Changwon and Hwaseong by Vice President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic J. Šneberger with a delegation of the Constitutional and Legal Committee led by Senator J. Kubera.

### *Visits by representatives of the Republic of Korea*

- 15-16 January 2010 – visit by the Legislation and Judiciary Committee of the National Assembly;
- 6-8 March 2010 – visit by the Intelligence Committee of the National Assembly;
- 13-15 March 2010 – visit by the Legislation and Judiciary Committee of the National Assembly led by its chairman Lew Seon Ho;
- 20-24 May 2010 – visit by President of the Constitutional Court Lee Kang-Kook;
- 19-22 June 2010 – visit by Lee Soonchun, Chancellor of the Institute of Foreign Relations and National Security of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, on the occasion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Czech-Korean Scientific Seminar;
- 6-7 July 2010 – visit by President of the Academy of Korean Studies Kim Jungbae;
- 15-17 July 2010 – visit by the Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Committee of the National Assembly led by its chairman Choi InKee;
- 6-8 August 2010 – visit by a delegation of the Czech–Korea Friendship Association of the National Assembly;

- 25-28 August 2010 – visit by Vice Speaker of the National Assembly Hong Jae-hyong.

### *Economic relations*

The Republic of Korea is the Czech Republic's fourth biggest trading partner outside Europe (behind PR China, the USA and Japan). It has been the fourth biggest investor in the Czech economy since 1993 (behind Germany, the USA and Japan) and a significant source of incoming tourism (between 60,000 and 80,000 visitors a year).

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with the Republic of Korea increased by 37.69% from CZK 31,651 million in 2009 to CZK 43,581 million in 2010. Exports increased by 1.48% (from CZK 5,066 million in 2009 to CZK 5,141 million in 2010) and imports increased by 44.59% (from CZK 26,585 million to CZK 38,440 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK -33,299 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: pumps, toys, copper waste, heavy engineering products, electrical equipment components, spare parts for transport equipment.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: consumer electrical equipment and components thereof, passenger cars and spares thereof.

### *Cultural relations*

In the first full year of the Czech Info Centre's operation, situated in a building that is a copy of Prague's Old Town Hall in Seoul there were held exhibitions of photographs by J. Turek *Woman and the City*, of the history of mutual relations *The Story of Czech-Korean Contacts*, of glass by J. Plesl and designs of Prague-based Jiwon Shin *Connecting Seoul and Prague*, literary exhibition *Franz Kafka and Prague* and a number of small events. At the initiative of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Seoul there was an exhibition of garnet and contemporary jewellery *Lovers from Prague* held in World Jewellery Museum, an exhibition of works by illustrator Z. Miler and children's books entitled *Here Comes the KRTEK* in the National Library of Children and Young Adults, an exhibition of Czech photographs of Africa by L. Taylor *The Innocents* and *Hope of Africa* in Africa Art Museum (Yeongwool) and at Global Village of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), an exhibition of photographs by J. Turek at Gallery Lou, at Inje University (Gimhae) and Museum of Art of Kyungpook National University (Daegu, concurrently with *Czech Press Photo*). Exhibitions about the history of mutual relations were held at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (Yongin) and Inje University (Gimhae); exhibitions about the fall of the Iron Curtain were installed at Sungkyunkwan University and Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (Yongin).

Confirming the popularity of Czech music in the Republic of Korea, the Janáček Philharmony, soloists of the State Opera Prague, the Bennewitz Quartet, the Zemlinsky Quartet, the children's choirs Boni Pueri, Severáček and Danaj and the men's choir Gentlemen Singers all undertook tours of the country. The Seoul Oratorio ensemble continued to promote the music of

A. Dvořák with a big concert in the renowned Seoul Arts Center marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations; it also announced the results of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Antonín Dvořák Composition Competition (together with the Prague Conservatory and the A. Dvořák Memorial. The best Korean classical music ensemble, the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, performed the complete cycle of symphonic poems *My Country* by B. Smetana, conducted by J. Hruša.

Czech musicals are also successful. V. Patejdl's *Jack the Ripper*, M. David's *The Three Musketeers* and Z. Barták's *Christmas Carol*, were once more adapted at Korean stages. For the fourth time singers M. Irglová and G. Hansard toured the Republic of Korea.

A performance of V. Havel's play *Leaving*, with the original cast and set design of the Archa Theatre, took place at the LG Arts Center. The National Marionette Theatre also toured the Republic of Korea.

One of the biggest international film festivals, the 15<sup>th</sup> Busan International Film Festival (PIFF), featured a section of six recent films called *Czech Film Now: Cinema of Liberalism*, which was prepared by the Czech Film Centre in collaboration with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Seoul. The Zlín Film Festival initiated an animated section called *Fantastic, Czech!* at the 4<sup>th</sup> Seoul International Family Film Festival (SIFFF). The film *Czech Dream* by V. Klusák and F. Remunda won the main prize at the Korean DMZ Documentary Festival, etc. Czech films were also screened at the Asiana International Short Film Festival and Puchon International Fantastic Film Festival.

New Korean translations of books by Czech authors were published: *War with the Newts* by K. Čapek, *Leaving* by V. Havel, the memoirs of "Eskymo" Welzl, a number of books for children and young people (e.g. by P. Sís), the first stories by A. Lustig and O. Neff were also translated into Korean.

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Seoul awarded the Medal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic for the promotion of Czech-Korean relations to journalist Cho Seong Kwon (the author of the book *Geniae of Prague*), to diplomat Son Jun-young, the first Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Prague, the professors and founders of Czech studies in the Republic of Korea Kim Kyuchin and Kwon Jae-il and to departing Ambassador, Head of the EU delegation in the Republic of Korea B. McDonald for co-organising the first single-standing EU – RoK summit during the Czech Republic's Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Relations between universities are developing, with more than a dozen Czech universities having signed agreements with partner institutions in Seoul and other cities. Several students and teachers from both countries are currently on exchange programmes. The Embassy of the Czech Republic took part in the *Study and Research in Europe* fair. There are currently 120 students studying at the department of Czech and Slovak studies of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies.

## **Singapore**

### ***(Republic of Singapore)***

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Singapore increased by 46.43% from CZK 15,179 million in 2009 to CZK 22,226 million in 2010. Exports increased by 25.77% (from CZK 1,653 million in 2009 to CZK 2,079 million in 2010) and imports increased by 48.95% (from CZK 13,526 million to CZK 20,147 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK -18,068 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: electrical apparatus, electronic components, tantalum condensers, telephones, cutlery and hardware (especially razorblades), milk and dairy products, paper and paperboard, glass products.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: ready consumer products, ready-made consumer products, data processing machines and peripherals, integrated circuits and other electronic components, spare parts for office machinery and data processing machines, natural rubber, resins, telecommunications equipment.

## **Sri Lanka**

### ***(Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka)***

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Sri Lanka increased by 10.91% from CZK 843 million in 2009 to CZK 935 million in 2010. Exports increased by 93.48% (from CZK 92 million in 2009 to CZK 178 million in 2010) and imports increased by 0.8% (from CZK 751 million to CZK 757 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK -579 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: synthetic rubber, artificial guts, irons, telephones, tricycles and buggies, motor vehicle accessories, knives, saws, vats, paper and paper products, raw materials of plant origin.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: clothing and clothing accessories, fabrics, footwear, tea, tyres, natural and vulcanised rubber, bicycles, tricycles, paint materials, fish.

#### *Foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid*

A small-scale local project of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic entitled *Integrated Management of Water Sources in Sri Lanka* took place in 2010. The Czech Republic also provided Sri Lanka with humanitarian aid for dealing with the consequences of the civil war through ADRA – *Better Living Conditions for Orphans and Seniors Affected by the Conflict in Sri Lanka* – and through Caritas Czech Republic – *Supporting the Financial Independence of War Widows in Sri Lanka*.

## **Tajikistan**

### ***(Republic of Tajikistan)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 26 February – 1 March 2010 – visit by Czech senators H. Doupovcová and J. Horník and Czech deputies K. Dimitrov and J. Plachý for elections to the lower house of parliament in Tajikistan on 28 February 2010 as observers of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;
- 31 March 2010 – 3 April 2010 – fact-finding visit by a delegation of the Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sports, led by the committee chairman W. Bartoš;
- 8-10 June 2010 – Ambassador-at-Large for Energy Security V. Bartuška attended a high-level international conference in Dushanbe to assess progress during the “Water for Life” International Decade for Action declared by the UN for 2005-2015.

#### *Visits by representatives of the Tajikistan*

- 29 November – 1 December 2010 – Deputy Director of the Agency on Standardisation, Metrology, Certification and Trade Inspection M. Olimov led a delegation of Tajik experts on a study trip to the Czech Republic and met with representatives of the Czech Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing.

#### *Other meetings*

- 19 May 2010 – Minister for Regional Development R. Vondruška officially opened a new branch of CzechTourism in Yekaterinburg with competence for Tajikistan, among other countries.

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Tajikistan increased by 15.73% from CZK 181 million in 2009 to CZK 209 million in 2010. Exports increased by 10.96% (from CZK 137 million in 2009 to CZK 152 million in 2010) and imports increased by 30.73% (from CZK 44 million to CZK 57 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 95 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: beet sugar, telecommunications equipment, plastic products, razors and razorblades, automatic data processing machines, passenger motor vehicles, telephones, medicaments, insulated wires, cables and other electric conductors, dishwashers, bottles.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: cotton, cotton fabrics, aluminium and aluminium alloys, ferrous alloys, telephones, textile products, cells and electrical accumulators.

### *Foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid*

A small-scale local development cooperation project entitled *Reinforcing the Bank of the River Yagnob with a View to Reducing the Risk to Traffic on a Road of National Significance* was successfully implemented in Tajikistan in 2010. The Czech Republic's assistance was positively received because the road was made passable all-year-round again.

As part of the programme of assistance to developing countries, in 2010 the Czech Republic provided Tajikistan with one government scholarship for graduate study at a public university.

### *Cultural relations*

In 2010 the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Tashkent organised a tour of Tajikistan by Czech singer and guitarist P. Váně. His concerts were held in Dushanbe, Khujand and Istaravshan.

## **Thailand**

### ***(Kingdom of Thailand)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 27 March – 1 April 2010 – a delegation of the Chamber of Deputies and of the Senate of Parliament attended the 122<sup>nd</sup> Assembly of IPU – Interparliamentary Union in Bangkok;
- 3-7 April 2010 – working visit by General V. Picek, Chief of General Staff of the Army of the Czech Republic.

#### *Visits by representatives of the Kingdom of Thailand*

- 26 June 2010 – working visit by General Songkiti Jaggabatara, Chief of Defence Forces, Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters.

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Thailand increased by 37.36% from CZK 23,557 million in 2009 to CZK 32,358 million in 2010. Exports increased by 41.32% (from CZK 1,457 million in 2009 to CZK 2,059 million in 2010) and imports increased by 37.10% (from CZK 22,100 million to CZK 30,299 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –28,240 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: fuel pumps, arms and ammunition, powdered milk, artificial guts, plastic tubes, textile spinning machines, toys (tricycles, scooters), memory units, tyres, shafts, steam turbines, leather.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: automatic data processing machines, electronic components of audio and video technology, spectacle lenses, natural rubber, processors, printed circuits, optic fibres, components for the automobile industry (tyres, airbags, steering wheels, columns, car radios etc.), copper and plastic tubes, imitation jewellery.

## *Cultural relations*

On 16 September 2010 a closed screening of the documentary *Burma VJ* took place in the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand with the support of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Bangkok. The film relates the dramatic events of the anti-government demonstrations in Myanmar/Burma in September 2007 known as the Saffron Revolution.

From 9 October to 19 November 2010 the Embassy of the Czech Republic organised *Czech Days* in the premises of Mae Fah Luang University in the north Thai province of Chiang Rai. The exhibition featured paintings by J. Chmelař from his cycle *Underlays and Overlays* and a collection of photographs by P. Žurek entitled *Painting in Camera*. The Czech Republic and its cultural heritage were presented by means of photography exhibitions *UNESCO, Braun & Kuks, 1989 as Seen by Photographers* and *Czech Gems II*. The documentary *The Velvet Revolution* was screened in the exhibition space.

On the occasion of Czech National Day on 28 October the exhibition *Yes, Masaryk* was inaugurated in the Dusit Thani Hotel in Bangkok.

The documentary film *The Power of the Powerless* was screened at the annual EU Film Festival. The festival is organised by the EU Delegation. This year's festival ran from November to mid-December in Bangkok and Chiang Mai.

An exhibition of paintings by Czech artist L. Fričová Boháčová entitled *Ode to Asia* took place from 15 to 23 December 2010 at the Marsi Gallery of Suan Pakkad Palace. During the opening ceremony, prizes were presented to the successful participants in the *Lidice* international art competition and a traditional donation was made to the Human Development Foundation (Mercy Centre) caring for abandoned children and children with HIV.

## **The Philippines** ***(Republic of the Philippines)***

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with the Philippines increased by 41.08% from CZK 3,446 million in 2009 to CZK 4,890 million in 2010. Exports increased by 54.63% (from CZK 983 million in 2009 to CZK 1,520 million in 2010) and imports increased by 35.72% (from CZK 2,483 million to CZK 3,370 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK -1,850 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: electronic integrated circuits, artificial guts for smoked meats, electric resistors, whey and whey products, ammonium salts and hydroxides, plastic toys and models, revolvers and pistols, antennas and reflectors, plugs and sockets, white sugar, mounted piezoelectric crystals, electric condensers.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: disk drive units for data processing devices, electronic integrated circuits, printed circuits, electronic ignition parts, generators, electric

resistors, mounted piezoelectric crystals, electronic systems with transistors, electronic integrated circuits, forgings and fittings, spectacle lenses, processed tuna.

### *Foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid*

In 2010 work went ahead on the project entitled *Measures Ensuring Reliable and Sustainable Drinking Water Supply for Metro Manila After Damages Caused by Catastrophic Typhoons*. The total amount contributed to the project by the Czech Republic is CZK 40 million; the project should be completed in 2011. No humanitarian aid was provided in 2010.

### *Cultural relations*

As part of bilateral cooperation the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Manila organised a *Festival of Czech Film* at the College of Saint Benilde and the Far Eastern University and prepared Czech afternoons for children from non-profit organisations. Czech National Day was celebrated on 28 October. There were several joint EU events mostly in May, when “Europe Month” is celebrated in the Philippines; of these events the Czech Republic participated in a presentation of European poetry, the *Festival of European Culture for Children*, a university choirs competition and European languages week (Linggo de Lingua) aimed at university students. The annual festival of European films held in Manila, Cebu and Cagayan de Oro was a major autumn project, at which the Czech Republic was represented by the film *Empties*.

## **Turkmenistan**

### ***(Turkmenistan)***

On 28 September 2010 R. Kopecký, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic resident in Tashkent, presented his credentials to the Chairperson of the Assembly of Turkmenistan A. Nurberdiyewa in Ashgabat. This transferred the Czech Republic’s diplomatic and consular competence for Turkmenistan from the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Moscow to the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Tashkent.

### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 14-15 April 2010 – in Ashgabat Ambassador-at-Large for Energy Security V. Bartuška delivered an address at the 1<sup>st</sup> International Congress and met with Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan B. Hojamammedow (NB: the post of prime minister does not exist in Turkmenistan), Minister of Oil and Gas and Mineral Resources B. Nedirow and other representatives of Turkmenistan.

### *Visits by representatives of Turkmenistan*

- 25 August 2010 – Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade M. Hovorka held talks in Prague with representatives of major Turkmenistan state mining companies on opportunities for cooperation with Czech firms.



### *Other meetings*

- 19 May 2010 – Minister for Regional Development R. Vondruška officially opened a new branch of CzechTourism in Yekaterinburg with competence for Turkmenistan, among other countries.

### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Turkmenistan increased by 32.14% from CZK 249 million in 2009 to CZK 329 million in 2010. Exports increased by 29.95% (from CZK 247 million in 2009 to CZK 321 million in 2010) and imports increased by 404.97% (from CZK 2 million to CZK 8 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 313 million.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: automatic data processing equipment, memory units, reaping machines and threshers, tyres, dishwashers, hair care products, steel structures, furniture for medical facilities, air-conditioning equipment, razors and razorblades, soap, parts and accessories for motor vehicles, oral hygiene preparations, products of cellulose, paper, paperboard, cellulose wadding, medicaments, aluminium structures.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: cotton, textile products, iron springs, storage tanks and barrels, carpets and other floor coverings.

### *Cultural relations*

On 14 August 2010 Chairperson of the Czech Association of Akhal Teke Breeders P. Marešová attended the founding congress of the International Akhal Teke Association on behalf of the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic thus became a founder member of this association based in Ashgabat (NB: the Akhal Teke breed of horse is one of the symbols of Turkmenistan and is featured on the state emblem).

## **Uzbekistan**

### ***(Republic of Uzbekistan)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 11 January 2010 – as part of regular political consultations between the foreign affairs ministries of the two countries, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H. Bambasová of the Czech Republic met with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan R. Tukhtabaev. She also met with Deputy Prime Minister and Chairwoman of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan F. Kabarova, Minister of Foreign Affairs V. Norov, and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Economic Relations, Investments and Trade N. Nazhimov;
- 28-31 March 2010 – fact-finding visit by a delegation of the Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sports, led by the committee chairman W. Bartoš;

- 11-13 May 2010 – Ambassador-at-Large for Energy Security V. Bartuška attended the 14<sup>th</sup> Uzbekistan International Oil and Gas Exhibition and Conference in Tashkent.

#### *Visits by representatives of Uzbekistan*

- 9-10 December 2010 – First Deputy Minister of Foreign Economic Relations, Investments and Trade N. Nazhimov led an Uzbek delegation to a session of the Joint Czech-Uzbek Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Industrial and Scientific and Technological Cooperation, and met with Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade M. Hovorka and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs V. Galuška.

#### *Other meetings*

- 19 May 2010 – Minister for Regional Development R. Vondruška officially opened a new branch of CzechTourism in Yekaterinburg with competence for Uzbekistan, among other countries.

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Uzbekistan decreased by 12.61% from CZK 1,184 million in 2009 to CZK 1,035 million in 2010. Exports decreased by 17.67% (from CZK 1,000 million in 2009 to CZK 823 million in 2010), but imports increased by 14.93% (from CZK 184 million to CZK 211 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK 612 million.

The 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Joint Czech-Uzbek Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Industrial and Scientific and Technological Cooperation was held in Prague on 9-10 December 2010.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: tyres, medicaments, prefabricated buildings, automatic data processing machines and memory units, petroleum oils, beet sugar, furniture, artificial guts, machines and motors, filtration and purification apparatus for liquids or gases, hair care products, electrical devices.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: cotton, cotton yarns and cotton fabrics, semi-finished products and products of wolfram, molybdenum and tantalum, copper and copper alloys, wolfram, molybdenum, tantalum and magnesium, wood in the rough of non-coniferous species, textile products, aluminium and aluminium alloys.

#### *Foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid*

In connection with the humanitarian crisis that broke out in the second half of June 2010 in the area around border between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, not far from the Kyrgyz city of Osh, the Czech Republic provided Uzbekistan with humanitarian aid worth CZK 1.75 million. At the same time, it stopped the repatriation of Uzbek and Kyrgyz migrants from the Czech Republic until further notice and admitted the possibility of providing temporary or permanent residence to a certain number of refugees.

## *Cultural relations*

The biggest cultural and promotional event was Czech Republic Week in Uzbekistan, which took place from 4-10 October 2010. This event comprised: a Czech business mission; talks between the Czech-Uzbek chamber of commerce and industry and the appropriate partner institutions; a Czech-Uzbek business forum; a presentation of tourist potential coordinated by CzechTourism; a presentation of the opportunities for study at Czech universities for Uzbek students prepared by the Institute for Language and Preparatory Studies of Charles University; a festival of Czech gastronomy; an exhibition of Czech medical technology prepared by the firm BTL; and accompanying cultural events.

In October 2010 Czech singer and guitarist P. Váně toured Uzbekistan, with seven concerts, one workshop and a performance at a gala reception in a new Czech restaurant in the centre of Tashkent.

Two books of Czech photographs were published in Uzbekistan in 2010: *Photographers Can't Fly* and *Uzbek Fiction*. In addition, J. Hašek's novel *The Good Soldier Schweik* was again published in Uzbek after 52 years.

2010 was the "Year of Harmoniously Developed Generation" in Uzbekistan and a number of activities were undertaken by Czech academic institutions, e.g. the Prague University of Economics, the College of Economics and Management, Charles University, the University of Agriculture, the University of West Bohemia, the Banking Academy and others. Czech political sciences professor M. Opolecký taught at the prestigious University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Uzbekistan.

There continued to be great interest in studies in the Czech Republic. Czech language courses continued in Tashkent in 2010, conducted by a Czech teacher and organised by the Global Study language school. The Czech Republic offered Uzbekistan two government scholarships for the 2010-2011 academic year. The University of West Bohemia and certain other universities in the Czech Republic also offered scholarships.

## **Vietnam**

### ***(Socialist Republic of Vietnam)***

#### *Visits by representatives of the Czech Republic*

- 27-28 September 2010 – visit by Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade M. Hovorka for the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the Czech-Vietnamese Mixed Commission for Economic Cooperation;
- 3 November 2010 – visit by First Deputy Minister of the Environment R. Bízková to participate in a conference on the environment and cooperation between the Czech Republic and Vietnam in the application of the clean development mechanism and in environmental education;

- 8-11 October 2010 – visit to Hanoi by a delegation of Prague City Hall, led by Mayor P. Bém, on the occasion of the celebrations of the millennial anniversary of the founding of Hanoi; the delegation was received by President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Nguyen Minh Triet.

#### *Visits by representatives of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam*

- 16-19 September 2010 – official visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Pham Gia Khiem.

#### *Economic relations*

In 2010 the Czech Republic's foreign trade turnover with Vietnam increased by 17.01% from CZK 5,492 million in 2009 to CZK 6,426 million in 2010. Exports increased by 59.15% (from CZK 776 million in 2009 to CZK 1,235 million in 2010) and imports increased by 10.07% (from CZK 4,716 million to CZK 5,191 million). The foreign trade balance for 2010 was CZK –3,956 million.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the Czech-Vietnamese Mixed Commission for Economic Cooperation was held in Hanoi at the end of September 2010. After the session, the operation of the biggest Czech investment in Vietnam, a kaolin extraction and processing plant, was launched in Dong Hoi in central Vietnam.

