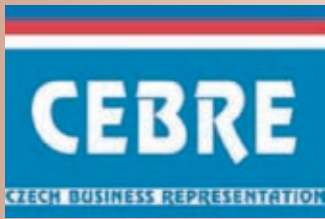


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Czech Business Today

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Attractive
immigration
policy



Czech House
opening



BISONet
- Czech CIP
network



Attractive immigration policy

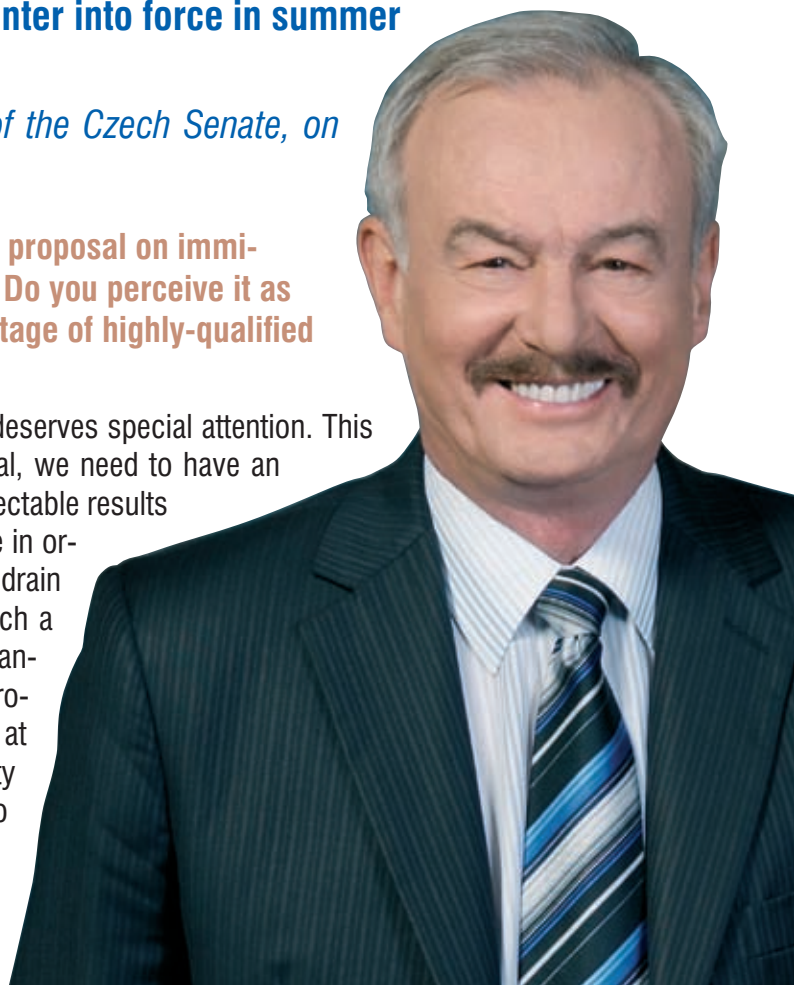
The Czech Government has recently designed a framework of well-managed immigration policy which aims to attract highly qualified workers from third countries (outside of the EU and EFTA) through simplifying and accelerating admission procedure of this category of immigrants. The proposal submitted to both Chambers of Parliament – Chamber of Deputies and Senate, should enter into force in summer 2008 at the latest.

Interview with Přemysl Sobotka, the President of the Czech Senate, on the new immigration policy proposal.

Mr. President, do you support the new Government proposal on immigration policy? What kind of result can we expect? Do you perceive it as an effective tool able to reply to an increasing shortage of highly-qualified workers?

Every proposal that aims to boost the economic growth deserves special attention. This proposal is one of them. Anytime we examine a proposal, we need to have an overall view on the concept. We go through its goals, expectable results and impacts. Therefore, I ask myself what has to be done in order to enhance our workers' qualification, avoid the brain-drain phenomena and motivate them to stay. It means that such a problem is more complex than it seems and we cannot answer in a simple way – we are in favour or against this proposal. Series of additional measures has to be engaged at the same time. However we cannot leave out the possibility of third-countries nationals' inflow, especially of those who are highly qualified.

(see page 2)





Interview with
**Přemysl
Sobotka**
President
of the Czech Senate

Czech employers, specifically the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic, have been drawing attention to this problem for several years. Why do you think the preparations of such concept, called Green Cards, started so late? The unemployment in the Czech Republic has broken the 6% mark and it is nearing the „economically sustainable level“.

This is a good question, nevertheless it should be addressed to those who were at the helm during past years. This problem has not appeared last two years but it has, even in a latent way, been growing for several years. The reason why the former Government did not submit such a proposal is that it had no capacity to deal with it. Now, we are on the edge of looking for effective solutions. Though, we are limited on time and there is risk of unsystematic work.

Are you thinking of accelerating the adoption of such proposals?

We have not been asked to do so. We will decide on the basis of the situation and arguments provided. Well, personally I do not believe in any acceleration of the legislative process in this case. The Constitution requires 30 days-discussion in the Senate that I consider that a sufficient time to get acquainted with the text.

It is not going to be unnecessarily expensive and predestined to fail? The Czech pilot project which has already taken place in the previous years was not very successful. What kind of guarantee do you have that it will be different this time? Are you thinking of involving the embassies or are you relying on an additional help provided by the newly established authority – Coordination committee. Or do you rather believe that only simplified and shortened admission procedures will be the right solution?

Now we are going back to the first question. In

general, I am rather sceptical about this kind of proposals. I perceive them as solutions going above the framework of market life. In other words, it is better to promote well-balanced solutions having direct link to the market mechanism and being simply measurable by economic indicators.

The new proposal on green cards is seen as a short-term solution to the shortage of skilled workers. Do you believe it could be also helpful in solving the problem of ageing population (deepening the pension system crisis)?

Now, we are touching very complex issues. According to my opinion, there have been a sort of negligence and unwillingness of former socialists' governments to deal with the pension reform and other relevant issues. Short-term solutions always pose risks; they are not homogeneous with the overall context. I am convinced that the so-called green cards are not up to figure out the problem of current pension system suffering from increasing dependency ratio.

Since we want to attract specialists and university-educated technicians willing to settle here for a permanent stay, does the proposal deal with the possibility of extending the Green Cards project to the university students. At the Confederation of Industry Congress, held at the beginning of October, the Czech Prime Minister Mr. Topolánek and Czech Ministers have been asked the same question. Has anyone addressed this possibility?

Not in the Senate. We are not legislatively active in this respect but we are going to examine the draft law in details. It is possible that the Senate might propose some amendments. As I am not familiar with an outline of this draft, I am not able today to say what these amendments will be and what will they relate to. I personally think we also need third countries top university students.

If the overall EU, which is currently preparing the concept of Blue Cards, opens up to third countries nationals what tools will have the Czech Republic to attract highly skilled workers interested in working in Europe?

I believe that the Czech Republic has something to offer. Our economy is doing very well and we can offer a good standard living which is constantly growing. I am not worried about the lack of interest of third countries nationals in working here; besides, it is clear that nowadays we are perceived as an attractive country for some immigrants. On the other hand, it is necessary to pay attention to the matter and we cannot omit any aspects. But I would be repeating myself...

Won't the higher mobility within the EU increase the competitiveness? A permit granted in an EU member state will under certain conditions allow the worker to move in another member state inside of the internal market

We are part of the EU and we believe in this „family“. There is no reason to fear the competition. On the contrary, it is beneficial for every economy.

Are these two systems, the Czech Green Cards and the EU Blue Cards, going to support one another? If not, why is the Czech Republic preparing it?

Once we will be familiarized with the concrete proposal, it will be possible to answer this question. Only in that time we will be able to address issues such as if and how to interconnect the two systems.

Thank you for the interview.

Blanka Růžičková
Confederation of Industry
of the Czech Republic

The industry will not do without a controlled migration

Few weeks ago, the European Commission and the Czech Government addressed the same issue, which has become one of the concerns of the EU industry, i.e. the lack of labor force. The answer from Brussels is the project of the so-called blue cards, which will enable an access to the EU labor market to highly skilled third countries nationals, and which will ensure to them the same conditions in all EU member states. Prior to the realization of project, workers will come to the Czech Republic with the so-called green cards, which were proposed for an approval by the Czech Government.