The Czech Republic's principal export commodities: mechanical devices and instruments, arms and ammunitions, iron and steel products.

The Czech Republic's principal import commodities: footwear, fish and shellfish, clothing.

#### *Foreign development cooperation*

Vietnam is a traditional partner for the Czech Republic's foreign development cooperation. The priority areas of the Czech Republic's development cooperation in Vietnam in the years 2006-2010 were environmental protection and agriculture, labour and social affairs, and support for enterprise and modernisation of industrial infrastructure.

#### *Cultural relations*

The EU Film Festival took place in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) from 15 to 23 May 2010 and 19-29 May 2010. The Czech Republic was represented by the film *Who Is Afraid of the Wolf*. The films were screened at the National Cinema Centre; as in previous years, admission was free.

The first ten days of October 2010 were devoted to the celebrations of 1000 years since the founding of Hanoi. The Czech Republic, specifically Prague City Hall, took part in the programme of events. Prague City Hall's artistic and cultural presentation was staged in the Hanoi Children's Palace that was built in the 1950s with help from the then Czechoslovakia. The presentation comprised two performances by the jazz group Big Band led by M. Svoboda (Jaroslava Ježek Conservatory) on 3 and 4 October and performances by the Spejbl and Hurvíněk puppet theatre on 8-10 October 2010, as well as an exhibition about Prague prepared by the City of Prague Museum.

A presentation of Czech smoked meats and beer took place as part of the event on 8-10 October 2010.

On 7 November 2010 the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Hanoi organised the screening of Czech animated films for children (three animated films for the youngest children and one film fairytale), in conjunction with Hanoi Cinemathèque. An exhibition entitled *Czech Gems* was opened in the Melia Hotel in Hanoi on 27 October 2010 during a reception marking Czech National Day.

In 2008 Vietnam was made part of a pilot project for government scholarships for master's and doctorate study in English. In 2010 Vietnamese citizens also made use of the opportunity to study Czech at the Slavonic Studies Summer School.

## III. Economic and Cultural Dimensions of Foreign Policy

### 1. Promoting the Czech Republic's Economic Interests Abroad

Supporting external economic relations (above all in the fields of exports, investments and tourism) is one of the priorities of the Government of the Czech Republic. The government bases this approach on the fact that, in the conditions of increasing globalisation and the Czech economy's high degree of openness, the country's prosperity is dependent on its ability to promote its economic interests internationally.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic regards strengthening the role of diplomacy in promoting the Czech Republic's external economic interests as one of its priority objectives. The necessity of devoting special attention to this area is derived not only from the MFA's overall responsibility for the implementation of the Czech Republic's foreign policy but from the nature of the needs of the Czech state as an export-driven economy. The growing interconnectedness of the world and the increasing intertwining of bilateral and multilateral economic interests are today an undeniable trend, and one to which the character and substance of Czech diplomacy is constantly being adapted.

The MFA possesses a number of fundamental requisites and comparative advantages for carrying out its role in external economic relations:

- it bears the overall responsibility for protecting and promoting the Czech Republic's interests abroad, including the ultimate responsibility of the head of mission for representing the state's interests in a particular territory;
- it possesses a wide network of embassies and thus has a physical presence in the given territory;
- it has created a working system for operating, managing and coordinating the embassies' work;
- it is equipped with the diplomatic status of missions with all the privileges, advantages and rights (and also limits) that entails;
- it possesses high-quality human resources for effective work in the foreign service and sufficiently qualified personnel to handle various agendas, thus enabling of considerable savings compared to the model of highly specialised experts restricted to a particular part of the agenda.

## ***Role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in promoting the Czech Republic's economic interests***

Economic diplomacy is one of the pillars of the Czech Republic's foreign policy, which is implemented or overseen by several ministries and bodies of the government of the Czech Republic. The fundamental strategic objectives of this policy are:

- creating opportunities for Czech companies to enter and succeed on international markets and for further influxes of investments to the Czech Republic;
- creating and implementing a systematic and effective public diplomacy strategy;
- developing a system to coordinate action between state bodies in supporting the Czech Republic's economic interests abroad;
- promoting the economic interests of the Czech Republic in European Union structures and in their external economic relations;
- optimising and modernising activities shaping the positive image of the Czech Republic abroad;
- ensuring the adequate provision of public information at home and abroad (*public diplomacy*).

The following are the principal and non-transferable tasks of the MFA in the field of external economic relations:

- overseeing compliance with the principle of a uniform foreign service in all its aspects (political, economic, consular etc.);
- putting in place the general framework (legislative, macroeconomic, regional) for economic relations between the Czech Republic and a given country;
- monitoring the key development trends of a given country's economy, putting these trends in regional and European contexts;
- coordinating economic and political agendas at bilateral and multilateral level;
- ensuring coordination and a uniform presentation of the Czech Republic abroad in economic matters (at ministerial, state and international level);
- implementing bilateral development cooperation as a stepping stone to further economic ties;
- engaging the Czech Republic in projects funded by the EU, the World Bank and other equivalent institutions.

To carry out its tasks and achieve its goals in external economic relations the MFA mainly makes use of embassies in individual countries and permanent missions to international organisations.

The work of diplomats in charge of the economic agenda is gradually developing in line with the changes in the system by which external economic relations are managed.

In the second half of 2010 the MFA, in accordance with the Programme Declaration of the Government of the Czech Republic, moved to reduce employment levels, which was also reflected in the staffing of the Czech Republic's network of economic diplomats. At the same time a series of inter-ministerial discussions was launched to find the optimal model of support for the Czech Republic's economic interests abroad; these talks continued into 2011. The main aims of the new arrangement are to clarify powers and responsibilities, to make the promotion of Czech economic interests more effective, and to enhance and possibly widen the range of services provided, improving their quality and utility for end users.

Promoting significant economic interests abroad is increasingly often becoming a political matter requiring negotiations at the political and also multilateral level. The MFA as a whole must necessarily play one of the lead roles in undertaking these steps.

For the economic agenda to be implemented effectively, it must have a clear vision and orientation; it must be structured in a practical manner; it must have sufficient resources; and it must be an active part of the state's foreign and economic policy, developed and executed in partnership with the enterprise sphere. Czech diplomacy possesses a number of these attributes. It manages a network of embassies in which economic diplomats operate. At the central level, moreover, it can rely on specialised organisations, above all the ministries of foreign affairs and industry and trade, and the agencies CzechTrade and CzechInvest.

### ***Total foreign trade of the Czech Republic (CZK millions)***

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Exports</b> | <b>Imports</b> | <b>Turnover</b> | <b>Balance</b> |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>2009</b> | 2,138,623      | 1,989,036      | 4,127,659       | 149 587        |
| <b>2010</b> | 2,515,939      | 2,394,313      | 4,910,252       | 121 626        |

### ***Synergies in the promotion of the Czech Republic's economic interests; cooperation with other concerned ministries and their subordinate organisations***

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the *Ministry of Industry and Trade*, whose powers are defined by the *Competences Act*, play an indispensable role in conducting economic diplomacy. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the central body of state administration for foreign policy; it formulates the foreign policy concept and coordinates external economic relations. The Ministry of Industry and Trade is the central body of state administration for trade policy, foreign trade and



export support. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Industry and Trade regularly cooperate as the key protagonists in the promotion of trade and economic interests.

The *Ministry for Regional Development*, which is responsible for tourism and, within the EU framework, oversees the interests of local government bodies, also plays a role in promoting external economic relations. Tourism accounts for more than three percent of GDP and generates foreign exchange revenues exceeding CZK 100 billion per annum. The Ministry for Regional Development also plays a very important role in implementing the EU's regional and structural policy, referred to as *economic and social cohesion policy*.

The *Ministry of Agriculture* is the central body of state administration for agriculture and conducts marketing activities to promote Czech agricultural products.

The *Ministry of Finance* negotiates international agreements on the promotion and protection of investments and on the avoidance of double taxation; it also carries out international activities related to customs and taxes and the state's receivables and payables abroad.

The *Ministry of the Environment* monitors economic processes in terms of their environmental impact. Through programmes of foreign development cooperation it promotes Czech technologies and know-how abroad, mainly in less developed countries.

It generally applies that the work of every central body of state administration has some international element that makes it a co-creator or user of economic diplomacy. One example is the *Ministry of Culture*, which promotes Czech culture abroad both independently and through cultural institutions.

*The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic currently also uses the services of more than 150 honorary consuls.* Their number will be increased further. The importance of promoting Czech economic and commercial interests will continue to be stressed when new honorary consuls are appointed and they will be asked to play a greater role in organising events to support exports and promote the Czech Republic.

Organisations which are part-funded from the state budget ("*part-funded organisations*") play a key role in conducting economic diplomacy, not only through their offices abroad, but also through the diverse range of services they provide in the Czech Republic itself.

*CzechTrade*, a part-funded organisation under the Ministry of Industry and Trade, is the government agency which supports trade. It had 33 offices in 36 countries in 2010.

*CzechInvest*, also a part-funded organisation under the Ministry of Industry and Trade, is the government agency which supports enterprise and investment. It has seven offices abroad. In the Czech Republic it has offices in thirteen regions.

*Czech Centres* is a part-funded organisation under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with 25 offices abroad. Its mission is to develop dialogue with the public in foreign countries through culture,

education, trade and tourism and to help shape the Czech Republic's image as a modern and dynamic country.

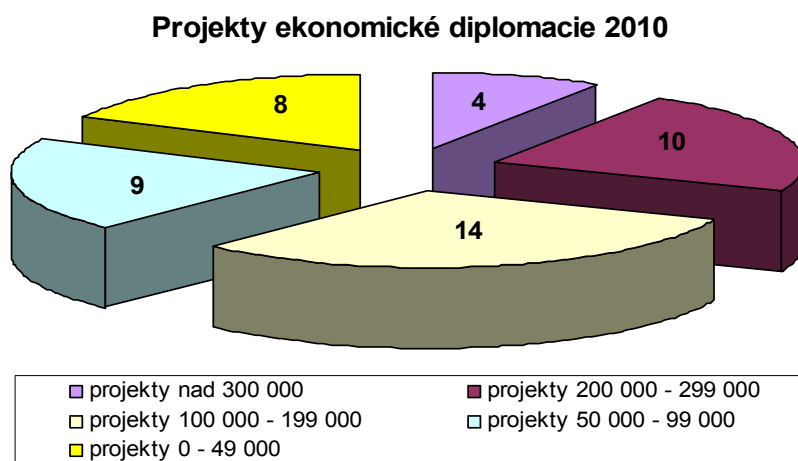
*CzechTourism*, an organisation part-funded from the state budget under the Ministry of Regional Development, is represented by 27 offices abroad. Part of its work is carried out by foreign private entities. *CzechTourism* promotes the Czech Republic as a tourist destination, coordinates the state promotion of tourism with activities carried out by private-sector companies and develops the medium-term and current strategy for marketing tourism products on both domestic and foreign markets.

The joint-stock companies *Czech Export Bank (ČEB)* and *Export Guarantee and Insurance Company (EGAP)* operate in the field of financing and insuring state-supported exports.

### ***Projects supporting economic diplomacy***

In 2010 there was further progress in the programme of *Ministry of Foreign affairs projects supporting economic diplomacy* through the organisation of business missions, seminars, round tables, participation at major trade fairs or projects devised by Czech embassies – within the framework of multifaceted presentations of the Czech Republic as a significant partner in economic cooperation with the country of operation. The projects focused mainly on presenting Czech firms and their products – primarily in the fields of the environment, renewable energy sources, waste management, agriculture and forestry, machine engineering, modern technologies, healthcare, transport and energy.

45 projects with a total financial value of CZK 6,600,000 were implemented in 2010. The MFA's contribution greater than CZK 300,000 in only four cases. The most common subsidy amount was from CZK 100,000 to 200,000, with the average MFA contribution amounting to just less than CZK 150,000.



The vast majority of projects supporting economic diplomacy in 2010 achieved their defined goal. The projects enabled Czech firms and exporters to make many new business contacts and to take part in a number of seminars and meetings where they could present themselves to businesses

abroad and acquire important information and experiences. The general awareness of the Czech Republic was raised and the Czech Republic was presented as a country that has something to offer in many different fields and sectors.

### ***Scientific and technological cooperation***

In today's globalised world the transition to a knowledge economy is a condition of ensuring long-term growth and competitiveness and, ultimately, social stability. A knowledge economy is driven by the development of new products and services, the innovation of technological procedures and the improvement of work organisation. That cannot, however, be achieved without the comprehensive support of education, effective research and engagement in international cooperation in this field. For that reason the MFA established the post of envoy for science and technology. The envoy's portfolio comprises coordinating and supervising all related activities (in cooperation with all the relevant ministries, government agencies and specialised organisations on the one hand and academic centres and innovative companies on the other hand). The MFA fully respects the authority of other bodies and institutions, however (including the Research and Development Council and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports).

One of the programmes promoting innovation that has already been launched is Czech Technology Days, which seeks to establish bilateral international cooperation in applied research and development of new technologies. The MFA co-organises and co-finances these projects with the Ministry of Industry and Trade and CzechInvest. It releases around CZK 1 million per annum for these requirements. The principal focus of Czech Technology Days is organising presentations and meetings between Czech research and development specialists and their counterparts abroad. This concerns pre-defined areas of research and development, including information technologies, biotechnologies, nanotechnologies and energy. The programme makes a significant contribution to promoting the Czech Republic's advanced state of technological development abroad.

The focus of the individual activities done under Czech Technology Days responds to the current requirements. At first it was motivated by the "political need" to create privileged ties with target countries, but later the aspect of the exchange of experiences with science and research management came to be included. This often involves mapping opportunities for institutional cooperation and gaining experiences from highly developed countries (e.g. in technology transfers and commercialising innovations). Since 2010 much greater emphasis has been placed on meetings between industrial and research specialists with a specific sectoral focus in order to provide as much assistance as possible to the establishment of cooperation on specific projects (more detailed information about the Czech Technology Days programme can be found on the website: [www.czechtechnologydays.org](http://www.czechtechnologydays.org)).

## 2. The Czech Republic's Foreign Cultural and Information Policy

### **Presentation of the Czech Republic and its culture abroad**

Culture is an important component of the presentation of the Czech Republic in the broader sense. It is a key tool for promoting national interests abroad and for establishing contacts on the international scene. Every year embassies, consulates general, permanent missions and Czech Centres abroad present the culture of the Czech Republic and its diversity through hundreds of cultural events, making allowance for the specific features of a territory and with a view to gaining positive feedback for the further development of culture and the culture industry, tourism, the economy, investments and research and for the promotion of Czech studies around the world.

In 2010 a uniform visual style of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was launched as the main expression of identity by a decision of the minister. This new unifying element of all visual outputs will help clearly identify and facilitate the presentation of the MFA at home and abroad. The *Department of Culture, Communication and Presentation (DCCP)* prepared a set of new presentation items in this style. The visual style created by Studio Najbrt, s.r.o., was used on a very effective packaging material for new presentational articles.

The [www.czech.cz](http://www.czech.cz) web portal is the main tool for presenting the Czech Republic on the internet. It is based on the idea of “one address for one country”, with the emphasis on information being easy to find. Besides providing tourism-related information this portal is aimed at various target groups. In 2010 the website was visited by 1,216,603 people who viewed 2,568,115 individual pages. In 82% of cases these were new users of the information portal. The English language version received the most “hits”.

In 2010 the DCCP prepared a DVD exhibition entitled *Yes, Masaryk* for all embassies and Czech Centres abroad. This exhibition, one of the most extensive exhibitions about T. G. Masaryk in six language versions, includes a documentary film about the first Czechoslovak president. In 2010 the DCCP also helped prepare a joint *Czech-Bulgarian Exhibition* commemorating the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

*Open Doors Day* at *Czernin Palace* was held in June 2010. For the fourth time in history visitors could view the reception rooms of Czernin Palace, the palace gardens and the apartment of Jan Masaryk. The Czernin Palace gardens were also opened to the public on the occasion of Czech Republic national day on 28 September 2010.

The DCCP participated in the preparation of multilateral cultural events such as the *Lidice International Children's Art Exhibition*, *Days of European Film* and the *Central Europe Culture Platform* (involving the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia). The Platform countries prepare two joint cultural events every year, which are always held in the presidency country of the Council of the EU. During the Spanish presidency the Platform countries staged an exposition on the theme of *Modernisation in Architecture* as part of the *OpenPHoto*

*Cuenca* exhibition. The Czech Republic was represented by large-format photographs by P. Frič. In November 2010, during the Belgian presidency, there was a cultural event entitled *The Celebrations of Colours* presenting Roma culture. The Czech music group Gipsy.cz performed at the event.

For a number of years the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sought to promote Czech cinema abroad through its embassies, as film screenings have long been one of the most popular presentation tools. Festivals of European cinema are held every year in countries outside the EU and the embassies of the Czech Republic regularly help organise these festivals.

Czech language teaching at foreign universities went ahead in 2010 on the basis of the five-year programme to promote Czech cultural heritage abroad defined by Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 1622/2005. It is gratifying that there is growing interest in organising Czech tuition lessons, especially among children and the younger generation (e.g. in Australia).

The DCCP is also the department in charge of cultural agreements. An Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on Cooperation in the Fields of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports was signed in Chisinau on 30 September 2010. An Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science, Youth and Sports was signed in Yerevan on 10 December 2010.

Subsidies worth approximately CZK 1.15 million were provided out of the state budget of the Czech Republic to non-governmental non-profit organisations in 2010. The approved projects promoted the Czech Republic's relations with countries and geographical regions on a non-governmental level. The non-profit organisations provided assistance to Czech communities abroad and supported the conservation of the specific features of the Czech language as spoken by Czech communities abroad. Six NGOs received subsidies.

The DCCP's cooperation with NGOs also took place in the context of the MFA. The 4<sup>th</sup> Czech compatriots festival, organised by the Seven Rays citizens' association, was held on 9 September 2010 under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. A meeting of the Czech-French Society ASSO' 90 marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding took place on 3 November 2010. The DCCP participated in a gala evening marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society of Friends of Africa on 30 November 2010. The Department also participated in the organisation of a social gathering combined with an exhibition of Arabic calligraphy on Czech ground glass that was held under the auspices of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs T. Dub at Czernin Palace on 16 December 2010.

The DCCP releases funds for projects of the Czech Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Logar and approves contracts linked to its work. It dispatches travelling exhibitions arranged by the PRT AD (Afghan Desk) which comes under the authority of the first deputy minister of foreign

affairs; the purpose of the exhibitions is to raise awareness of the Czech Republic's activities in Afghanistan.

Every year since 1997 the foreign ministry's *Gratias Agit Award* has been conferred on individuals and organisations for promoting the good name of the Czech Republic abroad. In 2010 twelve individuals and three organisations from twelve different countries were honoured (see appendices). The awards presentation ceremony was held at Czernin Palace on 30 April 2010. The Digest of Laureates is available at [www.mzv.cz/kultura](http://www.mzv.cz/kultura) – Gratias Agit Award.

## **Czech Centres**

Czech Centres (CC), an organisation part-funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, spreads a positive image of the Czech Republic abroad as part of public diplomacy and in line with the priorities of Czech foreign policy. Through its network of 24 Czech Centres in 21 countries and 3 continents it promotes Czech interests primarily in the fields of culture and education, support for foreign trade, promoting the Czech Republic as an attractive tourist destination and providing a high-quality information service about the Czech Republic.

In line with the MFA's efforts to cut the costs of the foreign service CC adopted a number of economy measures; not all of these measures affected the organisation of work at headquarters. Among other things, the Bratislava CC was relocated from a leased building to the premises of the embassy; the CC in Dresden was closed and a CC opened in a building shared by several Czech entities in Düsseldorf; and a CC was relocated from Rome to a building owned by the Czech Republic in Milan. In addition, steps were taken to ensure more efficient use was made of Bohemian National Hall in New York. In the cultural field Czech Centres abroad organised, either independently or in collaboration with embassies and other partners, dozens of exhibitions, concerts, film screenings, authors' readings, talks and panel discussions. Only the most important of these events are listed below. CC also devoted attention to significant anniversaries in 2010.

CC celebrated 100 years since the birth of film director and artist K. Zeman with an exceptional exhibition entitled *Film Magician Karel Zeman*, which was created in collaboration with the Zlín Film Festival and was staged in a number of cities, including Berlin, Moscow and Buenos Aires. An exhibition entitled *Mácha 2010* in Bratislava and Košice marked the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of K. H. Mácha. Concerts in Brussels, Milan and Stockholm commemorated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of G. Mahler.

In 2010 CC concentrated mainly on the contemporary, modern face of Czech culture. This agenda included the exhibition *Glass in Czech Jewellery* by Jiří Šibor, an exhibition entitled *Orbis Pictus: Leporelo* and another featuring 10 young Czech artists entitled *Art of the Comics and Comics in Art*. The long-term cooperation with prestigious galleries (e.g. Leica Gallery and J. Fragner Gallery) culminated in participation at the Pressfoto fair in Paris, a retrospective of photographs by R. Vano in Moscow and the *New Face of Prague* exhibition about the architecture

of Prague over the last twenty years. In New York the CC showcased the winner of the Jindřich Chalupský Award for young artists. K. Šedá presented her new project *Líšeň Profile*, which has become part of the collections of a gallery in Sheffield. CC also paid attention to student works in the field of industrial and graphic design. Together with Design Cabinet it staged a presentation of the victorious entries in the student design competition *New G(o)ods*. CC also supported the Czech National Award for Student Design and rewarded the competition's absolute winner with a placement at a Czech Centre abroad. One of the new projects was *European Pelmanism*, a travelling exhibition presenting the countries of the European Union to children in an interactive form. The Munich CC staged an exhibition of works by Roma artists living in the Czech Republic entitled *The World through Roma Eyes*.