Qualified estimates warn that Europe will be approximately 20 million qualified workers short in the next 20 years; 400 thousand for the Czech Republic alone. However, the situation is already serious today. Czech Employment Offices report around 133 thousand vacancies, and additional tens of thousands of specialized positions are inquired directly by businesses.

Workers from Central and Eastern Europe, which were part of the solution to the lack of personnel in the recent years, are gradually starting to return to their rapidly growing home economies. The company Škoda Auto currently employs approximately four thousand temporaries mainly from Poland and Slovakia, however, it is also aware of the fact that these people are going to return back home, and that it is therefore going to be necessary to replace them.

The company Škoda Auto is experiencing problems with the lack of workers in spite of the fact that it is the only Czech company to operate

its own University as well as a training center. In Mladá Boleslav, i.e. the seat of the main plant, the unemployment rate for males is below two percent; the situation is similar in other Czech plants. The unemployment rate throughout the Czech Republic, as well as in Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary, has recently hit the record lows. The scarcity of labor is currently the biggest barrier of growth of the Czech economy, and the situation will become similar throughout the European Union.

However, in case a Czech company wants to hire a specialist from a state outside of the EU today, the application process often takes as long as six months. It would be possible to obtain the green card within 30 days, and its holder would, in addition to a working permit, be granted a residence permit for two years. In certain cases, applicants would not have to apply at Czech consulates abroad, however, directly in the Czech Republic. In case of an employment termination, green card holders would not have to leave the country, but he would have up to two months to find another job in the same field.

In my opinion, the concerns about negative consequences of the controlled immigration of foreign workers are partly unfounded and partly solvable. According to official statistics, there are around 210 thousand foreign nationals currently working legally in the Czech Republic. However, the actual number is estimated to be at least twice that. Many of the illegal workers are unqualified workmen; some of them commit criminal acts in the Czech Republic. The green cards are, on the other hand, intended for high-school and university graduates from third countries. If sanctions for illegal work are simultaneously tightened, the resulting effect will also be positive even with regard to safety and criminality.

When issuing the cards, Czech authorities must consider safety as well as cultural risks, and the religious background of immigrants. The cultural integration of foreign workers will undoubtedly represent an issue, to which a great deal of attention will have to be paid – not only on the part of the businesses, but also on the part of the state as well as municipalities. In my opinion, we should consider an implementation of a program aimed at intercultural and language training of these foreign workers in the Czech Republic, which could even be co-financed from the European Social Fund.

The concerns that foreign nationals would take jobs away from Czech nationals are unfounded. The condition for occupying a vacant working position with a green card holder will be the fact that it would not be possible to get any Czech citizen and/or EU citizen for the given job for at least one year. Current statistics clearly indicate that Czech people are not interested in many working positions. At the same time, there are number of sectors, where the demand after labor significantly exceeds the supply of the Czech population. In addition to the chronic shortage of IT experts, this excess demand exists for many positions important to the Czech industry, e.g. constructors.

I honestly believe that the system of green cards will help Czech as well as EU businesses in ensuring the necessary level of production, and that it will contribute to an enhanced competitiveness of the European economy.

Martin Jahn
Vice-President of the Confederation of Industry
of the Czech Republic
Member of the Board
of Directors Škoda Auto, a.s. responsible for HR

OPENING OF THE CZECH HOUSE

In connection to the information in the last issue of the Czech Business Today, we bring the coverage of the ceremonial opening of the Czech House at Rue du Trone 60.



The Czech House was ceremoniously opened on the 11th of October 2007 in the presence of representatives of the Brussels European community, the public administration, regional governments, and the business sector. The objective of this ambitious project was – in the words of the Czech Ambassador to the EU Jan Kohout – to: „...promote the Czech Republic in Brussels, to use all capacities, qualifications, and possibilities available to us, put them under one roof, and thus strengthen the image (of the Czech Republic).“

„The opening of the Czech House will definitely have an impact on the intensity of communication of individual representatives of the Czech Republic in Brussels, and such contact will bring

a better coordination of various activities as well as more effective information exchange,“ said President of the Czech Chamber of Commerce **Jaromír Drábek**. President of Confederation of Employers’ and Entrepreneurs’ Associations of the Czech Republic **Jan Wiesner** adds: „The location of the Czech House in the center of the European district will contribute to CEBRE becoming a regular stop of entrepreneurs, representatives of entrepreneurial associations, as well as members of the Economic and Social Committee during their visits to Brussels, where they will always get the necessary service.“ **Jaroslav Hanák**, Vice-President of the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic emphasizes the positive effect of a single Czech address: „It will be good for the Brussels’ community to experience an integration – if I need anything about

the Czech Republic, I just have to go to Czech House.“

A number of prominent Czech personas participated in the ceremonious opening, e.g. European Commissioner **Vladimír Špidla**, Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs **Alexandr Vondra**, Minister of Foreign Affairs **Karel Schwarzenberg**, Ambassador to the EU **H.E. Jan Kohout**, Ambassador to Belgium **H.E. Vladimír Müller**, majority of presidents of regional governments, Czech Members of the European Parliament, or the Director General of the agency Czechinvest **Roman Čermák**.

In addition to presentation stands of all Czech representations in Brussels, the event featured concerts of Czech artists on an open-air stage in the street Caroly. Among the performers were the groups **Děda Mládek Illegal Band**, **Čechomor**, and the singer **Iva Frühlingová**. Visitors were also able to see a private view of the exhibition of a Czech painter **Tomáš Bím** and a fashion show of the famous Czech designer **Beata Rajská**. All participants were happy with the course of the grand opening and supported the plan of the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU to turn this Czech “street party” into an annual tradition.

For further information visit the web site of the Czech House at www.czechhouse.be.

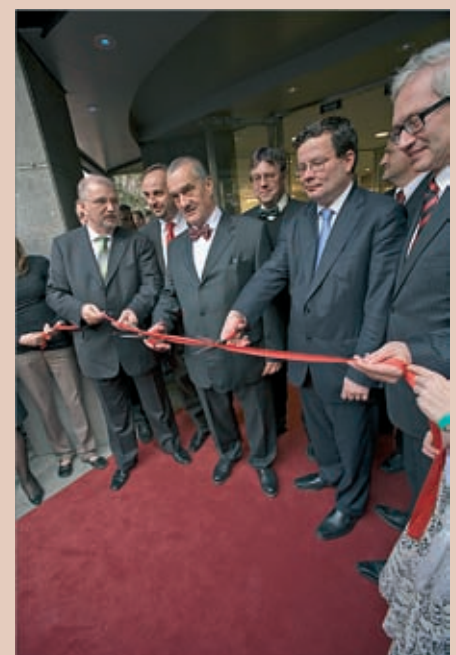


photo: Tomas Jack

Interview with H.E. Vladimír Müller, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Belgium

The Czech House was officially opened on the 11th of October 2007 at Rue du Trone 60. Let me ask you about your feelings with regard to this event as well as an overall perception of the Czech House concept?

The opening act of the Czech House itself, which we were preparing with the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU for six months and when I was worried about a poor visitors turnout, was grandiose, in spite of my expectations. The time spent on the preparation of the cultural program revealed that it was time well-spent, and in this regard I would like to thank to the Permanent Representation. Also the Czech Center, which opened the festivities with an exhibition of paintings by Tomáš Bím, handled its role in an excellent manner. Sufficient number of visitors came – not only Czech nationals, but also Belgians, as well as other foreign guests. We had the honor of welcoming Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs Alexandr Vondra, Minister of Foreign Affairs Karel Schwarzenberg, as well as representatives of the Czech business and regional sphere, which represented the Czech Republic as an economically dynamic country. This day represented a commitment to us of fulfilling the concept of the Czech House as an integrating element toward the Brussels and even European public, while, at the same time, being an instrument for enforcing mutual projects and interests. On one hand, there is the representative authority and the Czech Center, and on the other hand, there are institutions representing the Czech economy – CzechTrade, CzechInvest, CEBRE, representatives of Czech businesses as well as regions. This selection of elements represents the activities of the Czech Republic on a daily level, and the concept of the Czech House will contribute to their mutual cooperation.

What role does the Embassy play in the Czech-Belgian commercial relations?