CC devoted considerable attention to promoting Czech language and literature abroad. It supported Czech authors' participation in international book fairs and organised a number of authorial readings, discussion meetings and presentations of Czech literature. Events particularly worth mentioning in this field include a meeting of the authors J. Rudiš, M. Ajvaz and E. Hakl with translators and readers in Stockholm. Five authors' readings were held in Berlin, featuring J. Topol and M. Platzová, for example. In London J. Topol presented his book *Gargling with Tar*. The writers P. Hůlová and J. Rudiš read excerpts of their works at the Literary Café of the Košice CC. Author A. Lustig took part in discussion meetings in Stockholm and Buenos Aires and read excerpts from his books translated into Hebrew in Tel Aviv. The Bulgarian edition of E. Kantůrková's book *Démoni nečasů* was presented at the Sofia CC at an event attended by the author.

The latest year of *Literature Night* was very successful, attracting over 8,000 visitors. Besides Prague, the event was staged in 12 European countries in collaboration with Czech Centres abroad and the EUNIC network. In Prague the CC cooperated with 17 cultural institutes and embassies of European countries. The newspaper *Hospodářské noviny* ranked this project among the fifty most important events of 2010.

Theatre and music also occupied an important place in the presentation of Czech culture abroad. Czech Centres in Paris, Berlin and Stockholm contributed to productions of V. Havel's plays *Audience* and *Leaving*. In Spain the Forman Brothers Theatre presented its *Obludarium* show at the Valencia Open Stage theatre festival.

Both classical and modern music was offered in London at the Czech Festival 2010, at which the Czech National Symphony Orchestra and the BBC Symphony Orchestra were two of the performing ensembles. E. Viklický performed in Tokyo and Osaka. A concert on the theme of *Underground in Exile* was organised in Vienna.

Czech cinema forms an indispensable part of the activities of Czech Centres abroad. Czech Centres abroad supported the participation of Czech filmmakers at many international film festivals and continued to operate film clubs in their premises. In Israel there were 24 film

screenings in the space of two weeks, from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem to Haifa and Sderot. L. Příbyl's documentary *Forgotten Transports* was presented at the Göteborg International Film Festival. A mobile "Cinema Train" showing films and fairytales for children was set in motion in Slovakia.

For a number of years human rights have been a firmly established part of the Czech Centres' agenda and, in keeping with tradition, this dimension featured in a project organised in conjunction with the documentary film festival *One World*. This was followed up by the third year of a separate Czech Centres festival *One World Romania*.

Czech Centres abroad continued to organise Czech language courses. The Czech Centres in Moscow, London, Berlin and Warsaw enabled students to obtain a certified Czech exam. They also provided information about opportunities to study in the Czech Republic and assisted foreign students of Czech studies. CC supported the *Czech School Without Barriers* project.

The Czech Centre in Prague again acted as a link between the Czech Republic and Czech Centres abroad in 2010, increasing the emphasis on cooperation with abroad with a view to presenting foreign artists, galleries and institutions and becoming a platform for international cultural dialogue.

CC continued to be an active member of the *European Union National Institutes for Culture* (EUNIC). The director of the CC in Stockholm was appointed to head the local EUNIC group; the CC directors in Berlin, London, Madrid and Paris gained other important posts.

Support for Czech exports and tourism was an integral part of the work of Czech Centres abroad. CC organised the presentation of Czech firms abroad and provided a business information service to support Czech enterprises' export endeavours. Specific services were offered by the Czech Centre – Czech House in Moscow, where more than one hundred Czech businesses could draw on a broad range of *business centre* services and complete technical facilities. CC also operated the information server [www.export.cz](http://www.export.cz). The server received 8% more visitors in 2010 than in the previous year.

The Czech Centres' internet portal is [www.czechcentres.cz](http://www.czechcentres.cz). CC has prepared a new version for launch in 2011. The magazine *czEcho* has proved to be an important tool for promoting the best programmes being operated by individual Czech Centres abroad. The wide range of activities conducted by Czech Centres met with a very favourable response and wide publicity abroad and also in the Czech media.

## **Media and information**

The world media's interest in the Czech Republic was smaller in 2010 than in 2009, mainly because the Czech Republic had held the presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2009, which generated extraordinary media interest. The intensity of media interest in the Czech Republic in 2010 returned the level in 2008. The degree of attention the foreign media devote to the Czech



Republic corresponds to the status of a medium-sized country. The Czech Republic received more attention in the press and agency reports than in radio and television broadcasting.

In general it is fair to say that, despite the small quantity of information about the Czech Republic, the country's media image is positive (with obvious exceptions: Cuba, Iran, Myanmar/Burma). The Czech Republic is characterised as a country with a prospering economy, a reliable business partner and a suitable place for foreign investment. It is perceived as an integral component of Euro-Atlantic structures. In areas where there is minimal media interest in the Czech Republic (Africa, Latin America, much of Asia), news coverage of the Czech Republic merges with general news about the European Union. News reports about Czech sportspeople and, above all, Czech culture are the exception to this. The Czech Republic is regarded as a culturally and historically interesting place with strong tourism potential. The interest has been concentrated on Prague, but is gradually widening to the regions as well. It generally applies that in countries that have little interest in the Czech Republic the vast majority of articles deal with cultural and historical monuments rather than political and economics news.

In regional terms, the Czech Republic received most attention from the media in Central European countries. The Czech Republic enjoyed the greatest interest in Slovakia, followed by Germany, Austria, Hungary and Poland. The media in other European countries paid less attention to the Czech Republic. Outside Europe the media coverage of the Czech Republic – when not reporting on visits by Czech representatives or Czech cultural or sporting events in the given country – was generally restricted to agency news.

By far the most widely covered event in the Czech Republic in 2010 was the signing of the START treaty in April by the presidents of the USA and Russia at Prague Castle, which appeared in reports in all the world's media. However, the Czech Republic was mentioned mainly as the backdrop to an historical event.

By contrast, the Czech Republic featured as an active subject of interest in international news reporting around the time of the May elections to the Chamber of Deputies of Parliament and the subsequent formation of the government. In German-language, Central European and also Russian media, more in-depth commentaries and analyses were devoted to the elections. As far as specific politicians are concerned, in this context journalists' interest was most strongly focused on Karel Schwarzenberg, the chairman of the TOP 09 party and deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. German-language media carried a number of interviews with the new foreign affairs minister. The interest in German-speaking countries is long-term and has historical and geographical contexts. The fact that the Czech minister is also a Swiss citizen was mentioned many times in the media. In the Russian media the attention on Minister Schwarzenberg focused mainly on his involvement in the missile defence project and the Eastern Partnership project during the time of the Czech Republic's presidency of the Council of the EU.

Besides these subjects of broader interest to foreign journalists, individual national media focused on specific and local themes. In Austria and Hungary heightened attention was paid to the issue of the Beneš Decrees, triggered by the adoption of a Czech exemption from the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union at the end of 2009. The question of the Temelín nuclear power plant was covered closely in Austria, especially in the tabloid press. Journalists in Russia and Belarus noticed the publication of a list of Czechoslovak counterintelligence collaborators on the website of the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes. In Ukraine attention focused mainly on visa issues, which was a source of negative coverage of the Czech Republic in the local media.

In the USA the Czech Republic received the greatest media attention in connection with the signing of the START treaty in Prague. The Czech parliamentary elections also enjoyed some interest among American journalists. Less attention was paid to the Senate and local elections; what attention there was focused on the situation in Prague's city hall. The appointment of a new US ambassador to the Czech Republic aroused greater interest, mainly thanks to the person of Norman Eisen, a close colleague of President Obama. Visits by President Klaus, Prime Minister Fischer and Minister Schwarzenberg received the appropriate level of media interest. Other topics picked up by the media in the USA were the changes in the missile defence plans in the Czech Republic and Poland, the tender for completion of the Temelín nuclear power plant with the possible participation of US firm Westinghouse, and a conference staged to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Václav Havel's speech in Congress during his first visit to the USA and the US premiere of his plan *Leaving*.

News coverage about the Czech Republic in the Middle East is not as intense as in European countries. Nevertheless, in Israel, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Kuwait the intensity of news reports about the Czech Republic was similar to that in more remote European Union countries (southern Europe, Scandinavia). Apart from brief, uncommented agency information about politics and economics and articles on cultural and sports themes, the news coverage of the Czech Republic in Middle East countries focused on events of local significance: visits by Czech state representatives and firms' participation in trade fairs, the launch of projects with Czech involvement. There was wider international publicity in connection with the visit to the Middle East by Minister Jan Kohout and a Czech business delegation.

The Asian media, besides informing about visits by Czech representatives and about Czech economic, cultural and sporting activities in the country in question, restrict their coverage of the Czech Republic to information taken from agency news. There is a greater intensity of new coverage about the Czech Republic in Southeast Asia, driven by the greater interest in Czech culture in that region. The Korean press above all carried a number of articles related to Czech culture. The Czech Republic enjoyed the greatest media attention in China. That was mainly connected to the Czech Republic's successful participation at EXPO 2010 Shanghai. In Southeast Asia there were also Czech themes in 2010 that aroused more attention than in other parts of the

world. The most important of these was the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Chinese dissident and Charter '08 signatory Liu Xiaobo and the support he received from many prominent Czech figures, led by Václav Havel. Although the award of the Nobel prize to the Chinese dissident was controversial in some countries in the region, the strong Czech involvement in the matter did not become a pretext for a negative campaign against the Czech Republic: it was reported in a neutral and factual tone. One subject that interested the press in Southeast Asia was the information that North Korea proposed repaying its debt to the Czech Republic in supplies of ginseng.

News coverage of the Czech Republic in the media in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa can be described as sporadic. The Czech Republic is perceived as an integral component of the European Union and, apart from individual mentions of Czech culture and sport, information about Czech affairs merges with information about the European Union. That also determines the nature of the information presented about the Czech Republic. In Africa there is heightened media interest in foreign development cooperation, of which the European Union is one of the biggest providers.

## **Internet presentation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

During 2010 the operation of the internet presentation was consolidated in the environment of the editing system which works on the modern XHTML 1.0 Strict (or Transitional) platform and fulfils the requirements of Decree No. 64/2008 Coll., on the manner of publishing information related to the exercise of public administration through websites for disabled persons, which implements Act No. 365/2000 Coll., on public administration information systems.

In 2010 the internet presentation was composed of the main presentation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and 120 presentations of Czech embassies, Czech consulates general, liaison office, agencies, permanent missions, representations and delegations to international organisations.

The addresses of the websites of Czech embassies are written in a uniform format: [www.mzv.cz/city\\_name\\_in\\_English](http://www.mzv.cz/city_name_in_English). Besides the Czech language version, the content on embassy websites is presented in English or French and in the national language of the host state. Embassy websites contained content in 22 foreign languages in 2010.

The most visited parts of the internet presentation (in descending order by number of “hits”) were the home page of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters, the Russian-language version of the consular section of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Moscow, the Encyclopaedia of States section on the headquarters website, and the home page of the English-language presentation of the MFA headquarters. The order of popularity of the individual presentations is as follows: foreign ministry headquarters, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Moscow, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Kiev, Embassy of the Czech Republic in London, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington D.C. The server [mzv.cz](http://mzv.cz) received on average 400 hits a day in 2010.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic also operates and updates the website of the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Logar province in Afghanistan, which has been part of the NATO ISAF mission since February 2008. The presentation at [www.prtlogar.cz](http://www.prtlogar.cz) is updated daily with new information about the renewal of industry, agriculture, infrastructure and the education system in Logar province, with editorial contributions directly from the PRT Logar locality.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic also runs a website for the *Czech-Polish Forum* ([www.mzv.cz/ceskopolskeforum](http://www.mzv.cz/ceskopolskeforum)), set up under the *Memorandum of Understanding* signed by the two countries' foreign ministries in 2008. The website contains information about support for projects by NGOs, regions, municipalities, schools, research institutes and other organisations with a view to stimulating the development and deepening of Czech-Polish relations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs operates the *NATO Information Centre* news portal ([www.natoaktual.cz](http://www.natoaktual.cz)) in cooperation with the *Jagello 2000* civic association and the *International Institute of Political Science of Masaryk University*.

## **Czech Radio international broadcasting**

In 2010, Czech Radio 7 – Radio Prague continued to implement the agreement on Czech Radio international broadcasting concluded between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Czech Radio. Broadcasts were in six languages - English, German, French, Spanish, Russian and Czech. The fundamental goal of international broadcasting (informing listeners abroad about goings-on in the Czech Republic in close cooperation with the MFA) was successfully achieved, despite an over 20% reduction in the budget.

Besides the key political events, the *English section* devoted most of its attention to cultural topics. A Czech Radio 7 journalist took part in a People In Need mission in Afghanistan in April. The resulting trove of reportage material gave rise to a serial and an internet project. Broadcasting is enriched by literary programmes and discussion programmes that are held and recorded in the Big Ben Bookshop in Prague. English-language broadcasting elicited by far the greatest response, manifested in letters sent in and in visits to the internet site.

In addition to everyday news reporting, the *German section* concentrated on Czech-German, Czech-Austrian and Czech-Swiss relations (investigation of the controversial post-war displacement of members of the German ethnic group near Dobronín and the celebrations of the anniversary of the birth of composer G. Mahler, for example). Czech Radio 7 journalists covered the speech delivered by President V. Klaus at Humboldt University and the visit to Berlin by Prime Minister P. Nečas. In conjunction with Prager Literaturhaus the German section prepared dramatisations of stories written by authors from the German Czech ethnic group. The popularity of tourism-related themes inspired the creation of a series of summer reportages from the Czech countryside. Staff of the German section tend to be moderators of or participants in programmes of the Goethe Institute, Prager Literaturhaus or the Austrian Cultural Forum.

The target group of the *Czech section* differs from the others, as the audience includes members of Czech communities abroad. Although not much direct feedback is received from Czechs abroad, the Czech pages of the Czech Radio 7 website register the most hits after the English section. Topics related to Czech communities abroad ran through the programming all year. For example, the broadcasts covered the conference *Czech Compatriots and Culture*, the conference *Czechs – A Nation without Borders*, the Czech compatriots' folklore festival and reportage from a trip to the Czech community in Banat, Romania. Another part of Radio Prague's output is its website [www.krajane.net](http://www.krajane.net) for Czechs abroad; certain members of Czech communities abroad have been successfully recruited to contribute to its content. The site thus became a high-quality and up-to-date source of information about Czechs abroad. One new broadcasting item was the discussion programme *Question Marks of History*. Programming was also enriched by projects in which Czech Radio 7 was a partner, e.g. Folklore Travels in the National Museum.

Another specific feature of the Czech section is the production and sending of programmes to Czech community radio stations abroad. There are currently fourteen of these radio stations in seven countries: Slovakia, Ukraine, Serbia, Croatia, Romania, Australia and the USA. Some of these stations take the Czech Radio 7 programmes directly; for others Czech Radio 7 creates programmes to order. Czech Radio 7 also distributes programmes from other divisions of Czech Radio, e.g. *Quest for Moravian Folk Songs* from Czech Radio – Olomouc, to some Czech community radio stations. In total 350 hours of programming was sent to these stations in 2010. During 2010 the MFA started using Czech news reports as part of the information service for embassies abroad.

The *Russian section* has not achieved the same results as other sections in terms of internet visits and responses received. Two reasons for that are the late start of broadcasting in Russian (the year 2000) and competition on the Russian market. The Czech Republic's growing popularity in Russia as a tourist destination has nevertheless been reflected in stable growth in the broadcasts' audience. In addition to ordinary news coverage, the Russian section dealt with bilateral issues in 2010, e.g. visa requirements and questions linked to labour migration from Ukraine to the Czech Republic. The Russian broadcasting is also received in other countries of the Russian Federation. It corrects certain views of the Czech Republic in Russian media, reports on Czech positions on human rights questions in Russia, on support for the Belarus opposition in the Czech Republic etc. The independent Russian media used Czech Radio 7 as an information source. The Russian section maintained its presentation on the Livejournal server and its programmes were used by Radio Mayak in Odessa.

*Spanish broadcasting* has registered a decent level of response and online visits, especially from Latin America. Its listeners are most interested in culture and sport. As in Russian broadcasting, the Spanish section brought "value added" in human rights topics. The opinions and steps of the Czech executive in relation to Cuba, support for Cuban dissidents in the Czech Republic etc. were frequent topics. Czech Radio 7 was a partner of the *Novels from the Drawer (Novelas de Gavetas)* literary competition aimed at unpublished Cuban authors. A Czech Radio 7 journalist

produced an interesting series of reports from Czech communities in Latin America. Czech Radio 7 Spanish broadcasting is used by eight radio stations in Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Bolivia and Ecuador. The Spanish profile on Facebook had over 1,000 friends.

Besides standard news reporting the *French section* paid attention to Francophonie topics and covered a variety of French cultural events in the Czech Republic, e.g. the *Festival of French Films*. The broadcasting drew attention to events staged by the Czech Centre in Paris and, under a contract with Radio France International, the French section of Czech Radio 7 prepared a cultural magazine for RFI 99.3 FM that is broadcast in Prague to a French-speaking audience.

Broadcasts of the English, German and Russian sections could also be heard on Regina 92.6 FM. The English, German, Spanish and French broadcasting sections participated in the Euramet project.

The average visitor numbers on Czech Radio 7 website ([www.radio.cz](http://www.radio.cz) and [www.krajane.net](http://www.krajane.net)) reached around 1,000,000 hits a month in 2010, which is an increase of around 20% over the previous year. Online audio listener numbers remained stable at 40-50 thousand a month. The number of podcast downloads is around 250,000 a month.

The aim of Czech Radio 7's activities was to widen the existing audience and to raise awareness of the Czech Republic abroad. The total number of responses sent in by letter and e-mail in 2010 was 17,208. Czech Radio 7 replied to hundreds of enquiries concerning a wide variety of aspects of the Czech Republic. Several small-scale competitions were organised during the year. Czech Radio 7 staff took part in a number of international conferences and competitions as panellists and moderators. A. Rosenzweig came second in the European Year 2010 Journalism Award for his reportage on Romas returning home from Canada.

The key task for the future will be to promote the internet as the main distribution platform, because 2010 marked the last year of short-wave broadcasting. The distribution of audio files in the form of podcasting, which Czech Radio 7 has done since 2006, also holds promise for the future. Other distribution platforms are rebroadcasting (i.e. the use of Czech Radio 7 programming by radio stations abroad) and satellite broadcasting, whose importance will continue to grow.

## IV. Czechs Abroad

There are currently approximately two million people abroad who claim Czech origins.

In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the agenda of Czech communities abroad is handled by the special envoy for Czechs abroad, who joined the team of the senior director of the economic cooperation and promotion abroad section on 1 January 2011.

Besides its own standard agenda, the department dealing with Czechs abroad works with other bodies of state administration, above all the Standing Senate Commission on Expatriates of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and its subordinated organisation Foreign Services House, the Ministry of the Interior and others such as the National Museum and the National Archive, for example. The everyday work of Czech Radio 7 – Radio Prague (Czech Radio international broadcasting) is an indispensable part of this activity.

In the non-government sphere, the most important partners of the MFA's Czechs abroad unit are Czech community clubs and societies of friends in various countries, the transnational umbrella organisation called the International Coordination Committee of Czechs Living Abroad chaired by Á. Vrzáňová and certain specialised citizens' associations (Seven Rays, Folklore Association of the Czech Republic *et al.*) participating in the Czech compatriots festival.

There were three major Czech communities events in 2010 attended by Czechs from many countries. The first of these was a conference on the theme of *Czechs Abroad and Culture* in the new building of the National Museum (formerly the seat of Radio Free Europe), attended by approximately 120 Czechs from 19 countries. The gathering was held under the auspices of the President of the Senate of Parliament P. Sobotka and other prominent persons. The conference opened with a speech on the subject of Czechs abroad, exile and culture delivered by J. Šiklová, which was followed up by other speakers who acquainted the audience with various aspects of Czech culture abroad.

A speech by L. Slavíková-Boucher, a member of the Czech community in France, on the subject of voluntary education in the Czech language focusing on pre-school and school-age children of Czechs living abroad was greeted with sincere interest. Her work developed from a purely local endeavour into a spontaneous project called *Czech School without Borders*, which has now spread to Czech community clubs in other countries (Australia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Switzerland). The activities of these special-interest associations are also supported by Czech Centres and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (contributions to teaching books, methodological advice).

The conference was immediately followed by the 4<sup>th</sup> Czech Compatriots Festival organised under the auspices of the Senate, the foreign affairs minister and Prague city hall by the enterprising non-governmental organisation Seven Rays (Sedm Paprsků) on 9-12 September 2010.

The performances by vocal and dance ensembles and bands from Czech communities abroad met with an enthusiastic response from the audience and received positive coverage in the Czech media. The festival ended on Sunday 12 September 2010 with a ceremonial parade in full folk costume in Hradčanské náměstí. The third major event of the year took place at the beginning of October: in New York an international seminar on the relationship between Czechs abroad and the Czech state was staged as part of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Bohemian Hall, the club building of the traditional Bohemian Citizens' Benevolent Society (BBLA). The seminar was conducted by deputy chairman of the Astoria Czech club Pavel Vančura and was attended by members of Czech communities abroad and representatives of the state administration of the Czech Republic. The four-day event closed with a debate on the relationship between Czechs abroad and the Czech Republic and their requirements and wishes.

The year 2010 was the fifth and last year of the Support Programme for Czech Cultural Heritage Abroad for 2006-2010 implemented by Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 1622 of 14 December 2005 and the follow-up one-year resolutions (the last annual resolution was no. 1542/2009) by which the government undertook to provide around CZK 50 million per annum towards various kinds of support for Czech communities abroad and the teaching of Czech language and literature. More than CZK 287 million was provided over the five years (2006-2010). The programme's closing year was also an opportunity to evaluate its effect and, thanks to the very favourable response from Czech communities abroad, to propose a further five-year cycle.

In 2010, as in the past, the intensive four-week Czech language course for expatriates at Dobruška attracted considerable interest – the course was attended by 60 participants from 31 countries. There were also one-term study stays organised for Czechs abroad and Czech language teachers were sent to Czech communities abroad. The regular two-week course in Prague on Czech language teaching methodology was also rated very positively.