We provide the basic service to Belgian and Czech clients in the area of commercial relations, investments, and economical and commercial data. At the same time, we are able to coordinate our activities with the agencies CzechInvest and CzechTrade, which have their representatives here, and we support one another

within economic activities. This strengthens us on various levels.

In your answers, you have repeatedly mentioned the two Czech agencies, which significantly participate on the trade between the Czech Republic and Belgium – CzechTrade and CzechInvest. How intensive is your cooperation? Do you expect the Czech House to strengthen the relations with these agencies?

We cooperate on the continuous basis. We organize regular meetings of our Commercial-Economic section and the Directors of Foreign Offices of CzechTrade, CzechInvest, CzechTourism, and with the presence of CEBRE. Last year, we were ensuring an expert seminar with CzechInvest, and this year, we were, together with CzechTrade, participating on the preparation and participation of Czech businesses in the trade fairs Subcontracting in Antwerp, Best-Eco in Liège, and in the furniture fair in Brussels, which starts next week. By the beginning of next week, we would like to manage a seminar as well as a company meeting on the topic of “prefab wooden buildings” in Libramont. The fact that we will be in the same building should strengthen mutual contacts and support.

Could you briefly inform us about the mutual trade between the Czech Republic and Belgium? How is the Belgian economy doing?

The Belgian economy is doing relatively well - the growth is around 2 – 2,5%. In comparison with the Czech Republic, the Belgian economy is growing from a much larger base that is why it looks much less from our perspective. The GDP of Belgium is 3 times higher than the GDP of the Czech Republic, despite having the same population. It is apparent from this that Belgium is a suitable and attractive partner for many projects - especially for us, a country with a dynamically developing economy. In the first 8 months of 2007, our export to Belgium grew by 17% and amounted to 47 billion Czech crowns,



and the active balance of trade with Belgium increased to 15,3 billion Czech crowns. Exports to Belgium amount to almost 3% of the total exports of the Czech Republic and Belgium is the 10th largest market for Czech products in the world.

Allow me a final question: How does a Czech Ambassador perceive the current political situation in Belgium? Do you think that the economy of the Belgian Kingdom is endangered by the current lack of governance?

The Kingdom of Belgium is a very stable country from a long-term perspective, in spite of all efforts for an enforcement of separatist ideas. The Belgian economy has not been impacted in any way. I must say that the government works here; I emphasize that it functions really well. We do not come across any barriers in communication with the administration. I believe that this country, which stood by the birth of many integration processes in the history, perceives the need for Brussels as the functioning heart of the whole country.

Thank you for the interview.

Alena Vlačihová
CEBRE - Czech Business Representation to the EU

Czech Point

This year, the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic enabled the general public and especially the entrepreneurial public to obtain any data required by the public administration (extracts and duplicates) kept in central public files and registers via one-stop-shop, the so-called Czech POINT system.

The abbreviation is short for the Czech Filing Verification Information National Terminal (Český Podací Ověřovací Informační Národní Terminál), the servicing units of which are the municipal and city offices, municipal councils, regional authorities, ministries and administrative authorities. This functionality is also provided by licensees, such as notaries, postal license holders, and above all by the Czech Chamber of Commerce, which provides these services in its 37 regional and district offices.

The main idea of the whole project is for individuals – and especially entrepreneurs – to be able to check any proceedings with the public administration at any office and/or authority – usually at the one, which is the closest by. Currently, authenticated extracts from the Commercial Register, the real-estate cadastres, and the Trade Register are issued within this network. In the near future, it will also be possible to acquire extracts from the criminal records – this will make possible to obtain the extracts quickly and easily, without having to visit the competent court. Another subsidiary goal of this project is to enable IT technology users to use the eGovernment services. With the help of the virtual CZECH POINT it will be possible to acquire certain data from central registers independently, including their authentication and/or information about the status of proceedings, and it will also be possible to initiate proceedings, without having to use the services of the standard CZECH POINT.

The presumption for the realization of this subsidiary goal is an existence of an undisputable and authorized authenticity of an applicant's signature as well as the signature of relevant administrative authorities. The contact points will thus definitely contribute to a simplification of bureaucratic procedures and to an enhancement of the business environment.