The one-term study stays at public universities in the Czech Republic for foreign-based Czechs are designed to ensure that the knowledge of the Czech language and culture is preserved and broadened. Scholarships were awarded to a total of 27 students from eleven countries to study at Charles University in Prague and Masaryk University in Brno.

Thirteen Czech teachers were sent to Czech communities in Europe and Latin America. In the 2009/2010 academic year the teachers worked in eight countries: in Europe there were two teachers in both Croatia and Romania, one in Serbia, one in Russia and one in Ukraine; in Latin America there were two in both Argentina and Brazil and one in Paraguay. The teachers are sent to the Czech communities to promote knowledge of Czech language and to preserve the Czech identity. Another factor in the teachers' work is their all-round capabilities, which is one of the selection criteria. The teachers' work is not confined solely to class-work, but also comprises broader educational and organisational assistance. They participate in preparing and presenting



ethno-cultural and promotional projects by Czechs abroad (e.g. folklore performances, concerts and theatrical performances), work with children's groups, take part in building libraries and collecting documents about Czech community life, help publish local Czech community press publications etc.

One important part of the department's regular work is the administration of the aforementioned financial support approved by the Czech government for specific projects of foreign organisations with a link to the Czech Republic (Czech community clubs, societies of friends of the Czech Republic, associations of graduates from Czech universities and schools, associations of Czech scholars etc.).

In 2010, 215 Czech community clubs and societies of friends from 45 countries around the world applied for support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These applicants' projects concerned both cultural and educational activities by Czech community clubs and applications for contributions towards the repair of club buildings owned or on long-term lease and repair of Czech community monuments. The sum applied for amounted to more than CZK 51 million in total, while CZK 15,694,000 was available after the January reduction in all the expenditure of all ministries. Cash donations were provided to 189 Czech community clubs; 26 clubs' applications were rejected, mostly on the grounds of the high cost or the type of project (e.g. cash donations cannot be used to buy new buildings). The ministerial commission allocated around two thirds of the amount to cultural and educational projects; the rest went towards repairs and maintenance of Czech community buildings. In the previous five years the most necessary repairs to Czech community buildings owned or long-term leased by Czech clubs had been completed, so attention focused more on awareness, educational and cultural projects designed to preserve the Czech language among the youngest generation of children of Czechs permanently resident abroad or of Czechs who work for long periods abroad and take part in Czech community activities or themselves set up new clubs (viz. Czech School without Barriers, the international project of self-help Czech language tuition for young children).

The cultural and educational projects that received cash donations included traditional projects such as the publication of Czech community magazines, information bulletins and other community materials; contributions to self-help Czech language teaching within the framework of existing clubs and newly established clubs to implement the Czech School without Barriers project; the collection of archive materials; building club libraries; exhibitions, dance and musical performances on the occasion of traditional festival days; activities for the children of Czechs abroad etc.

The spectrum of implemented projects is truly diverse – some projects commemorated historical events, others presented and promoted various aspects of Czech culture. Five Czech community clubs in Italy continue to collect material for a book of memoirs of members of the local Czech community; the Czech club in Chicago prepared a documentary film about the Czech Legions

intended for school history tuition; and another club in Cleveland prepared an exhibition on the legionnaires' role in the fight for Czechoslovak independence. The clubs organised various cultural events. For example, the Czech club in Rosario, Argentina, presented Czech folk dances; the Czech community ensemble in Australia staged puppet shows of Czech legends; in Chile the Czech community organised a regular Saint Wenceslas Day meeting; Czechs in Cuba devoted most of their efforts to Czech language teaching; the Circle of Friends of Czech Culture in Slovakia presented the twentieth Karel Čapek Award (this time to actress E. Krížiková and director J. Hraš); a week-long festival of Czech culture was the principal event of the Franco-Tchéque club in France; the first year of a gastronomy festival called *Czech Cakes* was held in Banat, Romania; members of the Czech community in Košice, Slovakia, organised the traditional *Czech Culture Days*; the Czech community in Israel commemorated the work of musical composers imprisoned in Terezín with a permanent exposition at Beit Terezín; the Czech club in Lvov co-organised *Czech Day* as part of a project entitled Symbol of Multiethnic and Multicultural Lvov, a reading from *The Good Soldier Schweik* and an exhibition about T. G. Masaryk. There was intensive cooperation between the Czech clubs in Volhynia, Matice Volyňská in Lutsk and Stromovka in Dubno, on the recording of a Czech Television documentary about the Czech community abroad. Stromovka plays an active role in cooperation between the museum Dubenský zámek and the Lidice Monument. All the west Ukrainian clubs were also actively involved in searching for and mapping the graves of Czechoslovak soldiers. The Association of Czech and Slovak Clubs in Sweden organised the 28<sup>th</sup> Czech community meeting which was attended by Czechs from both Sweden and Denmark.

Besides cash donations to club projects, Czech communities abroad were provided with non-financial donations through Czech embassies and consulates. Some Czech embassies maintain local Czech libraries or video libraries, facilitate regular meetings of Czech community members, help teach Czech etc. Czechs abroad are of course invited to cultural and social occasions, just as diplomats participate at key events in Czech communities abroad.

An important demonstration of the long-term interest in Czechs abroad is the Czech Republic's aforementioned cash donations to fund repairs to the schools, cultural facilities and monuments of Czech communities. This assistance has been provided since 1996. Many Czech communities abroad own or have long-term leases on buildings used for their educational and cultural activities (schools, clubs, meeting places), many of which were built at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries from collections organised by their ancestors; some have become run down over the years and the communities are often unable to fund the necessary repairs. In 2010 repair work continued on Czech community buildings in three Argentine and two Brazilian locations; smaller-scale repairs and maintenance work (e.g. replacing windows, upkeep of historical Czech community cemeteries etc.) were done in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Serbia, Ukraine and the USA. A regular donation was provided to the USA for maintenance of the statue of T. G. Masaryk and the adjoining park in Washington D.C. and largely symbolic contributions were provided for extensive, multi-year repairs of Sokol gymnasiums, Czech community centres and

Czech cultural heritage museums in the states of Illinois, North Dakota, Minnesota and Texas. Long-term repair projects on Czech club buildings in Croatia also continued. One new project was the start of repairs to the Czech club building in Gesiniec in Lower Silesia, Poland, which had been postponed from 2009.

For economy reasons the cooperation between DCCP and the Special Envoy for Czechs Abroad and *České listy* (“Czech Newspaper”), which facilitated the sharing of information between Czech communities around the world, was terminated after ten years. Starting in 2007 the formerly printed monthly was replaced by online publication at [www.czech.cz/ceskelisty](http://www.czech.cz/ceskelisty) and supplemented with a yearbook in printed form containing the most interesting articles and information from the past year. Even after the discontinuation of *České listy*, the information web site about the Czech Republic [www.czech.cz](http://www.czech.cz) remains in operation, as does the internet portal operated by Czech Radio 7 – Radio Prague [www.krajane.net](http://www.krajane.net), a source of information for Czech communities abroad and a discussion forum open to all. New independent Czech community web sites are emerging, such as [www.czechfolks.com](http://www.czechfolks.com) (bilingual Czech/English), [www.krajane.cz](http://www.krajane.cz) (linking together Czech community web sites in Europe), [www.krajane.org](http://www.krajane.org), [www.czechevents.net](http://www.czechevents.net) (Czech events in North America), [www.g8m8.com](http://www.g8m8.com) (Australia), [www.brazilcomm.cz](http://www.brazilcomm.cz) (Latin America), and <http://czechmatediary.com> (California).

Based on applications lodged by Czechs abroad and backed up by documentary evidence, the Special Envoy for Czechs Abroad is authorised issue a *Czech Community Membership Certificate*. This document is submitted as part of applications for permanent residence in the Czech Republic. The Alien Act enables Czechs to resettle permanently in the Czech Republic if Czech origins and satisfactory reasons for resettlement are proven. This complies with Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 72/1996, on the principles of the policy of the government of the Czech Republic towards the resettlement of aliens with proven Czech origins. 479 applications were received in 2010 and 465 of them were approved. Most of the people applying for this confirmation were from Ukraine (356) and Russia (60). The number of applicants increased by 77.4% from 2009.

## V. The Czech Foreign Service

### 1. Staffing

In 2010 tasks were carried out in connection with the formulation and implementation of personnel policy as regards planning staff numbers, recruiting, selecting, deploying and assessing employees, and making full use of their skills and potential while respecting the principles of equal opportunities. In 2010 new tasks were carried out in connection with the staffing of the European External Action Service (EEAS), preparing and implementing economy measures concerning the number of embassies, staffing levels and the execution and scope of agendas. The standard rotation of staff at Czech embassies abroad took place according to the *Rotation Plan*. 269 employees were posted to embassies, 253 of them on long-term postings and 16 for short-term postings (up to one year).

Under inter-ministerial agreements between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the one hand and the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Interior on the other, staff were posted to trade and economic sections and Czech defence attachés and interior ministry liaison officers were assigned to Czech embassies.

Specialised training was provided for staff in 2010, including their partners and attachés sent by other ministries. In addition, tasks related to gender equality, family policy and cooperation with the Czech Spouses' Association were carried out.

#### ***National Contact Point***

In 2010, the National Contact Point (NCP), a unit of the Personnel Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, continued to administer the [www.mzv.cz/nkm](http://www.mzv.cz/nkm) web site, which provided information about recruitment competitions for posts in European Union institutions (above all “secondments” to the Directorates-General of the European Commission) and other international governmental organisations. The NCP continued to select and nominate election observers for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Union (EU) and organised the participation of Czech citizens in election observation missions conducted by these and other organisations. The NCP offered eligible candidates for the work of election observer the chance to undergo training in the Czech Republic and abroad. It was also involved in staffing the Czech Republic's participation in EU civilian crisis missions and OSCE field operations.

## ***Work and results in respect of the principal international governmental organisations***

### *European Union*

On the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic the NCP provided an information service for candidates for recruitment competitions for the posts of assistant, administrator, head of department, director and other positions. It also published up-to-date offers of vacancies for the positions of national experts in European Union institutions (mainly the European Commission and the recently formed European External Action Service, or EEAS)), nominated Czech candidates and provided them with an information service.

Under the authority of the Security Policy Department and in collaboration with the Common Foreign and Security Policy Department and the relevant territorial department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the NCP mediated the distribution of offers from the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU of vacancies on EU civilian crisis missions and in the Offices of the EU Special Representatives (e.g. EULEX Kosovo, EUMM Georgia, EUSR Bosnia and Herzegovina) and nominated Czech candidates for these positions. Six new external experts who succeeded in recruitment competitions were sent to EU civilian missions in 2010: one to EUJUST LEX Iraq, one to EULEX Kosovo, and four to EUMM Georgia.

In cooperation with the Department for Human Rights and Transformation Policy, the NCP sent observers to European Union election observation missions (in other words, the NCP and the Department jointly nominated Czech candidates to the European Commission, which performs the final selection of participants in its election missions). Overall, 34 observers (17 long-term and 17 short-term) were sent to the following missions in 2010: Togo (presidential election); Sudan (general election); Burundi (general election); Ethiopia (parliamentary and regional elections); Guinea (presidential election); Tanzania (presidential and parliamentary elections); Côte d'Ivoire (presidential election); and Sudan (registration of voters for a referendum). In conjunction with the Department for Human Rights and Transformation Policy the NCP organised training for new election observers. The training, which took place at the ministry in November 2010, was attended by 18 candidates (both external candidates and MFA staff).

### *EEAS*

Part of the strategy aimed at successfully recruiting Czech candidates into EEAS structures was the founding of two EEAS working groups, one on a conceptual level and the other on the working level. Several training sessions on EU institutions and issues were organised in 2010. Information about recruitment competitions to the EEAS is published under a newly created link in the Personnel information/NCP database. Seminars on the methodology of recruitment competitions to the EEAS took place in 2010 (in cooperation with the Diplomatic Academy). The MFA lobbied in favour of Czech candidates to senior positions in the EEAS and supported the placement of Czech candidates in seconded positions within the EEAS by releasing its own finances and through the

Treasury Administration. The NCP also provides Czech candidates with methodological consultation regarding recruitment competitions.

In 2010 the Czech Republic occupied three positions in DEU in the functions of ambassador or political section head. Ten employees of the MFA were seconded to EU and DEU structures, eight of them “cost-free”.

### *OSCE*

Throughout the year the NCP organised nominations of Czech citizens to OSCE field missions, the sending of Czech citizens to these missions and the process of extending their work on OSCE missions. The sending of Czech observers to OSCE election observation missions continued in 2010. In total, the NCP sent 84 short-term observers to the following OSCE missions in the countries of the former Soviet Union and southeast Europe: Ukraine, Tajikistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Belarus.

### *UN*

In respect of the UN, in 2010 the NCP concentrated on providing information on its website about vacancies.

### *Miscellaneous*

During 2010 the NCP was in charge of organising several recruitment competitions to positions in the civilian part of the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Logar, Afghanistan.

Seven Czech observers were sent to the observation mission covering the parliamentary election in Kosovo under the banner of the EUSR.

## 2. Diplomatic Academy

In 2010 the Diplomatic Academy (DA) concentrated on standard training in three basic modules. The DA organised the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the European Studies Summer School for foreign diplomats and Czech state administration staff at Horažďovice from 16-20 August 2010.

As part of international cooperation, memoranda on cooperation were signed with the diplomatic academies of Albania and Tunisia. In May 2010 the DA organised an intensive course for five Iraqi diplomats.

DA staff participated in lecture work for employees of state administration (e.g. fire brigades, the police etc.) and acquainted a number of visitors from the Czech Republic and abroad with the work of the DA.

### Training modules

- basic diplomatic training (DA 1)
- individual course for junior diplomats (DA IN)
- advanced diplomatic training (DA 2)
- language tuition
- computer training

#### ***Basic diplomatic training (DA 1)***

In the 2009/2010 academic year a total of 15 students completed basic diplomatic training (DA 1) on 31 August 2010, having passed the annual course of theoretical and practical training. The course included lectures and seminars focusing on the acquisition and improvement of knowledge of international relations, diplomacy, security policy and economic relations, and practical courses to assimilate communication, negotiation and psychological skills and abilities. The students also took a special course to prepare for crisis situations organised in conjunction with the *Military Academy at Vyškov* and went on an excursion to Brussels.

#### ***Individual course for junior diplomats (DA IN)***

The individual course for junior diplomats (DA IN) entered its eighth year in 2010. In 2010 a total of 34 diplomats completed the programme by passing all the individually prescribed courses and seminars corresponding to their education and experience to date at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 26 diplomats enrolled in previous terms continued their studies.

223 diplomats have successfully taken the course since it was launched in 2003.

#### ***Advanced diplomatic training (DA 2)***

2010 was the twelfth year of *advanced diplomatic training (DA 2)*, a course that is modified to meet the current requirements of senior diplomats. Five diplomats started the course in 2010 and

seven already on the course completed their studies. More than 250 diplomats have successfully taken the DA 2 course since it was launched in 1999.

### ***Language tuition***

The Diplomatic Academy has been in charge of language tuition for foreign ministry staff since 2007. In 2010 there were group courses in European languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian and German) and Arabic courses, attended by 234 people. Individual language tuition for senior employees and tuition in other languages (Japanese, Dutch, Turkish) was provided for 54 people.

1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> level standardised exams corresponding to the A2, B1, B2 and C1 levels of the Common European Reference Framework were sat by 136 people at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; a further 143 took an equivalent exam at a language institution in the Czech Republic or abroad.

The DA organised conversation classes for graduates of the highest, i.e. 4<sup>th</sup> level, exam. The DA organised a four-day course in diplomatic French for 15 people in conjunction with the French Institute.

Since 2009 the DA has provided French language courses for all Czech state administration staff in conjunction with the International Francophonie Organisation and the French Institute. MFA staff were given the opportunity to attend courses in the French Institute, with half the cost paid by the International Francophonie Organisation.

### ***Computer training***

In 2010, 233 Ministry staff received training on standardised computer courses: MS Word, MS Excel, MS Power Point, the Windows environment, Internet, Lotus Notes, Filing Service. The most widely attended courses are MS Excel with 97 participants and MS Word with 50. The “pre-posting” course for staff about to be posted to embassies was taken by 31 staff members. 99 special web-editing courses were organised.

## **International cooperation**

### ***European Diplomatic Programme***

The Diplomatic Academy has for long cooperated with the European Commission within the framework of modular common training of junior diplomats from EU member states and European institutions on the basis of the *European Diplomatic Programme (EDP)*. Besides participating in the EDP, the diplomats, mainly junior, took part in short-term work placements organised by the European Commission. The work placements entitled *Political Analysis* and *Reporting a Risk Analysis with Open Source Intelligence* were particularly beneficial.

### ***European Studies Summer School***

The 10<sup>th</sup> *European Studies Summer School* organised by the DA in Horažďovic took place on 16-20 August 2010. The subject of *How Safe Are We in Europe* was covered by lectures given by leading



Czech and international experts and in panel discussions. The course was taken by junior Czech and foreign diplomats and state officials from the Czech Republic.

In most cases, places for foreign diplomats from Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, Asia and Africa on the Summer School are offered on the basis of memoranda of cooperation that the DA concludes with partner organisations from various countries around the world.

### ***Long-term study stays and memoranda of cooperation***

In 2010 three diplomats participated in long-term study stays at the Diplomatic Academy in Madrid, the National Institute for Policy Studies in Japan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the USA.

### ***Study placement for Iraqi diplomats***

The DA organised a seven-day training course for five junior diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq on 10-18 May 2010. The training focused on the practice of “soft skills” (negotiation, presentation), as well as diplomatic protocol and selected topics of the Czech Republic’s foreign policy.

## **3. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ budget and operations**

The expenditure side of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs budget heading was influenced by the following activities:

- performance of foreign service tasks and implementation of the Czech Republic’s foreign policy concept;
- increased cooperation with international organisations, including the honouring of financial commitments in respect of these organisations;
- implementation of foreign development cooperation and transformation cooperation projects;
- the Czech Republic’s participation in EXPO 2010 Shanghai;
- the Czech Republic’s active role in providing humanitarian aid to foreign countries;
- the continuing modernisation of the visa process in line with EU requirements and the Schengen Agreement and the provision of a reliable consular and visa service;
- ensuring the security of embassies and personnel abroad and protecting the Ministry’s classified information;
- improving the operational security and reliability of the Ministry information system and its certification for the handling of classified information.

## **Incomes**

The state budget for 2010 set a total figure of CZK 671,083,000 for income under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs heading, CZK 600,000,000 of which was tax income. Actual income amounted to CZK 774,185,640, of which CZK 589,828,100 of which was tax income.

## **Expenditure**

Total expenditure in 2010 was CZK 6,362,897,570, i.e. 98.74% of the disposable budget after expenditure totalling CZK 252,946,000 was frozen in line with government resolutions no. 54 of 18 January 2010, no. 552 of 28 July 2010, no. 800 of 10 November 2010, and no. 916 of 14 December 2010.

### ***Expenditure on transformation cooperation***

In 2010, CZK 45,000,000 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs budget was earmarked for transformation cooperation in accordance with government resolution no. 1134 of 31 August 2009. Of that amount, expenditure of 2,250,000 was frozen in line with government resolution no. 54 of 18 December 2010. A total of CZK 42,292,280 was spent on projects and activities.

### ***Humanitarian aid expenditure***

In 2010, a total of CZK 86,400,000 was earmarked for the Czech Republic's humanitarian aid to foreign countries; CZK 86,382,760 of that amount was drawn down.

The year 2010 was characterised by a large number of natural disasters around the world. The most extensive and enduring humanitarian consequences were caused by the earthquake that hit Haiti on 12 December 2010, followed by the large-scale flooding that affected almost a third of the territory of Pakistan during August and September 2010.

Besides these two biggest disasters, in 2010 the Czech Republic contributed humanitarian aid after the earthquake in Chile, the severe winter in Mongolia, the extensive fires in Russia, drought in Myanmar/Burma, Niger and Chad, and flooding in central and southeast Europe. In response to a call for assistance for countries with complicated humanitarian crises, humanitarian projects were supported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sri Lanka, Myanmar/Burma, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda. In line with the *Operational Strategy of Humanitarian Aid of the Czech Republic for 2010* humanitarian aid was implemented in Afghanistan, Myanmar/Burma and for Burmese refugees in Malaysia and India, in Zimbabwe and in the Palestinian Autonomous Territories. A humanitarian contribution was also provided to the emergency response funds of the UN and the International Red Cross (DREF).

### ***Contributions to international organisations and cash donations to selected institutions abroad***

The budget for contributions to international organisations and cash donations to selected institutions abroad was, after adjustments, CZK 1,261,350,000; total budget drawdown was CZK

1,258,342,070. The Czech Republic's contribution to UN peacekeeping operations was substantially increased in the course of 2010.

### ***Promotion of Czech cultural heritage abroad***

A budget of CZK 16,520,000 was approved for the promotion of Czech cultural heritage. Budget funds totalling CZK 15,381,250 were drawn down in accordance with government resolution no. 1542 of 14 December 2009 and used for cultural projects by Czech community clubs and societies of friends of the Czech Republic abroad and for repairs and maintenance of Czech community schools, club houses, small monuments and other elements of Czech cultural heritage abroad.

### ***Czech Radio international broadcasting***

CZK 54,400,000 was approved for allocation to Czech Radio international broadcasting; after freezing, the disposable budget was CZK 51,680,000. The budget was drawn down in full.

### ***Expenditure on top-level state visits***

A total of CZK 70,000,000 was earmarked in the Treasury Administration for expenditure on top-level state visits in 2010; CZK 59,968,860 was drawn down. The financing of top-level state visits is governed by government resolution no. 506 of 22 May 2000, on the coordination of foreign trips by members of government and on the financing of top-level visits.

### ***Expenditure on security and biometric elements in passports and travel documents***

In 2010, CZK 31,020,000 was earmarked in the Treasury Administration heading for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for security features and biometrics in passports and travel documents, in line with government resolution no. 740 of 15 June 2005. Total expenditure was CZK 81,134,050, CZK 38,058,000 of which was transferred from the reserve fund and the remaining amount was drawn down from retained expenditure ("RE"). Drawdown took place in line with the change in the structure and use of costs as set out in government resolution no. 1318 of 21 November 2007.

### ***Funding for the involvement of Czech citizens in civilian missions run by the European Union and other international governmental organisations***

In 2010, CZK 23,980,000 was earmarked in the Treasury Administration for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs budget heading to cover the involvement of Czech citizens in civilian missions run by the European Union and other international governmental organisations. Drawdown was CZK 30,657,090. CZK 6,677,090 was taken from retained expenditure. The funding of civilian observer missions takes place in accordance with government resolution no. 471 of 20 April 2009.

### ***Provincial Reconstruction Team – Afghanistan***

The approved budget for 2010 was CZK 64,000,000; CZK 3,200,000 was frozen. In the course of the year a further CZK 20,000,000 was released from the Treasury Administration budget heading, so total disposable funds were CZK 80,800,000. Total drawdown was CZK 74,596,290, of which CZK 4,739,000 was transferred from the reserve fund (finances provided by the Greek

government for agricultural projects). The implementation of PRT Logar projects in Afghanistan is one of the priorities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### ***Expenditure on salaries and other payments for work done***

The total budget, after adjustments, for salaries and other payments for work done was CZK 739,098,000 in 2010; after freezing, the disposable amount was CZK 731,974,000. Expenditure on salaries and other payments for work done totalled CZK 716,243,930 in 2010.

### ***Expenditure on foreign development cooperation***

Expenditure on foreign development cooperation (“FDC”) is paid in accordance with government resolution no. 1134 of 31 August 2009. Funds for FDC are mainly provided in the form of subsidies to specific entities under the prescribed subsidy titles. FDC projects are implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Czech Development Agency. The binding indicator for FDC was set at CZK 312,402,000. During the year 2010, the disposable budget finances were reduced by CZK 15,637,000 to CZK 296,765,000 because of the freezing of budgetary expenditure. Actual expenditure was CZK 287,134,450, of which CZK 12,530,100 was Czech Development Agency operating expenditure.

### ***Research and development support***

CZK 20,527,000 was earmarked for research and development in 2010; of that sum, institutional expenditure amounted to CZK 13,527,000 and special-purpose expenditure CZK 7,000,000. The full institutional financing amount of CZK 14,227,000 was drawn down by the International Relations Institute. Drawdown of special-purpose expenditure on research and development was CZK 5,451,950, CZK 1,187,000 of which was drawn down through the International Relations Institute.

### ***Ensuring preparedness for crisis situations pursuant to Act No. 240/2000 Coll.***

CZK 4,000,000 was budgeted for this purpose. Drawdown was CZK 910,600. The finances were spent on pre-posting training of staff, purchases of walk-through metal detectors, protective vests and helmets, satellite hardware, radio stations and for drawing up and updating evacuation plans.

### ***Expenditure on financing asset replacement programmes***

Total expenditure on all asset replacement programmes (“ISPROFIN”) was CZK 414,459,210. The majority of expenditure (96.8%) was implemented under programme 106 010. Under programmes 206 210 and 306 020 ongoing building work is being completed – renovation of Bohemian National Hall in New York, enlargement of the server room at Czernin Palace and the final small-scale renovation work on embassy buildings. ISPROFIN expenditure went on building actions and projects undertaken by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic (CZK 202,292,000); information and communication technologies (CZK 108,250,000); building security (CZK 22,356,000); and acquisition and maintenance of movable property (CZK 21,250,000). Programme financing expenditure was influenced by the freezing of CZK 96,196,000 in 2010.

Preference was given to the drawdown of retained expenditure, i.e. the available budget was not drawn down in full.

### ***Organisations part-funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs***

- *Diplomatic Service* administers and manages state and private property that is used primarily by foreign embassies in the Czech Republic. It also performs agency work for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. CZK 20,000,000 was provided as a contribution to its operations in 2010.
- *Czech Centres* promotes the Czech Republic and develops cultural and trade contacts through the network of Czech Centres abroad. CZK 101,489,000 was provided as a contribution to its operations in 2010.
- *Štiřín Castle* provides conference, accommodation, hospitality and sports services. CZK 9,181,000 was provided as a contribution to its operations in 2010.
- *The Office of the Commissioner General for EXPO* was established to prepare and realise the Czech Republic's participation in EXPO events. In 2010 it executed the Czech participation in EXPO 2010 Shanghai in accordance with government resolution no. 601 of 21 May 2008. In 2010, CZK 203,610,000 was provided as a contribution to its operations and CZK 60,311,000 as an investment subsidy.

### ***Expenditure on programmes co-financed out of the EU budget***

Expenditure of CZK 21,312,000 was budgeted for programmes co-financed out of the EU budget in 2010. During the year, CZK 5,796,000 was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs budget heading. After adjustments, the budget was CZK 27,108,000. Only projects under the External Borders Fund were implemented in 2010 and CZK 2,995,560 was drawn down. Co-financing out of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs budget was CZK 1,554,420 and was covered by retained expenditure. The low drawdown was caused by the protected approval process for projects at the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, as the finances were only released for projects at the end of 2010.

### ***Final evaluation***

Developments in the drawdown of expenditure in the year 2010 were profoundly influenced by the freezing of part of expenditure in line with the relevant government resolutions. A number of economy measures was therefore adopted during the year, which made it possible to perform the tasks and achieve the goals of the Czech Republic's foreign policy even under the conditions of substantially reduced available budget funds. Two specific expenditure items of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs budget heading in 2010 were expenditure related to the Czech Republic's participation in EXPO 2010 Shanghai, implemented through a contribution to the operations of the Office of the Commissioner General for EXPO, and expenditure related to the first phase of the

reorganisation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as of 31 December 2010 (severance pay), which reduced the number of positions at the ministry headquarters by 127.

| <i>CZK thousands</i>   | 2008 actual | 2009 actual | 2010 approved budget | 2010 revised budget | 2010 available budget after freezing | 2010 actual  | % 2010 actual/available revised budget |
|--|-------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| <b>Summary indicators</b>  |             |             |                      |                     |                                      |              |  |
| Total incomes  | 631,045     | 814,138     | 671,083              | 671,083             | 671,083                              | 744,185.64   | 110.89                                 |
| Total expenditure  | 7,098,746   | 7,321,308   | 6,403,613            | 6,696,973           | 6,444,027                            | 6,362,897.57 | 98.74                                  |
| <b>Specific indicators</b>   |             |             |                      |                     |                                      |              |  |
| <b>Specific indicators – incomes</b>   |             |             |                      |                     |                                      |              |  |
| Tax incomes  |             | 601,991     | 600,000              | 600,000             | 600,000                              | 589,828.10   | 98.30                                  |
| Total non-tax incomes, capital incomes and received transfers of which: incomes from EU budgets excl. CAP, total | 631,045     | 212,147     | 71,083               | 71,083              | 71,083                               | 154,357.54   | 217.15                                 |
| other non-tax incomes, capital incomes and received transfers, total   | 631,045     | 212,147     | 21,083               | 21,083              | 21,083                               | 0.00         | 0.00                                   |
|  |             |             | 50,000               | 50,000              | 50,000                               | 154,357.54   | 308.72                                 |
| <b>Specific indicators - expenditure</b>   |             |             |                      |                     |                                      |              |  |
| Expenditure on the performance of the Ministry's tasks   | 7,098,746   | 7,321,308   | 6,403,613            | 6,696,973           | 6,444,027                            | 6,362,897.57 | 98.74                                  |
| of which:  |             |             |                      |                     |                                      |              |  |
| expenditure linked to CZ PRES transformation cooperation   | 254,133     | 449,936     |                      |                     |                                      |              |  |
| humanitarian aid   | 44,205      | 47,709      | 45,000               | 45,000              | 42,750                               | 42,292.28    | 98.93                                  |
| contributions to international organisations and cash donations to selected organisations abroad                 | 70,596      | 84,920      | 73,000               | 90,050              | 86,400                               | 86,382.76    | 99.98                                  |
| promotion of Czech cultural heritage abroad  | 1,151,692   | 1,207,589   | 1,255,000            | 1,261,350           | 1,261,350                            | 1,258,342.07 | 99.76                                  |
| international radio broadcasting   | 30,280      | 19,826      | 16,520               | 16,520              | 15,694                               | 15,381.25    | 98.01                                  |
| top-level state visits   | 68,000      | 64,600      | 54,400               | 54,400              | 51,680                               | 51,680.00    | 100.00                                 |
| security and biometric elements in travel documents  | 39,682      | 71,603      |                      | 70,000              | 70,000                               | 59,968.86    | 85.67                                  |
| participation of Czech citizens in civilian missions and other international gov. organisations                  | 81,967      | 127,461     |                      | 31,020              | 31,020                               | 81,134.05    | 261.55                                 |
| Provincial Reconstruction Team - Afghanistan   | 18,752      | 37,781      |                      | 23,980              | 23,980                               | 30,657.09    | 127.84                                 |
| other expenditure on performance of the Ministry's tasks   | 25,112      | 81,804      | 64,000               | 84,000              | 80,800                               | 74,596.29    | 92.32                                  |
|  | 5,314,326   | 5,128,079   | 4,895,693            | 5,020,653           | 4,780,353                            | 4,662,462.89 | 97.53                                  |
| <b>Cross-cutting indicators</b>  |             |             |                      |                     |                                      |              |  |
| Employees' salaries and other payments for work done   | 733,802     | 778,175     | 712,438              | 739,098             | 731,974                              | 716,243.93   | 97.85                                  |
| Obligatory insurance paid by the employer  | 255,635     | 262,719     | 242,229              | 242,469             | 240,047                              | 237,959.14   | 99.13                                  |
| Transfer to the Cultural and Social Services Fund  | 14,543      | 15,333      | 14,089               | 14,089              | 13,961                               | 13,971.30    | 100.07                                 |
| Employees' salaries  | 725,669     | 767,034     | 704,433              | 704,433             | 698,011                              | 698,221.09   | 100.03                                 |
| Pay of representatives of the state and certain bodies   | 1,390       | 497         | 1,407                | 1,407               | 763                                  | 0.00         | 0.00                                   |
| Expenditure on research, development and innovation, incl. programmes co-financed from abroad                    | 18,152      | 18,040      | 20,527               | 20,527              | 20,527                               | 19,678.95    | 95.87                                  |
| of which: total from the state budget  | 18,152      | 18,040      | 20,527               | 20,527              | 20,527                               | 19,678.95    | 95.87                                  |
| of which: total institutional expenditure  | 14,274      | 14,274      | 13,527               | 14,227              | 14,227                               | 14,227.00    | 100.00                                 |
| total special-purpose expenditure  | 3,878       | 3,766       | 7,000                | 6,300               | 6,300                                | 5,451.95     | 86.54                                  |
| share of funds from foreign programmes   |             |             |                      |                     |                                      |              |  |
| Special-purpose support for applied research, development and innovation programmes                              |             |             | 7,000                | 6,300               | 6,300                                | 5,451.95     | 86.54                                  |
| Institutional support of research organisations according to evaluation of their results                         |             |             | 5,065                | 5,065               | 5,065                                | 5,065.00     | 100.00                                 |
| Foreign development cooperation  | 158,319     | 242,315     | 312,402              | 312,402             | 296,765                              | 287,134.45   | 96.75                                  |
| Ensuring preparedness for crisis situations pursuant to Act No. 240/2000 Coll.                                   | 3,294       | 1,788       | 4,000                | 4,000               | 1,000                                | 910.60       | 91.06                                  |
| Expenditure on EU co-financed programmes excl. CAP, total  |             | 12,124      | 21,312               | 27,108              | 27,108                               | 4,549.98     | 16.78                                  |

|                                      |                  |                |                |                |                |                   |               |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| of which: from the state budget      | 0                | 3,082          | 229            | 229            | 229            | 1,554.42          | 678.79        |
| covered by income from EU budget     | 0                | 9,043          | 21,083         | 26,879         | 26,879         | 2,995.56          | 11.14         |
| <b>Total expenditure on ISPROFIN</b> | <b>1,175,978</b> | <b>555,384</b> | <b>378,311</b> | <b>413,441</b> | <b>317,245</b> | <b>414,459.21</b> | <b>130.64</b> |

## Appendices

### Overview of the Czech Republic's diplomatic relations

| <b>Country</b>      | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the former Czechoslovakia</b> | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the Czech Republic</b> | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the Czech Republic</b>                                  | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the given state for the Czech Republic</b> |
|---------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Afghanistan         | 1937   | 1993  | Kabul   | Prague   |
| Albania             | 1927   | 1993  | Tirana  | Prague   |
| Algeria             | 1962   | 1993  | Algiers   | Prague   |
| Andorra             | no diplomatic relations  | 1996  | Madrid  | Vienna   |
| Angola              | 1975   | 1993  | Pretoria  | Berlin<br>(HC Brno)  |
| Antigua and Barbuda | no diplomatic relations  | 1997  | Caracas<br>(HC St. John's)  | London   |
| Argentina           | 1924   | 1993  | Buenos Aires<br>(HC Mendoza,<br>HC Presidencia<br>Roque Sáenz Peña,<br>provincia Chaco)     | Prague   |
| Armenia             | 1992   | 1993  | Tbilisi   | Vienna   |
| Australia           | 1972   | 1993  | Canberra<br>(Consulate Sydney,<br>HC Adelaide,<br>HC Hobart,<br>HCG Melbourne,<br>HC Perth) | Warsaw<br>(HC Prague)  |
| Austria             | 1920   | 1993  | Vienna<br>(HC Graz,<br>HC Innsbruck,<br>HC Klagenfurt,<br>HC Linz,<br>HC Salzburg)          | Prague<br>(HC Brno,<br>HC České Budějovice)                                    |
| Azerbaijan          | 1992   | 1993  | Baku  | Prague   |
| Bahamas             | no diplomatic relations  | 2005  | Havana  | not designated   |
| Bahrain             | 1990   | 1993  | Riyadh<br>(HC Manama)   | Berlin   |
| Bangladesh          | 1972   | 1993  | Delhi<br>(HC Dacca)   | Berlin   |
| Barbados            | 1977   | 1996  | Caracas   | London   |
| Belarus             | 1992   | 1993  | Minsk   | Prague<br>(HC Brno)  |



| <b>Country</b>           | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the former Czechoslovakia</b> | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the Czech Republic</b> | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the Czech Republic</b>  | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the given state for the Czech Republic</b> |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Belgium                  | 1919   | 1993  | Brussels<br>(HC Antwerp,<br>HC Liège, HC<br>Saint-Servais-<br>Namur)  | Prague   |
| Belize                   | no diplomatic relations  | 1996  | San José<br>(HC Orange Walk<br>Town)  | not designated<br>(HC Prague)  |
| Benin                    | 1962   | 1993  | Abuja<br>(HC Cotonou)   | Berlin (HC Prague)   |
| Bolivia                  | 1935   | 1993  | Lima<br>(HC La Paz)   | Vienna   |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina   | 1992   | 1993  | Sarajevo  | Prague   |
| Botswana                 | 1968   | 1997  | Pretoria  | London   |
| Brazil                   | 1918   | 1993  | Brasilia<br>(CG São Paulo,<br>HC Fortaleza-CE,<br>HC Joinville,<br>HC Manaus-AM,<br>HC Recife-PE,<br>HC Rio de Janeiro<br>HC Salvador-BA<br>HC Vitoria/Vila<br>Velha) | Prague   |
| Brunei                   | 1992   | 1995  | Jakarta   | not designated   |
| Bulgaria                 | 1920   | 1993  | Sofia<br>(HC Varna)   | Prague   |
| Burkina Faso             | 1968   | 1993  | Accra   | Vienna   |
| Burundi                  | 1963   | 1993  | Nairobi   | Moscow   |
| Cambodia                 | 1956   | 1993  | Bangkok   | Berlin   |
| Cameroon                 | 1990   | 1993  | Abuja<br>(HC Douala)  | Moscow   |
| Canada                   | 1942   | 1993  | Ottawa<br>(CG Toronto,<br>HCG Calgary,<br>HC Winnipeg)  | Prague   |
| Cape Verde               | 1975   | 1993  | Accra<br>(HC Praia)   | Berlin<br>(HC Prague)  |
| Central African Republic | 1970   | 2008  | Kinshasa  | Paris  |
| Chad                     | 1967   | 1994  | Abuja   | Moscow   |
| Chile                    | 1924   | 1993  | Santiago  | Prague   |

| <b>Country</b>                               | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the former Czechoslovakia</b> | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the Czech Republic</b> | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the Czech Republic</b>  | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the given state for the Czech Republic</b> |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| China (PRC)                                  | 1930 (1949)  | 1993  | Beijing (CG Hong Kong, CG Shanghai)                         | Prague   |
| Colombia                                     | 1934   | 1993  | Lima (HC Barranquilla, HC Cartagena de Indias, HC Medellin) | Vienna   |
| Comoros                                      | 1977   | 1995  | Nairobi   | Moroni   |
| Congo, (Democratic Republic of the Congo)    | 1960   | 1993  | Kinshasa (HC Lubumbashi)                                    | Berlin   |
| Cook Islands                                 | no diplomatic relations  | 2008  | Canberra  | Brussels   |
| Costa Rica                                   | 1935   | 1993  | San José  | Berlin   |
| Croatia                                      | 1992   | 1993  | Zagreb (CO Rijeka 15.6.-30.9. (CO Split 15.6.-30.9.))       | Prague   |
| Cuba   | 1920   | 1993  | Havana  | Prague   |
| Cyprus                                       | 1960   | 1993  | Nicosia (HC Limassol)                                       | Prague   |
| Denmark                                      | 1920   | 1993  | Copenhagen (HC Aarhus)                                      | Prague   |
| Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) | 1948   | 1993  | Pyongyang   | Prague   |
| Djibouti                                     | 1977   | 1997  | Addis Ababa (HCG Djibouti)                                  | not designated   |
| Dominica                                     | no diplomatic relations  | 1996  | Caracas   | not designated   |
| Dominican Republic                           | 1942   | 1993  | Caracas (HC Santo Domingo)                                  | Brussels (CG Prague)   |
| East Timor                                   |  | 2002  | Jakarta   | not designated   |
| Ecuador                                      | 1935   | 1993  | Bogotá (HCG Guayaquil, HC Quito)                            | Warsaw   |
| Egypt  | 1922   | 1993  | Cairo (HC Alexandra)  | Prague   |
| El Salvador                                  | 1930   | 1994  | San José (HC San Salvador)                                  | Berlin   |
| Equatorial Guinea                            | 1970   | 1993  | Abuja   | Berlin   |
| Eritrea                                      |  | 1993  | Nairobi   | Berlin   |
| Estonia                                      | 1922   | 1993  | Tallinn (HC Tallinn)  | Prague (HC Brno)   |
|  |  |   |   |  |

| <b>Country</b> | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the former Czechoslovakia</b> | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the Czech Republic</b> | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the Czech Republic</b>  | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the given state for the Czech Republic</b> |
|----------------|--|---|---|--|
| Ethiopia       | 1944   | 1993  | Addis Ababa   | Berlin   |
| Fiji           | 1970   | 1996  | Canberra  | not designated   |
| Finland        | 1921   | 1993  | Helsinki<br>(HC Tampere)  | Prague   |
| France         | 1918   | 1993  | Paris<br>(HC Lille,<br>HC Marseille,<br>HC Nantes,<br>HC Strasbourg,<br>HC Villiers les<br>Nancy)   | Prague   |
| Gabon          | 1976   | 1993  | Kinshasa  | Libreville   |
| Gambia         | 1972   | 1993  | Accra<br>(HC Banjul)  | Brussels   |
| Georgia        | 1992   | 1993  | Tbilisi   | Prague   |
| Germany        | 1920<br>GDR 1949<br>FRG 1973   | 1993  | Berlin<br>(CG Dresden,<br>CG Munich,<br>Consulate<br>Düsseldorf<br>HC Dortmund,<br>HC Frankfurt am<br>Main,<br>HC Hamburg,<br>HC Nuremberg,<br>HC Rostock,<br>HC Stuttgart) | Prague   |
| Ghana          | 1959   | 1993  | Accra   | Prague   |
| Greece         | 1920   | 1993  | Athens<br>(HC Heraklion,<br>HC Piraeus,<br>HC Rhodes,<br>HC Thessaloniki –<br>temporarily closed)   | Prague   |
| Grenada        | 1979   | 1993  | Caracas   | not designated   |
| Guatemala      | 1927   | 1993  | Mexico<br>(HC Guatemala<br>City)  | Vienna<br>(HC Prague)  |
| Guinea         | 1959   | 1993  | Accra<br>(HC Conakry)   | Berlin   |
| Guinea Bissau  | 1973   | 1993  | Accra   | Brussels   |
| Guyana         | 1976   | 1993  | Caracas<br>(HC Georgetown)  | London   |
| Haiti          | 1943   | 2005  | Caracas   | not designated   |

| <b>Country</b> | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the former Czechoslovakia</b> | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the Czech Republic</b> | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the Czech Republic</b>   | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the given state for the Czech Republic</b> |
|----------------|--|---|--|--|
|                |  |   | (HC Port au Prince)  |  |
| Honduras       | 1930   | 1993  | San José (HCG Tegucigalpa)   | Berlin (CO Prague)   |
| Hungary        | 1922   | 1993  | Budapest   | Prague   |
| Iceland        | 1946   | 1993  | Oslo (HC Reykjavik)  | Vienna (HCG Prague)  |
| India          | 1947   | 1993  | Delhi (CG Mumbai, HC Kolkata)  | Prague   |
| Indonesia      | 1955   | 1993  | Jakarta (HC Makassar, HC Sanur-Bali, HC Surabaya)  | Prague   |
| Iraq           | 1933   | 1993  | Baghdad  | Prague   |
| Iran           | 1925   | 1993  | Tehran   | Prague   |
| Ireland        | 1947   | 1993  | Dublin   | Prague   |
| Israel         | 1948   | 1993  | Tel Aviv (HC Haifa, HC Jerusalem, HCG Tel Aviv)  | Prague   |
| Italy          | 1918   | 1993  | Rome (HC Ancona, HC Cagliari, HC Florence, HC Genoa, HC Milan, HC Naples, HC Palermo, HC Udine, HC Venice) | Prague (HC Brno)   |
| Ivory Coast    | 1984   | 1993  | Accra  | Berlin   |
| Jamaica        | 1975   | 1993  | Caracas (HC Kingston)  | Berlin (HC Prague)   |
| Japan          | 1920   | 1993  | Tokyo (HC Kobe)  | Prague   |
| Jordan         | 1964   | 1993  | Amman  | Vienna   |
| Kazakhstan     | 1992   | 1993  | Astana   | Prague (HC Hradec Králové)   |
| Kenya          | 1964   | 1993  | Nairobi  | The Hague  |
| Kiribati       | no diplomatic relations  | 2007  | Kuala Lumpur   | not designated   |
| Kosovo         |  | 2008  | Pristina   | Prague   |
|                |  |   |  |  |