Karel Tuma
Czech Chamber of Commerce

CIP – Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme in the Czech Republic

New opportunity for small and medium-sized enterprises

A new framework community program CIP was launched in 2007, replacing nine existing framework community programs, including the Multi-annual Programme for enterprise and entrepreneurship (MAP), within which the EIC and IRC networks operate in the Czech Republic until the end of the year.

With the support of CIP, a new European consulting network will be formed by merging the services provided by the EIC and IRC networks. The European Commission has selected 49 consortiums in tenders (1 consortium for each NUTS I), which will provide the integrated business and innovation support services in all EU member states, in associated states, as well as in states, which are getting ready for their membership.

Within the first call published by the European Commission with regard to the CIP, the Czech Republic has presented its project with the working name BISONet – Business and Innovation Support Network for the CR, which was successful and which was approved by the European Commission in October of 2007 (will operate from 1.1.2008).

What is the strategy of this project?

- To create a network of integrated business and innovation support services covering the whole territory of the Czech Republic by means of an involvement of experienced regional partners.
- To ensure the provision of qualified and comprehensive information by means of a mutual interconnection of the network components – “no wrong door” concept.

The new network aimed at quality consulting

services consists of 11 partners and 3 associate partners in the Czech Republic, all united within a consortium. The partners have appointed the Technology Center AS to act as the coordinator of the whole project; other partners include regional development agencies, chambers of commerce, and research institutes. The associate partners of the project are CzechInvest, the Czech Chamber of Commerce, and the Czech Association of Development agencies.

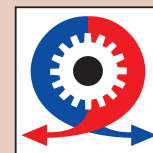
The project activities have been divided into 3 main areas - modules:

- A** Services promoting the competitiveness of enterprises – information on markets, finances, and legislation, international cooperation, search of partners, as well as the feedback for the European Commission from enterprises (formerly the EIC services)
- B** Innovations, knowledge and technology transfer – information on innovation activities, research results, new technologies, and legislation – intellectual property protection, etc. (formerly the IRC services)
- C** Support of the participation of enterprise in the framework research programs

In spite of the fact that we cannot present ourselves with a logo or a new name of the network, we believe that our customers – mainly small and medium-sized enterprises – will take advantage of our services from 2008, which will be provided by competent and qualified employees with long-term experience in the operation of both networks – EIC as well as IRC.

Marie Pavlů
EIC Coordinator for the Czech Republic

International Engineering Fair 2007 in Brno



MSV 2007

The International Engineering Fair took place in the Brno Exhibition Center from the 1st until the 5th of October 2007. This fair ranks

among the largest entrepreneurial events in the Central Europe.



Much like every year, it was possible to meet with a number of representatives of international companies and to see new innovations in the area of engineering. Significant exhibits – such as the telescopic ball screw of the company Kuličkové šrouby Kuřim a.s. and hydraulic scissors of the company ŽDAS from Žďár nad Sázavou – received the Gold Medal of the IEF 2007 and the Transport and Logistics Fair 2007.

A number of thematic seminars, aimed at current issues of the engineering industry businesses, took place within the fair. The most

Assembly of the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic targeting future risks



The assembly of the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic has opened several important topics. Government representatives promised to continue in the public funds reforms, to promote a meaningful reform of the educational system and higher effectiveness of economic diplomacy in favor of the support of exports.

While the Confederation criticized the work of the previous government last year – namely the public administration performance, nonfunctional labor market, complicated tax system, and use of the EU structural funds, this year's program of the assembly targeted the methods of solutions to problems.

For the first time ever, the Confederation pointed out the risks of the European policy on climate protection within a panel discussion. The planned expansion of the greenhouse gas emissions regulation may jeopardize the Czech

industry after 2012 and may have serious negative impact on the whole economy.

Members of the Board of Directors of the Confederation inquired the government representatives on how they would reduce subsidiary labor costs, and what would be done for a future competitiveness of the Czech industry. During the discussion, they came up with several proposals for resolving the growing lack of qualified labor, for protection against the growing influx of truck transportation, or for ensuring sufficient investments in transportation infrastructure.

This year's assembly of the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic, already 12th in history, boasted a record-breaking interest – the Confederation welcomed more than 400 participants to the assembly. Ready to answer the questions of the Confederation as well as of the participants from the floor were the Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Karel Schwarzenberg, Minister of

Industry and Trade Martin Říman, and Minister of Employment and Social Affairs Petr Nečas. Some questions were also answered by invited guests, e.g. by the Governor of the Czech National Bank Zdeněk Tůma.