| <b>Country</b>   | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the former Czechoslovakia</b> | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the Czech Republic</b> | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the Czech Republic</b>                             | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the given state for the Czech Republic</b> |
|------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Kuwait           | 1963   | 1993  | Kuwait City  | Prague   |
| Kyrgyzstan       | 1992   | 1993  | Astana<br>(HC Bishkek)   | Vienna<br>(HC Prague)  |
| Laos             | 1962   | 1993  | Bangkok  | Warsaw   |
| Latvia           | 1922   | 1993  | Riga   | Prague   |
| Lebanon          | 1946   | 1993  | Beirut   | Prague   |
| Lesotho          | 1982   | 1993  | Pretoria   | Rome   |
| Liberia          | 1972   | 1993  | Accra  | not designated   |
| Libya            | 1960   | 1993  | Tripoli  | Prague   |
| Liechtenstein    | 1938   | 2009  | Bern   | Prague   |
| Lithuania        | 1922   | 1993  | Vilnius  | Prague<br>(HC Brno)  |
| Luxembourg       | 1922   | 1993  | Luxembourg<br>(HC Luxembourg)  | Prague   |
| Macedonia/FYROM  |  | 1994  | Skopje   | Prague   |
| Madagascar       | 1976   | 1993  | Addis Ababa  | Moscow   |
| Malawi           | 1991   | 1993  | Harare   | Berlin   |
| Malaysia         | 1971   | 1993  | Kuala Lumpur<br>(HC Johor Bahru)   | Prague   |
| Maldives         | 1975   | 1993  | Delhi  | Berlin   |
| Mali             | 1960   | 1993  | Algiers<br>(HC Bamako)   | Berlin   |
| Malta            | 1968   | 1993  | Rome<br>(HC Naxxar)  | Valletta<br>(HC Prague)  |
| Marshall Islands | no diplomatic relations  | 2009  | Manila   | not designated   |
| Mauritania       | 1965   | 1993  | Rabat<br>(HC Nouakchott)   | Berlin   |
| Mauritius        | 1976   | 1993  | Pretoria<br>(HC Port Louis)  | Berlin<br>(HC Prague)  |
| Mexico           | 1922   | 1993  | Mexico City<br>(HC Guadalajara Jalisco,<br>HC Monterrey,<br>Nuevo León,<br>HC Tijuana) | Prague   |
| Micronesia       | no diplomatic relations  | 2004  | Manila   | not designated   |
| Moldova          | 1992   | 1993  | Chisinau   | Prague   |
| Monaco           | no diplomatic relations  | 2008  | Paris<br>(HC Monte Carlo)  | not designated   |
| Mongolia         | 1950   | 1993  | Ulaanbaatar  | Prague   |
| Montenegro       |  | 2006  | Belgrade<br>HC Podgorica   | Vienna   |

| <b>Country</b>                     | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the former Czechoslovakia</b> | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the Czech Republic</b> | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the Czech Republic</b>                      | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the given state for the Czech Republic</b> |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Morocco                            | 1959   | 1993  | Rabat<br>(HC Casablanca,<br>HC Fes)   | Prague   |
| Mozambique                         | 1975   | 1993  | Harare<br>(HC Maputo)   | Berlin   |
| Myanmar/Burma                      | 1955   | 1993  | Bangkok   | Berlin   |
| Namibia                            | 1990   | 1993  | Pretoria  | Vienna   |
| Nauru                              | no diplomatic relations  | 2007  | Manila  | not designated   |
| Nepal                              | 1959   | 1993  | Delhi<br>(HC Kathmandu)   | Berlin<br>(HC Prague)  |
| Netherlands                        | 1919   | 1993  | The Hague<br>(HCG Amsterdam)  | Prague   |
| New Zealand                        | 1958   | 1993  | Canberra<br>(HC Auckland)   | Berlin<br>(HC Prague)  |
| Nicaragua                          | 1930   | 1993  | San José<br>(HC Managua)  | Berlin<br>(HC Prague)  |
| Niger                              | 1975   | 1995  | Accra<br>(HC Niamey)  | Berlin   |
| Nigeria                            | 1961   | 1993  | Abuja   | Warsaw   |
| Norway                             | 1921   | 1993  | Oslo<br>(HC Bergen,<br>HC Sjøvegan,<br>HC Trondheim)                            | Prague   |
| Oman                               | 1990   | 1993  | Riyadh  | Vienna   |
| Pakistan                           | 1950   | 1993  | Islamabad<br>(HC Karachi,<br>HC Lahore)   | Prague   |
| Palau                              |  | 2003  | Manila  | not designated   |
| Palestinian Autonomous Territories | 1983   | 1993  | Ramallah<br>(liaison office to the<br>Palestinian<br>Autonomous<br>Territories) | Prague   |
| Panama                             | 1929   | 1993  | San José<br>(HC Panama City)  | Berlin<br>(HC Prague)  |
| Papua New Guinea                   | no diplomatic relations  | 1995  | Jakarta<br>(HC Port Moresby)  | not designated   |
| Paraguay                           | 1936   | 1993  | Buenos Aires<br>(HC Asunción)   | Vienna<br>(HC Prague)  |
| Peru                               | 1922   | 1993  | Lima  | Prague   |
| Philippines                        | 1973   | 1993  | Manila<br>(HC Cebu City,  | Prague   |

| <b>Country</b>        | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the former Czechoslovakia</b> | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the Czech Republic</b> | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the Czech Republic</b>   | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the given state for the Czech Republic</b> |
|-----------------------|--|---|--|--|
|                       |  |   | HC Davao)  |  |
| Poland                | 1919   | 1993  | Warsaw<br>(HC Bydgoszcz,<br>HC Częstochowa,<br>HC Poznań,<br>HC Wrocław)                                 | Prague<br>(CG Ostrava,<br>HC Brno)   |
| Portugal              | 1920   | 1993  | Lisbon<br>(HC Porto,<br>HC Faro,<br>HC Funchal,<br>HC Praia)   | Prague   |
| Qatar                 | 1990   | 1993  | Kuwait   | Budapest   |
| Republic of Congo     | 1964   | 1993  | Kinshasa<br>(HC Brazzaville)   | Berlin<br>(HC Prague)  |
| Republic of Korea     | 1990   | 1993  | Seoul  | Prague   |
| Romania               | 1919   | 1993  | Bucharest<br>(HC Timisoara)  | Prague   |
| Russia                | 1934 (USSR)  | 1993  | Moscow<br>(CG Yekaterinburg,<br>CG St. Petersburg,<br>HC Khanty-<br>Mansiysk,<br>HC Nizhniy<br>Novgorod) | Prague<br>(CG Brno,<br>CG Karlovy Vary,<br>HC Ostrava)                         |
| Rwanda                | 1965   | 1998  | Nairobi  | Berlin   |
| Samoa                 | no diplomatic relations  | 1995  | Canberra   | not designated   |
| San Marino            | 1991   | 1993  | Vatican  | San Marino<br>(HCG Prague)   |
| Sao Tomé and Príncipe | 1975   | 1993  | Pretoria   | not designated   |
| Saudi Arabia          | no diplomatic relations  | 1995  | Riyadh   | Prague   |
| Senegal               | 1967   | 1993  | Rabat  | Berlin   |
| Serbia                |  | 2003  | Belgrade   | Prague   |
| Seychelles            | 1976   | 1993  | Nairobi<br>(HC Victoria)   | Victoria<br>(HC Prague)  |
| Sierra Leone          | 1963   | 1993  | Accra  | Moscow   |
| Singapore             | 1973   | 1993  | Jakarta<br>(HC Singapore)  | Singapore<br>(HC Prague)   |
| Slovakia              |  | 1993  | Bratislava   | Prague   |
| Slovenia              | 1992   | 1993  | Ljubljana  | Prague   |
| Solomon Islands       | no diplomatic relations  | 1996  | Canberra   | Brussels   |

| <b>Country</b>                          | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the former Czechoslovakia</b> | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the Czech Republic</b> | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the Czech Republic</b>   | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the given state for the Czech Republic</b> |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Somalia                                 | 1960   | 2002  | Nairobi  | Moscow   |
| South Africa (RSA)                      | 1991   | 1993  | Pretoria<br>(Visegrad House<br>Cape Town)  | Prague   |
| Sovereign Order of the Knights of Malta | 1939   | 1993  | Vatican  | Prague   |
| Spain                                   | 1919   | 1993  | Madrid<br>(HC Barcelona,<br>HC Benidorm,<br>HC Jérez de la<br>Frontera,<br>HC La<br>Orotava/Santa Cruz<br>de Tenerife,<br>HC Oviedo,<br>HC Palma de<br>Mallorca) | Prague   |
| Sri Lanka                               | 1957   | 1993  | Delhi<br>(HC Colombo)  | Vienna<br>(HC Prague)  |
| Sudan                                   | 1956   | 1993  | Cairo<br>(HC Khartoum)   | Vienna<br>(HC Prague)  |
| Suriname                                | 1976   | 1993  | Caracas<br>(HC Paramaribo)   | not designated   |
| St. Kitts and Nevis                     | no diplomatic relations  | 2010  | Caracas  | not designated   |
| St. Lucia                               | no diplomatic relations  | 1996  | Caracas  | not designated   |
| St. Vincent and the Grenadines          | no diplomatic relations  | 1995  | Caracas<br>(HC Kingstown)  | not designated   |
| Swaziland                               | 1991   | 1993  | Pretoria   | Brussels   |
| Sweden                                  | 1920   | 1993  | Stockholm<br>(HCG Göteborg,<br>HC Malmö)   | Prague   |
| Switzerland                             | 1919   | 1993  | Bern<br>(HC Basel,<br>HC Zürich,<br>HC Locarno)  | Prague   |
| Syria                                   | 1946   | 1993  | Damascus<br>(HC Aleppo,<br>HC Lattakia)  | Prague   |
| Tajikistan                              | 1992   | 1993  | Tashkent   | Berlin   |
| Tanzania                                | 1961   | 1993  | Nairobi  | Berlin   |
| Thailand                                | 1974   | 1993  | Bangkok<br>(HC Chiang Mai,<br>HC Phuket)   | Prague   |
| Togo                                    | 1960   | 1993  | Accra  | Paris  |



| <b>Country</b>       | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the former Czechoslovakia</b> | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the Czech Republic</b> | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the Czech Republic</b>   | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the given state for the Czech Republic</b> |
|----------------------|--|---|--|--|
|                      |  |   | (HC Lomé)  |  |
| Tonga                | no diplomatic relations  | 2007  | Canberra   | London   |
| Trinidad and Tobago  | 1979   | 1997  | Caracas<br>(HC Port of Spain)  | not designated   |
| Tunisia              | 1959   | 1993  | Tunis  | Prague   |
| Turkey               | 1924   | 1993  | Ankara<br>(CG Istanbul,<br>HC Antalya,<br>HC Izmir)  | Prague   |
| Turkmenistan         | 1992   | 1993  | Tashkent   | Vienna   |
| Tuvalu               | no diplomatic relations  | 2005  | Kuala Lumpur   | not designated   |
| Uganda               | 1962   | 1993  | Nairobi  | Berlin   |
| Ukraine              | 1922   | 1993  | Kiev<br>(CG Donetsk,<br>CG Lvov,<br>HC Kharkhov)   | Prague   |
| Uruguay              | 1921   | 1993  | Buenos Aires<br>(HC Montevideo)  | Prague   |
| United Arab Emirates | 1988   | 1993  | Abu Dhabi  | Vienna   |
| United Kingdom       | 1918   | 1993  | London<br>(HC Belfast<br>Newtownards,<br>HC Cardiff,<br>HCG Edinburgh)   | Prague   |
| USA                  | 1919   | 1993  | Washington D.C.<br>(CG Chicago,<br>CG Los Angeles,<br>CG New York,<br>HCG Anchorage,<br>HCG Atlanta,<br>HC<br>Boston/Wellesley,<br>HC<br>Buffalo/Clarence,<br>HCG<br>Houston/West,<br>HC Kansas City,<br>HC Minneapolis/St.<br>Paul,<br>HCG New Orleans,<br>Kenner,<br>HC Orlando<br>HCG<br>Philadelphia/Sprin<br>g House,<br>HC Pittsburgh,<br>HC Portland/Lake | Prague   |

| <b>Country</b> | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the former Czechoslovakia</b> | <b>Diplomatic relations established with the Czech Republic</b> | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the Czech Republic</b>   | <b>Seat of the competent mission of the given state for the Czech Republic</b> |
|----------------|--|---|--|--|
|                |  |   | Oswego,<br>HC Salt Lake City,<br>HCG San Francisco,<br>HCG San Juan<br><i>NB: awaiting official opening: HC Livingston, HC Ontario, HC Salt Lake City. Opening of HC Honolulu under negotiation.</i> |  |
| Uzbekistan     | 1992   | 1993  | Tashkent   | Berlin   |
| Vanuatu        | no diplomatic relations  | 2002  | Canberra   | not designated   |
| Vatican        | 1920   | 1993  | Vatican  | Prague   |
| Venezuela      | 1929   | 1993  | Caracas<br>(HC Maracaibo)  | Prague   |
| Vietnam        | 1950   | 1993  | Hanoi<br>(HC Haiphong,<br>HC Ho Chi Min<br>City)   | Prague   |
| Yemen          | YAR 1956<br>PDRY 1968  | 1993  | Sana'a   | Prague   |
| Zambia         | 1965   | 1993  | Harare   | Berlin   |
| Zimbabwe       | 1981   | 1993  | Harare   | Vienna   |

NB:

- 1) State as at 31 December 2010.
- 2) The table does not give information about periods during which diplomatic relations were suspended.
- 3) The missions listed are the highest-ranking resident missions. Consulate Generals (CG), consulates headed by an honorary consular officer (HC), Consulate Generals headed by an honorary officer (HCG), and consulates are stated in brackets.
- 4) The data on diplomatic relations correspond to the current state of research.
- 5) The table does not show the differences between the establishment of diplomatic relations at envoy and ambassador level.

## Overview of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' contributions for the Czech Republic's membership of international organisations

### Membership of international organisations in the UN system

| Obligatory contributions to the UN budget     | MFA contribution in 2010 (CZK thousands) | Coordinator |
|---|--|-------------|
| UN regular budget                             | 161,627                                  | MFA         |
| Budgets of UN peacekeeping operations (total) | 310,215                                  | MFA         |

| Organisation  | MFA contribution in 2010 (CZK thousands) | Coordinator |
|---|--|-------------|
| FAO (Rome) – Food and Agricultural Organisation   | 26,308                                   | MA          |
| UNIDO (Vienna) – United Nations Industrial Development Organisation                                   | 7,545                                    | MFA         |
| IMO (London) – International Maritime Organisation  | 748                                      | MT          |
| ICAO (Montreal) – International Civil Aviation Organisation   | 2,224                                    | MT          |
| ITU (Geneva) – International Telecommunication Union  | 5,726                                    | MT          |
| UPU (Bern) – Universal Postal Union   | 3,750                                    | MT          |
| WHO (Geneva) – World Health Organisation  | 24,059                                   | MH          |
| ILO (Geneva) – International Labour Organisation  | 24,280                                   | MLSA        |
| WMO (Geneva) – World Meteorological Organisation  | 3,103                                    | ME/CHMO     |
| IAEA (Vienna) – International Atomic Energy Organisation  | 17568                                    | SONS        |
| special-purpose contribution  | 3,890                                    |             |
| PC CTBTO (Vienna) – Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organisation | 6,285                                    | SONS        |
| OPCW (The Hague) – Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons                               | 5,462                                    | SONS        |
| ISA (Jamaica) – International Seabed Authority  | 391                                      | MIT         |
| UNESCO (Paris) – UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation                                 | 25,314                                   | MFA         |
| UNWTO (Madrid) – UN World Tourism Organisation  | 3,081                                    | MRD         |

Acronyms: MFA = Ministry of Foreign Affairs; MA = Ministry of Agriculture; MT = Ministry of Transport; MH = Ministry of Health; MLSA = Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; ME = Ministry of the Environment; CHMO = Czech Hydrometeorological Office; SONS = State Office of Nuclear Safety; MIT = Ministry of Industry and Trade; MRD = Ministry for Regional Development; MEYS = Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports; MF= Ministry of Finance; GRC = General Directorate of Customs

## The Czech Republic's membership of international organisations in the field of multilateral economic relations

| Organisation  | Acronym / seat        | MFA contribution in 2010 (CZK thousands) | Coordinator |
|---|-----------------------|--|-------------|
| European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation                                    | EPPO / Paris          | 895                                      | MA          |
| European Civil Aviation Conference  | ECAC / Neuilly s. S.  | 556                                      | MT          |
| European Molecular Biology Conference   | EMBC / Heidelberg     | 3,218                                    | MEYS        |
| European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere                  | ESO/Garching          | 39,647                                   | MEYS        |
| European Organisation for Nuclear Research  | CERN / Geneva         | 214,464                                  | MEYS        |
| European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites                     | EUMETSAT/Darmstadt    | 45,781                                   | ME          |
| European Conference of Ministers of Transport   | CEMT / Paris          | 1,129                                    | MT          |
| International Energy Agency   | IEA / Paris           | 2,615                                    | MIT         |
| International Maritime Organisation   | IMO / Londýn          | 748                                      | MT          |
| International Criminal Police Organisation  | INTERPOL / Lyon       | 10,463                                   | MV          |
| International Labour Organisation   | ILO / Geneva          | 24,280                                   | MLSA        |
| International Civil Aviation Organisation   | ICAO / Montreal       | 2,224                                    | MT          |
| International Organisation of Vine and Wine   | OIV / Paris           | 515                                      | MA          |
| International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property | ICCROM / Rome         | 273                                      | MC          |
| International Telecommunication Union   | ITU / Geneva          | 5,726                                    | MI          |
| International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants                           | UPOV / Geneva         | 480                                      | MA          |
| International Organisation of Legal Metrology   | OIML / Paris          | 365                                      | MIT         |
| International Bureau of Weights and Measures  | BIPM / Paris          | 1,470                                    | MIT         |
| International Seabed Authority  | ISA / Kingston (Jam.) | 391                                      | MIT         |
| World Organisation for Animal Health  | OIE / Paris           | 1,428                                    | MA          |
| Bureau International des Expositions  | BIE / Paris           | 81                                       | MFA         |
| International Institute of Refrigeration  | IIR / Paris           | 475                                      | MIT         |
| Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail                           | OTIF / Bern           | 1,695                                    | MT          |
| Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development                                       | OECD / Paris          | 37,222                                   | MFA         |
| Special-purpose contributions:  |                       | 381                                      |             |
| - Directorate of Global Energy Dialogue   |                       | 635                                      |             |
| - Human Resources Development   |                       | 178                                      |             |
| - Programme Investment Compact for South-East Europe  |                       | 381                                      |             |
| - Environmental Fiscal Reform in Moldova  |                       | 1,269                                    |             |
| - Programme for EURASIA   |                       |  |             |
| Organisation for Cooperation of Railways  | OSJD / Warsaw         | 2,999                                    | MT          |
| Joint Institute for Nuclear Research  | JINR / Dubna (RF)     | 53,001                                   | MEYS        |
| Interoceanmetal Joint Organisation  | IOM / Szczecin        | 4,465                                    | MIT         |
| Permanent International Commission for Firearms Testing                                     | CIP / Liège           | 77                                       | MIT         |
| Central European Initiative   | SEI/Terst             | 606                                      | MFA         |
| World Customs Organisation  | WCO / Brussels        | 926                                      | MF/GRC      |
| World Meteorological Organisation   | WMO / Geneva          | 3,103                                    | ME          |
| World Trade Organisation  | WTO / Geneva          | 24,923                                   | MIT         |
| UN World Tourism Organisation   | UNWTO / Madrid        | 3,081                                    | MRD         |
| Universal Postal Union  | UPU / Bern            | 3,750                                    | MI          |

| <b>Organisation</b>                            | <b>Acronym / seat</b> | <b>MFA contribution in 2010 (CZK thousands)</b> | <b>Coordinator</b> |
|--|-----------------------|---|--------------------|
| International Union for Conservation of Nature | IUCN / Gland (Switz.) | 2,028   | ME                 |

## The Czech Republic's contributions to international organisations in the field of human rights and special-purpose contributions

| <b>Contribution name</b> | <b>Acronym</b> | <b>MFA contribution in 2010 (CZK thousands)</b> | <b>Coordinator</b> |
|--------------------------|----------------|---|--------------------|
| Council of Europe        | CE             | 60,538  | MFA                |

| <b>Special-purpose contributions – name</b>                          | <b>Acronym</b> | <b>MFA contribution in 2010 (CZK thousands)</b> | <b>Coordinator</b> |
|--|----------------|---|--------------------|
| Cash donation to the Terezín monument                                | ESLI           | 1,000   | MFA                |
| Community of Democracies   |                | 100   | MFA                |
| European Partnership for Democracy                                   | EPD            | 250   | MFA                |
| Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture                                | UNHCHR         | 200   | MFA                |
| Representative on Freedom of the Media                               | OSCE           | 250   | MFA                |
| Support for the working of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture | SPT UNHCHR     | 200   | MFA                |
| Regional Cooperation Council (West Balkans)                          | RCC            | 750   | MFA                |
| International Civilian Office (Kosovo)                               | ICO            | 5,000   | MFA                |
| Office of the High Representative (Bosnia)                           | OHR            | 816   | MFA                |

## Payments to organisations in the field of international law and certain others

| Name of international organisation or supranational body         | Acronym  | MFA contribution in 2010 (CZK thousands) | Contributions for 2010 (in currency of payment) |
|--|----------|--|---|
| Hague Conference on Private International Law                    | HCPIL    | 778                                      | 31,127 EUR                                      |
| International Institute for the Unification of Private Law       | UNIDROIT | 490                                      | 19,600 EUR                                      |
| International Humanitarian Fact-finding Commission               | IHFFC    | 22                                       | 1,221 CHF                                       |
| International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia        | ICTY     | 6,695                                    | 348,207 USD                                     |
| International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda                       | ICTR     | 5,371                                    | 279,336 USD                                     |
| International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea                    | ITLOS    | 1,015                                    | 40,683 EUR                                      |
| Permanent Court of Arbitration                                   | PCA      | 134                                      | 5,395 EUR                                       |
| World Intellectual Property Organisation                         | WIPO     | 2,501                                    | 136,737 CHF                                     |
| International Criminal Court                                     | ICC      | 14,107                                   | 544,687 EUR                                     |
| International Criminal Court – building (payment starts in 2011) | ICC      | 0.00                                     | 0.00  |
| International Red Cross  | ICRC     | 9,402                                    | 486,101 CHF                                     |

## Overview of the Czech Republic's participation in peacekeeping missions

### Participation of the Army of the Czech Republic's participation in foreign missions and operations

| Mission name                            | Leadership | Mission location          | Mandate for the participation of the Army of the CR |
|---|------------|---------------------------|---|
| ISAF                                    | NATO       | Afghanistan               | 535   |
| KFOR                                    | NATO       | Kosovo                    | 430 + 120 (reserve company in the Czech Republic)*  |
| ALTHEA                                  | EU         | Bosnia and Herzegovina    | 2   |
| ATALANTA                                | EU         | Coastal waters of Somalia | 3   |
| MFO (Multinational Force and Observers) |            | Sinai Peninsula           | 3   |

\* following the transformation of KFOR the profile of the involvement of the Army of the Czech Republic in Kosovo also changed. Since 1 October 2010 the Czech Republic has had a battalion of operational reserves (up to 550 persons) that is on stand-by in the territory of the Czech Republic and will be deployed in Kosovo if necessary.

### The Czech Republic's participation in civilian missions

| Mission name                     | Organisation | Mission location                   | Czech Republic's involvement                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|---|
| EUBAM                            | EU           | Moldova, Ukraine                   | 1 expert (customs officer)                                  |
| EULEX                            | EU           | Kosovo                             | 30 experts (police officers, psychologist, customs officer) |
| EUPM                             | EU           | Bosnia and Herzegovina             | 5 experts (police officers)                                 |
| EUMM                             | EU           | Georgia                            | 13 experts  |
| EUPOL                            | EU           | Afghanistan                        | 7 experts (police officers)                                 |
| EUPOL COPPS                      | EU           | Palestinian Autonomous Territories | 1 expert (police officer)                                   |
| EUJUST LEX                       | EU           | Iraq                               | 2 experts (of whom 1 police officer)                        |
| PT ICO                           | EU           | Kosovo                             | 1 expert (police officer)                                   |
| PRT Afghanistan preparatory team | NATO         | Afghanistan                        | 10 experts  |
| MONUC                            | OSN          | Democratic Republic of the Congo   | 3 experts (military observers)                              |
| UNAMA                            | OSN          | Afghanistan                        | 1 expert (military observer)                                |
| UNMIL                            | OSN          | Liberia                            | 5 experts (police officers)                                 |
| IPRM Georgia                     | OSN          | Geneva                             | 1 expert (police officer)                                   |
| UNMIK                            | OSN          | Kosovo                             | 1 expert (military observer)                                |



## The Czech Republic's participation in OSCE and EU observer missions

| MISSION – OSCE                            | SENT – LTO | SENT – STO |
|---|------------|------------|
| Ukraine 1st round – presidential election | 0          | 31         |
| Ukraine 2nd round – presidential election | 0          | 30         |
| Moldova – parliamentary election          | 0          | 5          |
| Tajikistan – parliamentary election       | 0          | 4          |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina – general election | 0          | 3          |
| Azerbaijan – general election             | 0          | 5          |
| Belarus – presidential election           |            | 6          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | <b>0</b>   | <b>84</b>  |

| MISSION – EU  | SENT – LTO | SENT – STO |
|---------------|------------|------------|
| Togo          | 2          | 4          |
| Sudan         | 3          | 2          |
| Burundi       | 2          | 1          |
| Ethiopia      | 5          | 2          |
| Guinea        | 1          | 3          |
| Tanzania      | 1          | 1          |
| Ivory Coast   | 2          | 4          |
| Sudan         | 1          | 0          |
| Kosovo (EUSR) | 0          | 7          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>17</b>  | <b>24</b>  |

\* LTO – long-term observer, \* STO – short-term observer

## Heads of Missions of the Czech Republic as at 31 December 2010

### Missions headed by ambassadors and chargés d'affaires

| country  | head of mission                             | date on which agrément granted           | date on which credentials presented        |
|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Islamic Republic of Afghanistan</b><br>Kabul  | <b>PELZ Petr</b><br>ambassador              | 27. 3. 2010                              | 3. 7. 2010                                 |
| <b>Republic of Albania</b><br>Tirana   | <b>FIALKOVÁ Markéta</b><br>ambassador       | 30. 8. 2007                              | 12. 10. 2007                               |
| <b>People's Democratic Republic of Algeria</b><br>Algiers<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Algeria<br>Mali   | <b>KLUCKÝ Pavel</b><br>ambassador           | 28. 8. 2009<br>13. 10. 2009              | 13. 12. 2009                               |
| <b>Argentine Republic</b><br>Buenos Aires<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Argentina<br>Paraguay<br>Uruguay  | <b>ZAJAC Štěpán</b><br>ambassador           | 10. 9. 2007<br>1. 10. 2007<br>4. 8. 2008 | 18. 4. 2008<br>25. 3. 2008<br>19. 11. 2008 |
| <b>Commonwealth of Australia</b><br>Canberra<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Australia<br>New Zealand<br>Cook Islands<br>Fiji<br>Samoa<br>Solomon Islands<br>Vanuatu<br>Tonga | <b>PECL Radim</b><br>chargé d'affaires a.i. |  |  |
| <b>Republic of Azerbaijan</b><br>Baku  | <b>MATULA Radek</b><br>ambassador           | 6. 6. 2008                               | 4. 7. 2008                                 |
| <b>Kingdom of Belgium</b><br>Brussels  | <b>MÜLLER Vladimír</b><br>ambassador        | 4.5.2006                                 | 10. 10. 2006                               |
| <b>Republic of Belarus</b><br>Minsk  | <b>KARAS Jiří</b><br>ambassador             | 27.7.2009                                | 15.9.2009                                  |
| <b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b><br>Sarajevo  | <b>SZUNYOG Tomáš</b><br>ambassador          | 27.7.2009                                | 7.10.2009                                  |
| <b>Federative Republic of Brazil</b><br>Brasília   | <b>JANČÁREK Ivan</b><br>ambassador          | 6.3.2008                                 | 6.11.2008                                  |
| <b>Republic of Bulgaria</b><br>Sofia   | <b>KLEPETKO Martin</b><br>ambassador        | 18.7.2006                                | 3.11.2006                                  |

| <b>country</b>   | <b>head of mission</b>                          | <b>date on which agrément granted</b>                         | <b>date on which credentials presented</b> |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>People's Republic of China</b><br>Beijing   | <b>SEČKA Libor</b><br>ambassador                | 4.8.2009  | 11.1.2010                                  |
| <b>Kingdom of Denmark</b><br>Copenhagen  | <b>LYČKA Zdeněk</b><br>ambassador               | 15.4.2008   | 7.7.2008                                   |
| <b>Arab Republic of Egypt</b><br>Cairo<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Egypt<br>Sudan   | <b>SLAVÍK Jiří</b><br>chargé d'affaires a.i.    |   |  |
| <b>Republic of Estonia</b><br>Tallinn  | <b>LANGER Alexandr</b><br>ambassador            | 6.5.2008  | 28.8.2008                                  |
| <b>Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia</b><br>Addis Ababa<br><br><i>Competence:</i><br>Ethiopia<br>Djibouti<br>Madagascar<br>African Union Commission<br>UN Economic Commission for Africa | <b>LIBŘICKÝ Marek</b><br>ambassador             | 29.7.2009   | 22.12.2009                                 |
| <b>Republic of the Philippines</b><br>Manila<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Philippines<br>Palau<br>Micronesia<br>Marshall Islands<br>Nauru  | <b>RYCHTAR Josef</b><br>ambassador              | 28.8.2009<br>31.8.2009<br>22.9.2009<br>27.1.2010<br>12.2.2010 | 13.11.2009                                 |
| <b>Republic of Finland</b><br>Helsinki   | <b>BAŽANT Lubomír</b><br>chargé d'affaires a.i. |   |  |
| <b>French Republic</b><br>Paris<br><i>Competence:</i><br>French Republic<br>Monaco   | <b>CHATARDOVÁ Marie</b><br>ambassador           | 5.5.2010<br>2.7.2010  | 3.12.2010                                  |
| <b>Republic of Ghana</b><br>Accra<br><br><i>Competence:</i><br>Ghana<br>Togo<br>Sierra Leone<br>Liberia<br>Côte d'Ivoire   | <b>MACHÁLEK Miloslav</b><br>ambassador          | 26.11.2009<br>23.2.2010<br>30.4.2010<br>6.1.2010              | 11.2.2010                                  |

| <b>country</b>   | <b>head of mission</b>                   | <b>date on which agrément granted</b>            | <b>date on which credentials presented</b> |
|--|--|--|--|
| Niger<br>Burkina Faso<br>Gambia<br>Guinea<br>Guinea-Bissau   |  | 15.1.2010  | 30.11.2010                                 |
| <b>Georgia</b><br>Tbilisi<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Georgia<br>Armenia  | <b>JESTŘÁB Ivan</b><br>ambassador        | 21.12.2007<br>29.2.2008                          | 24.4.2008<br>19.6.2008                     |
| <b>Republic of Chile</b><br>Santiago de Chile  | <b>KUBÁNEK Zdeněk</b><br>ambassador      | 5.11.2007  | 26.3.2008                                  |
| <b>Republic of Croatia</b><br>Zagreb   | <b>KŮHNL Karel</b><br>ambassador         | 23.7.2007  | 16.10.2007                                 |
| <b>Republic of India</b><br>Delhi<br><i>Competence:</i><br>India<br>Bangladesh<br>Sri Lanka<br>Nepal<br>Maldives | <b>STAŠEK Miloslav</b><br>ambassador     | 6.1.2010<br>9.9.2010<br>5.3.2010<br>3.2.2010     | 5.8.2010                                   |
| <b>Republic of Indonesia</b><br>Jakarta<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Indonesia<br>Brunei<br>East Timor<br>Singapore  | <b>ŘEZÁČ Pavel</b><br>ambassador         | 18.10.2006<br>17.4.2007<br>1.3.2007<br>6.10.2008 | 30.1.2007<br>26.3.2009                     |
| <b>Republic of Iraq</b><br>Baghdad   | <b>TOMÁŠOVÁ Bronislava</b><br>ambassador | 2.8.2009   | 17.10.2009                                 |
| <b>Islamic Republic of Iran</b><br>Tehran  | <b>HAVLAS Josef</b><br>chargé d'affaires |  |  |
| <b>Ireland</b><br>Dublin   | <b>KAFKA Tomáš</b><br>ambassador         | 28.4.2008  | 2.9.2008                                   |
| <b>Republic of Italy</b><br>Rome<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Italy<br>Malta   | <b>ZAVÁZAL Vladimír</b><br>ambassador    | 29.8.2006<br>4.10.2006                           | 15.12.2006<br>21.12.2006                   |
| <b>State of Israel</b><br>Tel Aviv   | <b>POJAR Tomáš</b><br>ambassador         | 8.12.2009  | 27.5.2010                                  |
| <b>Japan</b><br>Tokyo  | <b>FIALKOVÁ Kateřina</b><br>ambassador   | 22.7.2010  | 13.12.2010                                 |

| <b>country</b>  | <b>head of mission</b>                  | <b>date on which agrément granted</b>   | <b>date on which credentials presented</b>                    |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Republic of Yemen</b><br>Sana'a  | <b>VRABEC Jozef</b><br>ambassador       | 3.11.2007   | 18.3.2008   |
| <b>Republic of South Africa</b><br>Pretoria<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Republic of South Africa<br>Botswana<br>Namibia<br>Mauritius<br>Lesotho<br>Swaziland<br>Angola<br>Sao Tomas e Principe | <b>POHL Martin</b><br>ambassador        | 28.8.2007<br>30.11.2007<br>29.1.2008<br>13.12.2007<br>22.4.2008<br>9.5.2008<br>12.10.2010 | 4.10.2007<br>27.2.2008<br>26.3.2008<br>4.3.2008<br>29.10.2008 |
| <b>Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan</b><br>Amman   | <b>HOLOUBKOVÁ Ivana</b><br>ambassador   | 10.9.2006   | 5.6.2007  |
| <b>Canada</b><br>Ottawa   | <b>ŽEBRAKOVSKÝ Karel</b><br>ambassador  | 11.9.2008   | 21.10.2008  |
| <b>Republic of Kazakhstan</b><br>Astana<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Kazakhstan<br>Kyrgyzstan   | <b>KOPECKÝ Bedřich</b><br>ambassador    | 13.2.2008<br>11.4.2008  | 5.5.2008<br>26.8.2008   |
| <b>Republic of Kenya</b><br>Nairobi<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Kenya<br>Burundi<br>Comoros<br>Rwanda<br>Seychelles<br>Somalia<br>Tanzania<br>Uganda<br>Eritrea<br>UNEP<br>UNCHS               | <b>FUCHSOVÁ Margita</b><br>ambassador   | 26.11.2007<br>16.6.2008<br>16.1.2008<br>25.2.2008   | 16.4.2008<br>17.4.2009<br>22.7.2008<br>5.11.2008              |
| <b>Democratic Republic of the Congo</b><br>Kinshasa   | <b>DOLEŽEL Jiří</b><br>ambassador       | 27.11.2009  | 18.2.2010   |
| <b>Democratic People's Republic of Korea</b><br><br>Pyongyang   | <b>TOMČO Martin</b><br><br>ambassador   | 23.3.2006   | 29.6.2006   |
| <b>Republic of Korea</b><br>Seoul   | <b>OLŠA Jaroslav, jr.</b><br>ambassador | 19.3.2008   | 4.9.2008  |

| <b>country</b>  | <b>head of mission</b>                                  | <b>date on which agrément granted</b>                                      | <b>date on which credentials presented</b> |
|---|---|--|--|
| <b>Republic of Kosovo</b><br>Priština   | <b>HŘEBÍČKOVÁ Janina</b><br>chargé d'affaires           |  |  |
| <b>Republic of Costa Rica</b><br>San José<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Costa Rica<br>Honduras<br>Nicaragua<br>Panama<br>El Salvador<br>Belize | <b>PROCHÁZKA Pavel</b><br>ambassador                    | 25.6.2009<br>12.2.2010<br>13.8.2009<br>26.8.2009<br>17.8.2009<br>27.7.2009 | 6.10.2009                                  |
| <b>Republic of Cuba</b><br>Havana<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Cuba<br>Bahamas  | <b>JAKOBEC Milan</b><br>chargé d'affaires<br>ambassador | 22.4.2010  |  |
| <b>State of Kuwait</b><br>Kuwait City<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Kuwait<br>Qatar  | <b>VÁVRA Martin</b><br>ambassador                       | 24.8.2008<br>3.11.2008   | 1.12.2008<br>11.2.2009                     |
| <b>Republic of Cyprus</b><br>Nicosia  | <b>BONDY Jan</b><br>ambassador                          | 21.12.2006   | 18.5.2007                                  |
| <b>Republic of Lebanon</b><br>Beirut  | <b>ČÍŽEK Jan</b><br>ambassador                          | 27.7.2006  | 1.9.2006                                   |
| <b>Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Republic</b><br>Tripoli   | <b>KOUTSKÝ Josef</b><br>ambassador                      | 26.10.2009   | 24.2.2010                                  |
| <b>Republic of Lithuania</b><br>Vilnius   | <b>PECH Radek</b><br>ambassador                         | 17.8.2009  | 1.2.2010                                   |
| <b>Republic of Latvia</b><br>Riga   | <b>PŠTROSS Tomáš</b><br>ambassador                      | 30.8.2007  | 27.11.2007                                 |
| <b>Kingdom of Luxembourg</b><br>Luxembourg  | <b>KORSELT Vít</b><br>ambassador                        | 19.5.2010  | 20.10.2010                                 |
| <b>Republic of Hungary</b><br>Budapest  | <b>BAMBASOVÁ Helena</b><br>ambassador                   | 31.5.2010  | 27.9.2010                                  |
| <b>FYROM</b><br>Skopje  | <b>BRAUN Jozef</b><br>ambassador                        | 29.10.2007   | 20.3.2008                                  |
| <b>Malaysia</b><br>Kuala Lumpur<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Malaysia<br>Tuvalu<br>Papua New Guinea<br>Kiribati                               | <b>FŮRY Jan</b><br>ambassador                           | 14.5.2008<br>24.7.2008<br>6.2.2009<br>27.6.2008                            | 16.9.2008<br>14.7.2009                     |
| <b>Kingdom of Morocco</b><br>Rabat  | <b>BURIL Tomáš</b><br>ambassador                        |  |  |

| <b>country</b>  | <b>head of mission</b>   | <b>date on which agrément granted</b>                          | <b>date on which credentials presented</b> |
|---|--|--|--|
| <i>Competence:</i><br>Morocco<br>Mauritania<br>Senegal  |  | 31.10.2007<br>23.11.2007<br>20.11.2007                         | 29.2.2008<br>23.6.2008<br>9.7.2008         |
| <b>United Mexican States</b><br>Mexico City<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Mexico<br>Guatemala  | <b>HAVLÍK Jiří</b><br>ambassador   | 20.9.2007<br>20.2.2008   | 8.5.2008<br>2.10.2008                      |
| <b>Republic of Moldova</b><br>Chisinau  | <b>KVAPIL Jaromír</b><br>ambassador                                      | 18.8.2009  | 29.1.2010                                  |
| <b>Mongolia</b><br>Ulaanbaatar  | <b>JÍLEK Václav</b><br>ambassador  | 16.4.2008  | 21.7.2008                                  |
| <b>Federal Republic of Germany</b><br>Berlin  | <b>JINDRÁK Rudolf</b><br>ambassador                                      | 13.10.2006   | 11.12.2006                                 |
| <b>Federal Republic of Nigeria</b><br>Abuja<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Nigeria<br>Benin<br>Chad<br>Cameroon<br>Equatorial Guinea<br>Gabon | <b>SIRO Jaroslav</b><br>ambassador                                       | 17.12.2007<br>18.12.2007<br>22.4.2010<br>7.4.2008<br>13.3.2009 | 15.2.2008<br>7.8.2008<br>29.7.2009         |
| <b>Kingdom of the Netherlands</b><br>The Hague  | <b>HORÁK Jaroslav</b><br>ambassador                                      | 4.6.2010   | 8.9.2010                                   |
| <b>Kingdom of Norway</b><br>Oslo<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Norway<br>Iceland   | <b>NOVÝ Luboš</b><br>ambassador  | 27.4.2007<br>15.5.2007   | 23.8.2007<br>12.1.2008                     |
| <b>United Nations</b><br>New York Permanent Mission   | <b>PALOUŠ Martin</b><br>ambassador                                       |  | 11.9.2006                                  |
| <b>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation</b><br>Paris Permanent Mission to UNESCO                            | <b>KAISEROVÁ Halka</b><br>Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic |  | note of appointment                        |
| <b>Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development</b><br>Paris Permanent Mission to OECD   | <b>DYBA Karel</b><br>ambassador  |  | note of appointment tendered<br>10.10.2007 |
| <b>Islamic Republic of Pakistan</b><br>Islamabad  | <b>ŠEPELÁK Pavol</b><br>ambassador                                       | 16.12.2008   | 9.4.2009                                   |
| <b>Republic of Peru</b><br>Lima   | <b>BECHNÝ Pavel</b><br>chargé d'affaires a.i.                            |  |  |

| <b>country</b>  | <b>head of mission</b>                           | <b>date on which agrément granted</b> | <b>date on which credentials presented</b>      |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Competence:</i><br>Peru<br>Colombia<br>Bolivia<br>Ecuador                                      |  | 17.3.2006<br><br>18.5.2006            | 1.6.2006<br><br>2.4.2007                        |
| <b>Republic of Poland</b><br>Warsaw   | <b>SECHTER Jan</b><br>ambassador                 | 5.5.2008                              | 22.7.2008                                       |
| <b>Portuguese Republic</b><br>Lisbon<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Portugal<br>Cape Verde              | <b>ŠARBOCHOVÁ Markéta</b>                        | 5.8.2009<br>23.9.2009                 | 15.10.2009<br>30.1.2010                         |
| <b>Council of Europe</b><br>Strasbourg Permanent Mission  | <b>BOČEK Tomáš</b>                               |                                       |   |
| <b>Republic of Austria</b><br>Vienna  | <b>KOUKAL Jan</b><br>ambassador                  | 26.9.2006                             | 28.11.2006                                      |
| <b>Romania</b><br>Bucharest   | <b>ŠITLER Jiří</b><br>ambassador                 | 3.6.2010                              | 14.12.2010                                      |
| <b>Russian Federation</b><br>Moscow<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Russia<br>Turkmenistan               | <b>KOLÁŘ Petr</b><br>ambassador                  | 6.7.2010                              |   |
| <b>Hellenic Republic</b><br>Athens  | <b>ŠEVČÍKOVÁ Hana</b><br>ambassador              | 3.6.2010                              | 3.11.2010                                       |
| <b>Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</b><br>Riyadh<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Saudi Arabia<br>Bahrain<br>Oman | <b>HLADÍK Lubomír</b><br>ambassador              | 6.11.2008<br>21.12.2008<br>6.1.2009   | 11.1.2009<br>20.10.2009<br>23.11.2009           |
| <b>Slovak Republic</b><br>Bratislava  | <b>KARFÍK Jakub</b><br>ambassador                | 20.8.2009                             | 21.10.2009                                      |
| <b>Republic of Slovenia</b><br>Ljubljana  | <b>VOZNICA Petr</b><br>ambassador                | 31.7.2009                             | 6.10.2009                                       |
| <b>United Arab Emirates</b><br>Abu Dhabi  | <b>LUDVA Jaroslav</b><br>ambassador              | 25.10.2009                            | 17.5.2010                                       |
| <b>United States of America</b><br>Washington   | <b>KOŠTOVAL Daniel</b><br>chargé d'affaires a.i. |                                       |   |
| <b>Republic of Serbia</b><br>Belgrade<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Serbia<br>Montenegro               | <b>HUBÁČKOVÁ Hana</b><br>ambassador              | 5.12.2007<br>4.2.2008                 | 18.3.2008<br>16.5.2008                          |
| <b>NATO</b><br><br><b>Permanent Delegation</b>  | <b>POVEJŠIL Martin</b><br><br>ambassador         |                                       | note of<br>appointment<br>tendered<br>25.8.2009 |