The assembly, which takes place annually on the opening day of the International Engineering Fair in the Brno Exhibition Center, traditionally represents a supreme meeting of the business sphere with the government and political representatives. In addition to the crème de la crème of the Czech industry – top managers of the largest enterprises – and prominent guests, the fair is regularly visited by representatives of smaller enterprises and entrepreneurs from within all sectors, including services.

Blanka Růžičková
Confederation of Industry of the CR

Czech textile industry has signed a memorandum with China on the protection of intellectual property



important problems include the lack of labor force on the Czech market and growing energy prices. CEBRE – Czech business representation to the EU – also took part in the fair, providing individual consultations to entrepreneurs and taking an active role in the supporting conferences. Entrepreneurs were above all interested in the possibility of receiving financial resources from the European funds as well as in the new issues of the European legislation relating to their respective fields of business.

Czech Association of Textile-Clothing-Leather Industry (ATOK) has signed a memorandum in Shanghai with its Chinese partner, Chinese national textile and clothing association, on understanding in the area of intellectual property protection. The two associations agreed on the condemnation of all forms of intellectual property rights infringement (patent rights, designs, and brands), on mutual information exchange with regard to individual cases of rights violations, and on cooperation in the course of their resolution.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic promotes cooperation with China in the area of intellectual property rights on all levels, bilaterally as well as within the negotiations on a partnership agreement between the EU and China, and it therefore also welcomes any efforts of businesses and their associations in this area. The Czech Republic is only the 4th EU member state - after Germany, France, and Austria – to negotiate similar memorandum with its Chinese partner in the area of textile industry. It is a fundamental project for ATOK within the Strategy of the competitiveness development of the Czech textile and clothing industry in 2007-2013.



Czech Chamber of Commerce (CCC)



The Czech Chamber of Commerce is the self-governance institution in the Czech Republic. Within its structure it embraces more than 60 active district and regional chambers as well as 70 professional associations covering the entire territory of the Czech Republic and the entire scale of enterprises, from the largest to the smallest. This network ensures daily contact with the entrepreneurs, monitoring of their interests, and efficient representation vis-a-vis the Czech Government. The CCC provides customs and certification services, legal and legislative services as well as representative and information services. It plays an important role in supporting exports, European integration, and SMEs. Its Court of Arbitration resolves commercial disputes relating to foreign and domestic trade.

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Confederation of Employers' and Entrepreneurs' Associations of the Czech Republic



The Confederation of Employers' and Entrepreneurs' Associations of the Czech Republic is an independent, voluntary and open lobby group promoting and coordinating entrepreneurial, employers' and professional interests in negotiations with Parliament, Government, public administration and Trade Unions. At present the organization has the following members: The Association of Entrepreneurs of the Czech Republic, The Union of Employers' Associations of the Czech Republic, The Union of Agriculture of the Czech Republic, The Association of Textile, Clothing and Leather Industries, The Association of Building Entrepreneurs of the Czech Republic, The Union of the Czech and Moravian Producer Cooperatives and The Employers' Union of Mining and Oil Industries.

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Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic



The Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic is a non-governmental, voluntary federation of employers and entrepreneurs in the Czech Republic. It represents and defends the interests of employers in the sphere of social policy during tripartite negotiations with the Government and Trade Unions. It strives to define, support and assert its members' interests in order to achieve prosperity and favorable business environment. It also provides consultation and information services for its members that focus on international relations, trade opportunities, production cooperation, legislation, collective bargaining, European integration, education and training. It is a full member of the International Organization of Employers (BUSINESSEUROPE).

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- Protects the interests of Czech business community vis-a-vis the EU institutions
- Informs Czech businesses about EU legislation affecting them
- Trains Czech entrepreneurs and managers in Brussels, the heart of the EU
- Represents Czech business associations at European business federations

CEBRE operates within the legal framework of CzechTrade in Brussels as a part of the commercial and economic section of the Embassy of the Czech Republic to the Kingdom of Belgium.

New address from November 2007:

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