| country   | head of mission                      | date on which agrément granted     | date on which credentials presented |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Brussels  |                                      |                                    |                                     |
| <b>European Union<br/>Permanent Representation to<br/>the EU</b><br>Brussels                                    | <b>VICENOVÁ Milena</b><br>ambassador |                                    | took office on<br>7.1.2008          |
| <b>Holy See</b><br>Vatican<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Holy See<br>Sovereign Military Order of Malta<br>San Marino | <b>VOŠALÍK Pavel</b><br>ambassador   | 30.4.2008<br>30.6.2008<br>9.7.2008 | 27.9.2008<br>26.2.2009<br>3.2.2009  |
| <b>Syrian Arab Republic</b><br>Damascus   | <b>FILIPÍ Eva</b><br>ambassador      | 10.6.2010                          | 7.10.2010                           |

| country  | head of mission                                    | date on which agrément granted                   | date on which credentials presented             |
|--|--|--|---|
| <b>Kingdom of Spain</b><br>Madrid<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Spain<br>Andorra<br><br>UNWTO                     | <b>BERAN Karel</b><br>ambassador                   | 28.7.2009<br>6.8.2009                            | 5.10.2009<br>16.11.2009                         |
| <b>Kingdom of Sweden</b><br>Stockholm  | <b>KÁRA Jan</b><br>ambassador                      | 11.9.2007  | 28.11.2007                                      |
| <b>Swiss Confederation</b><br>Bern   | <b>LAZAR Boris</b><br>ambassador                   | 28.1.2008  | 11.4.2008                                       |
| <b>Kingdom of Thailand</b><br>Bangkok<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Thailand<br>Cambodia<br>Laos<br>Myanmar/Burma | <b>HOTĚK Ivan</b><br>ambassador                    | 6.9.2006<br>23.1.2007<br>21.11.2006<br>29.6.2007 | 26.8.2007<br>19.4.2007<br>31.1.2007<br>9.7.2008 |
| <b>Republic of Tunisia</b><br>Tunis  | <b>SLABÝ Alexander</b><br>ambassador               | 17.7.2009  | 19.11.2009                                      |
| <b>Republic of Turkey</b><br>Ankara  | <b>HUBINGER Václav</b><br>ambassador               | 30.12.2009                                       | 21.4.2010                                       |
| <b>Ukraine</b><br>Kiev   | <b>PIVOŇKA Vítězslav</b><br>chargé d'affaires a.i. |  |   |
| <b>Republic of Uzbekistan</b><br>Tashkent<br><i>Competence:</i><br>Uzbekistan<br>Tajikistan                  | <b>KOPECKÝ Robert</b><br>ambassador                | 9.7.2010<br>22.10.2008<br>14.1.2008              | 28.9.2010<br>3.2.2009<br>20.4.2009              |
| <b>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</b><br>London  | <b>ŽANTOVSKÝ Michael</b><br>ambassador             | 7.9.2009   | 10.12.2009                                      |



## General consulates/consulates

| <b>Country</b>                                    | <b>Consulate General</b>  | <b>In office since:</b> |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>United States of America</b><br>Chicago        | <b>HUŇÁTOVÁ Dana</b>      | 25.8.2010               |
| <b>United States of America</b><br>Los Angeles    | <b>KUMERMANN Daniel</b>   | 31.10.2006              |
| <b>United States of America</b><br>New York       | <b>ŽIGOVÁ Eliška</b>      | 15.9.2008               |
| <b>Commonwealth of Australia</b><br>Sydney        | <b>KOLÁŘ Vít</b>          | 17.6.2006               |
| <b>Federative Republic of Brazil</b><br>Sao Paulo | <b>KÁZECKÝ Stanislav</b>  | 1.12.2006               |
| <b>People's Republic of China</b><br>Hong Kong    | <b>KANTŮREK Jaroslav</b>  | 10.1.2010               |
| <b>People's Republic of China</b><br>Shanghai     | <b>MAZÁNEK Bohumil</b>    | 7.8.2008                |
| <b>Republic of India</b><br>Mumbai                | <b>DRDÁKOVÁ Eva</b>       | 31.1.2007               |
| <b>Canada</b><br>Toronto                          | <b>KRPAČ Richard</b>      | 27.1.2007               |
| <b>Federal Republic of German</b><br>Dresden      | <b>KREJČÍKOVÁ Jarmila</b> | 6.1.2010                |
| <b>Federal Republic of German</b><br>Munich       | <b>HLOBIL Josef</b>       | 7.9.2009                |
| <b>Russian Federation</b><br>Yekaterinburg        | <b>RAMEŠ Miroslav</b>     | 9.4.2008                |
| <b>Russian Federation</b><br>Saint Petersburg     | <b>CHARANZA Karel</b>     | 6.9.2010                |
| <b>Republic of Turkey</b><br>Istanbul             | <b>KRASNICKÁ Irena</b>    | 1.4.2010                |
| <b>Ukraine</b><br>Donetsk                         | <b>MURGAŠ Antonín</b>     | 15.1.2007               |
| <b>Ukraine</b><br>Lvov                            | <b>PAVLITA David</b>      | 20.7.2009               |

## Other types of mission

| <b>Mission</b>   | <b>Head of Mission</b>                | <b>In office since:</b> |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Czech Economic and Cultural Office (CECO) Taipei</b>              | <b>KOUDELKA Juraj</b><br>Head of CECO | 15.1.2010               |
| <b>Palestinian Autonomous Territories</b><br>Ramallah Liaison Office | <b>ŠILHAVÝ Ivo</b>                    | 15.2.2008               |

## Consular offices

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Logar/Afghanistan    | operated for personnel of the Army of the Czech Republic until the holding of elections to the Chamber of Deputies of Parliament of the Czech Republic |
| Podgorica/Montenegro | permanent operation in the territory of Montenegro since 15. 6. 2008   |
| Burgas/Bulgaria      | operated during the summer tourist season from 15. 6. to 15. 9. 2010   |
| Split/Croatia        | operated during the summer tourist season from 15. 6. to 15. 9. 2010   |
| Rijeka/Croatia       | operated during the summer tourist season from 15. 6. to 15. 9. 2010   |
| Barcelona/Spain      | operated during the summer tourist season from 15. 6. to 15. 9. 2010   |

## **Placement of MFA staff within the framework of international organisations**

### **EU civilian missions**

#### *EULEX Kosovo*

Hana Klimešová

Lenka Kousalová

#### *EUMM Georgia*

Ivo Sedliak

Ladislav Procházka

Jiří Rolenc

Miloslav Rokos

Zlatko Kožušník

Jaroslav Petr

Milan Boldi

*In total 13 persons were sent to EUMM on behalf of the Czech Republic in 2010. Seven of them were sent through the MFA; the others were sent from the Ministry of Defence (2), the Police Presidium (2) and the Ministry of the Interior (1).*

#### *EUJUST LEX Iraq*

Libor Chlad

#### *EUPOL Afghanistan*

Eva Svobodová

### **Secondments in EU institutions**

Eva Martinicová EUROPEAN COMMISSION – DG MARKT

Šárka Vamberová EUROPEAN COMMISSION – DG ELARG

Leoš Javůrek EUROPEAN COMMISSION – DG ELARG

Andreas Wild EUROPEAN COMMISSION – DG TREN

Lucie Lekešová EUROPEAN COMMISSION – DG EAC

Marek Janovský EUROPEAN COMMISSION – DG RELEX

Milana Ličková (DESP) EUROPEAN COMMISSION – DG RELEX

Petr Dubovec DEU Riyadh

Renata Brandstätterová DEU Beijing

## **OSCE**

*OSCE Nagorno-Karabakh*

Jiří Aberle

*OSCE Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Eva Kubičková

*OSCE Albania*

Milan Bitto

*OSCE Macedonia*

Veronika Kristková

*OSCE Secretariat in Vienna*

Hana Šnajdrová

Prague Office of the OSCE

Jiří Parkmann

## **Office of the NATO Senior Civilian Representative for Afghanistan**

Bohumila Ranglová

## **KFOR Kosovo**

Robert Kahofer

## **Offices of the EU Special Representatives (EUSR)**

*EUSR for Moldova (Kiev)*

Zdeňka Caisová

EUSR for Central Asia (Tashkent)

Jozef Buzalka

## **European External Action Service (EEAS)**

### *DEU New York*

Petra Ruffer-Lustigová

Alice Soukupová

### *DEU Geneva*

Radka Pátalová

Jiří Blažek

### *DEU Vienna*

Michal Strouhal

### *DEU Strasbourg*

Kateřina Markovová

### *GS Council of the EU – Policy Unit*

Jan Šnidauf



## Laureates of the Gratias Agit Award 2010

### Individuals

- Nataša Al Rádí Cimbálová, *Irák/Iraq*
- Alfred Bader, *Spojené státy americké/United States of America*
- Giovanni Cardinal Coppa, *Vatikán/The Holy See*
- Zdeněk Radslav Dittrich, *Nizozemsko/The Netherlands*
- Lubomír Doležel, *Kanada/Canada*
- Jan Drahota, *Jihoafriká republika/Republic of South Africa*
- Hans Eibauer, *Německo/Germany*
- Manfred Linsbauer, *Rakousko/Austria*
- Donka Rousová, *Makedonie/Macedonia/FYROM*
- Alfredo Gerhard Sobotka, *Brazílie/Brazil*
- František Šedý, *Lucembursko/Luxembourg*
- Gert Weisskirchen, *Německo/Germany*

### Organisations

- Lyceum Carnot Dijon and Lyceum A. Daudet Nîmes, *Francie/France*
- Nové divadlo, *Kanada/Canada*

## Czech Centres

|     | <b>Czech Centre</b>                | <b>Director</b>   |
|-----|------------------------------------|---|
| 1.  | CC Berlin                          | Ing. Martin Krafl   |
| 2.  | CC Bratislava                      | PhDr. Jana Burianová  |
| 3.  | CC Brussels                        | until 06.2010 Mgr. Petr Polívka , from 10.2010 RnDr. Karel Peroutka           |
| 4.  | CC Buenos Aires                    | Mgr. Daniela Čapková  |
| 5.  | CC Budapest                        | Michal Černý  |
| 6.  | CC Bucharest                       | acting head until 09.2010 Vít Prudil, from 10.2010 director Ing. René Kubášek |
| 7.  | <i>CC Dresden – until 3.2010 *</i> | Mgr. Hana Klabanová   |
| 8.  | CC Düsseldorf – from 5.2010        | Mgr. Hana Klabanová   |
| 9.  | CC The Hague/Rotterdam             | Mgr. Petra Prinsová   |
| 10. | CC Košice                          | JUDr. Kateřina Novotná  |
| 11. | CC Kiev                            | Ing. Rudolf Sedláček  |
| 12. | CC London                          | MgA. Ladislav Pflimpfl  |
| 13. | CC Madrid                          | until 06.2010 PhDr. Adriana Krásová, from 09.2010 Mgr. Věra Zátopková         |
| 14. | CC Munich                          | Mgr. Zuzana Jürgens Ph.D  |
| 15. | CC-CH Moscow                       | Mgr. Ing. Miloš Jaro  |
| 16. | CC New York                        | PhDr. Petr Fejk   |
| 17. | CC Paris                           | Martin Jan Bonhard  |
| 18. | <i>CC Rome – until 06.2010 *</i>   | JUDr. Ing. Miloslav Hirsch  |
| 19. | CC Milan – from 07.2010            | JUDr. Ing. Miloslav Hirsch  |
| 20. | CC Sofia                           | Mgr. Alena Ungrová – acting head  |
| 21. | CC Stockholm                       | Lucie Svobodová, BA, MSc.   |
| 22. | CC Tel Aviv                        | Bc. David Stecher   |
| 23. | CC Tokyo                           | Mgr. Petr Holý  |
| 24. | CC Warsaw                          | Mgr. Pavla Foglová  |
| 25. | CC Vienna                          | Mgr. Taťána Langášková  |

\* *closed*

More information can be found on the web site [Czech Centres](#).

## **Publications by units of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Zpráva o zahraniční politice České republiky, leden – December 2009 (CD) – in Czech, ISBN no.: 978-80-86345-99-4

Report on the Foreign Policy of the Czech Republic, January – December 2009 (CD) – in English, ISBN no.: 978-80-7441-000-0

Study of runoff conditions in Khoshi catchments, Logar district Afghanistan, in English, ISBN no.: 978-80-86-345-92-5

Studie odtokových poměrů v povodí Khoshi, provincie Lógar, Afghánistán, in Czech, ISBN no.: 978-80-86345-93-2

Assessment of Technical Condition of Kherwar Dam – Feasibility Study, in Czech and English, ISBN no.: 978-80-86345-94-9

Micro-Hydro Power Station in Charkh District – Feasibility Study, in Czech and English, ISBN no.: 978-80-86345-95-6

Construction Project Management Handbook (To provide guidelines to PRT civil engineers undertaking constructions projects in Afghanistan), in English, ISBN no.: 978-80-86345-96-3

The Czech Republic. National Commission for UNESCO, in English, ISBN no.: 978-80-86345-97-0

Laureáti Ceny Gratis Agit 2010 (2010 Gratis Agit Awards Laureates), in Czech and English, published in cooperation with the company SEVT, ISBN no.: 978-80-86345-91-8

Česká republika pomáhá, podtitul Zahraniční rozvojová spolupráce České republiky v roce 2009, in Czech, published by MFA, ISBN no.: 978-80-86345-98-7

Czech Development Cooperation - Report on the Development Cooperation of the Czech Republic in 2009", in English, published by MFA, ISBN 978-80-86345-98-7

### **Without ISBN**

Water Management in Czech Development Cooperation

Czech Development Cooperation

Koncepce zahraniční rozvojové spolupráce České republiky na období 2010 - 2017

The Development Strategy of the Czech Republic 2010 – 2017

Zákon o zahraniční rozvojové spolupráci a humanitární pomoci

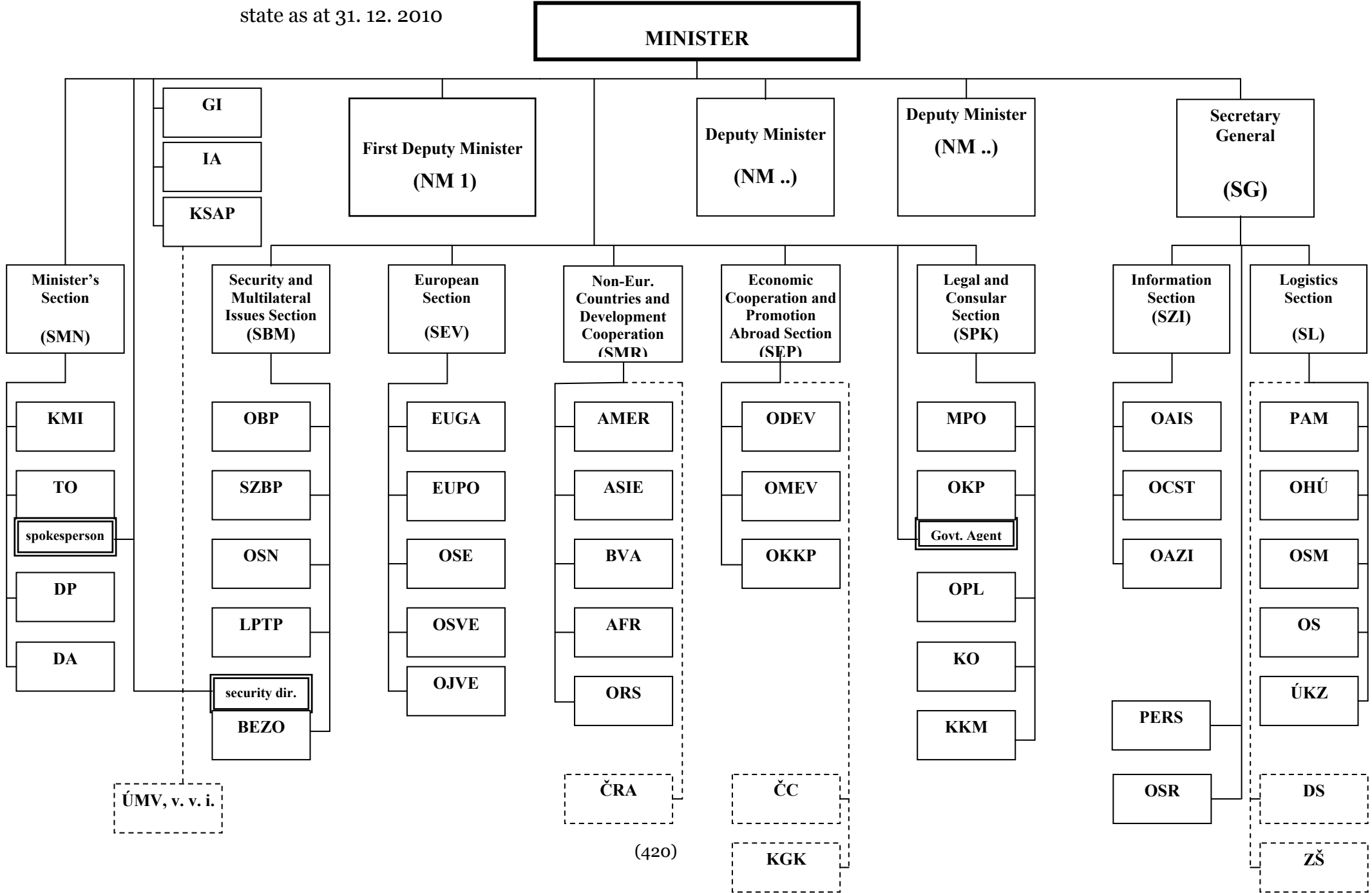
The Act on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid

Národní strategie globálního rozvojového vzdělávání pro období 2011 – 2015, MZV Praha

National Strategy for Global Development Education 2011 - 2015, MFA Prague

# Organisational Chart of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

state as at 31. 12. 2010



## **Acronyms of MFA units valid as at 31 December 2010**

### ***Secretariats of the deputy ministers and secretary general***

1. secretariat of the first deputy minister – NM1

2. secretariat of the deputy minister – NMDT

(the third and fourth letter are derived from the initials of the name of deputy minister Tomáš Dub)

3. secretariat of the deputy minister – NMGV

(the third and fourth letter are derived from the initials of the name of deputy minister Vladimír Galuška)

4. secretariat of the secretary general – GSE

### ***Secretariats of departments directly subordinated to the minister***

1. internal audit – IA

2. general inspection – GI

3. strategy, analysis and planning office – KSAP

### ***Minister's Section***

1. secretariat of the director general of the minister's section – SMN

2. minister's cabinet – KMI

3. diplomatic protocol – DP

4. press spokesperson's department – TO

5. diplomatic academy – DA

### ***European Section***

1. secretariat of the director general of the European relations section – SEV

2. EU general affairs department – EUGA

3. EU polices department – EUPO

4. Central Europe department – OSE

5. North and East Europe department – OSVE

6. South and South East Europe department – OJVE

### ***Security & Multilateral Issues Section***

1. secretariat of the director general – SBM
2. security policy department – OBP
3. EU common foreign policy and security department – SZBP
4. United Nations department – OSN
5. human rights and transformation policy department – LPTP
6. security department – BEZO

### ***Non-European Countries and Development Cooperation Section***

1. secretariat of the director general of the non-European countries and development cooperation section – SMR
2. American department – AMER
3. Asia and Pacific department – ASIE
4. Middle East and North Africa department – BVA
5. Sub-Saharan Africa department – AFR
6. development cooperation and humanitarian aid department – ORS

### ***Economic Cooperation and Promotion Abroad Section***

1. secretariat of the director general of the economic cooperation and promotion abroad section – SEP
2. bilateral economic relations and export promotion department – ODEV
3. multilateral economic relations department – OMEV
4. department for culture, communication and presentation – OKKP

### ***Legal and Consular Section***

1. secretariat of the director general of the legal and consular section – SPK
2. international law department – MPO
3. European Community law department – OKP
4. legislative and legal department – OPL
5. consular department – KO
6. consular policy and methodology department – KKM

### ***Information Section***

1. secretariat of the director general of the information section – SZI
2. applications and IT services department – OAIS

3. central systems and technologies department – OCST
4. administration and information processing department – OAZI

### ***Logistics Section***

1. secretariat of the director general of the logistics section – SL
2. labour law and payment department – PAM
3. chief accountant's department – OHÚ
4. property management department – OSM
5. services department – OS
6. procurement coordinator's office – ÚKZ

### **Acronyms of organisations founded by the MFA**

ÚMV – Ústav mezinárodních vztahů (International Relations Institute)

ČC – Česká centra (Czech Centres)

DS – Diplomatický servis (Diplomatic Service)

ZŠ – Zámek Štiřín (Štiřín Castle)

KGK – Kancelář generálního komisaře účasti ČR na Všeobecné světové výstavě EXPO (Office of the Commissioner General for the Czech Republic's Participation at EXPO)

ČRA – Česká rozvojová agentura (Czech Development Agency)

Report on the Foreign Policy of the Czech Republic 2010

© Ministerstvo zahraničních věcí ČR, [www.mzv.cz](http://www.mzv.cz)

Texts: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Prague, July 2011

ISBN: 978-80-7441-002-4