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Czech House in Brussels - Grand Opening



Flexicurity as a cure for labor market?

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Climate change policy:

We should worry about dealing with the lack of resources instead. Interview with Martin Říman, Czech Minister of Industry and Trade

How do you perceive the European climate change policy?

Lech Business Today

Let us leave aside the relativity of the statement that there actually is a global warming. If the EU is really serious about reducing the greenhouse gas emissions, it may need to start somewhere else. Member states of the EU produce less then 16 percent of the total global greenhouse gas emissions. The rest is produced by emerging countries such as China, India, which – together with the USA – are the world's biggest producers of carbon dioxide. Unless an attitude of these countries changes, efforts of the EU will change virtually nothing. However, it is already clear today that the measures, which are being planned by the European Commission to "fight" for the reduction of the emissions, will result in increased costs of tens or even hundreds of billions euros for European businesses and citizens. By the way, the Czech Republic is one of the few EU member states, which adheres to the Kyoto Protocol with a decent reserve.

(see page 2)



Interview with Martin Říman Czech Minister of Industry and Trade

The Czech Republic filed a suit against the EC with regard to a reduction of the requested quantity of emission permits. What grounds is the suit on?

The decision to file a suit against the European Commission with regard to the allocation plan is based on a detailed analysis of the decision of the European Commission on the National allocation plan of the Czech Republic for the years 2008-2012. This analysis has revealed that the European Commission had significantly undervalued the growth of the gross domestic product of the Czech Republic in 2009 and in 2010. The numbers, which were used in its calculations, do not correspond with estimates of domestic institutions such as the Czech National Bank, the Czech Statistical Office, or the Ministry of Finance. Moreover, the Commission did not consider the fact that the Czech Republic is one of the most industrial countries in Europe, and I am convinced that because of the complicated calculation model and incorrect data, it discriminated the Czech Republic in the course of allocation of the emission permits. I therefore consider it important that my proposal went through the coalition government, where the Green Party is represented as well.

In your opinion, what are the chances of the Czech Republic that the courts are going to decide before February of 2008, when the permits are to be allocated to individual businesses?

Let us not be mistaken, the lawsuit does not affect the allocation of the permits among businesses; it does not have a deferring effect. The allocation was already decided at the end of May, when businesses found out what part of the annual allocation of 86.8 million tons can they count on. And the lawsuit mainly concerns the principles, on the basis of which the European Commission evaluated the Czech plan, not the final number.

What do you say to the counterargument that the EU-ETS (European Union Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading Scheme) is not effective because of the fact that too many permits were issued in the past?

Yes, I hear this argument often. It is true that the spot price of the permits is currently drawing near zero, while in the first half of the last year it was around 20-30 euros, which is, by the way, a very high price, which adversely affects the already high price of electricity. Each of us is likely to acknowledge that the market price is undeniably one of the main indicators of the supply and demand correlation. However, I do not accept this counterargument in case of the Czech allocation of permits for 2008 - 2012. The Czech economy is growing at a tremendous pace, driven from one third by an industrial production. The Commission has not considered this fact within its decision at all. We have received too few permits for the next four years.

Do you consider the EU-ETS to be a suitable instrument for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions?

The permit trading is definitely a good principle from the perspective of an economic theory, because it will ensure that - unlike some administrative mechanisms – the pollution is eliminated in the least expensive way. As I have already indicated, the problem is in the practical applicability of this system in a situation, where the EU is far from being the biggest producer of the so-called greenhouse gases.

Can you estimate what the situation is going to be like after 2012? Is there not a threat that the permits might spread to other areas of human activity as well? To other areas of industry, and also to transportation, agriculture, services?

There are certain indications of this, though on a voluntary basis, and not just within European Union, but also in the United States. The Commission has recently come up with a plan to reduce emission of new passenger vehicles; we shall see whether or not it is going to push for an emission permit trading scheme in the area of transportation in a few years. However, I am not a prophet; I cannot see that far ahead. But what I already said still applies. Until the big global players accept their responsibility, all the European initiatives in this area will only have a minor impact. The Council of the European Union would also like to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the energy consumption significantly. In your opinion, how realistic is the proposed 20-percent reduction by 2020?

The trend of energy consumption in Europe is clear. The consumption is increasing, while the energy sources are diminishing. An idea that it is possible to reverse this trend to such a significant extent within just ten or fifteen years is an absolute illusion. We should rather start talking about how we are going to deal with the lack of electricity sources, because it is, in my opinion, going to become a number one European topic in the next few years.

Thirty percent of electricity currently produced in the Czech Republic comes from an atomic energy. Why does not the Czech Republic fight within the climate change policy for the renaissance of this "carbon-free" source?

But we do concentrate on this topic! When the climate policy was discussed at this year's summit of the European Council, where the commitment was passed to increase the share of electricity produced from renewable sources and to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by 20% before 2020, this argument, this request was not brought up just by French representatives, but also by the Czech ones. The final decision does not mention nuclear energy as a renewable source; however, it is going to be possible to include it in the quota for the reduction of the so-called greenhouse gas emissions. I am convinced that this matter is going to be an important item on the agenda of the autumn Nuclear Forum in Bratislava, the holding of which had been pushed through by the Slovak Republic together with the Czech Republic.

Thank you for the interview.

Blanka Růžičková Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic

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Czech Businesses not satisfied with the cut of NAP 2008-12

European Commission decided to cut Czech national allocation plan for CO₂ emissions by nearly 15 % at the end of March. The Czech government reacted by submitting a complaint to the European Court of Justice. We speak about emissions trading system and its successes and failures with environmental expert of the Czech Confederation of Industry Mr. Josef Zbořil.

Did Czech businesses expect that the European Commission would cut the National Allocation Plan (NAP) for 2008-12?

There are naturally pros and cons in the process like the approval of NAPs in the Commission; the problem with such a dramatic cut of the Czech NAP stems in the pre-NAP period, while some officials openly declared that they would stick to the principle that operations would be allocated in the amount they would need in the allocation period of time. The overall indicated allocation for new Member States was suggested at the level of 81 - 83 % on the Kyoto basis. Thus, with regard to the Czech allocation, we expected that the Commission would observe and honor the growth trends in the country that were clearly reflected in the Czech NAP. The Commission had changed the rules of the game in the middle of the game in the futile attempt to salvage the EU-ETS (EU - Emission Trading System) credibility. The EU-ETS would eventually experience serious problems since wrong, if any, lessons have been learnt from the first trading period. The collapse cannot be attributed just to the over allocation - it is encoded in the EU-ETS basics.

There has been a lot of talk during the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Treaty of Rome about what the Union has to do to get new objectives and new dynamics. Most of the critics agreed on one thing: the increasing bureaucracy and excessive regulation were labeled as the biggest threats of the future development. The positives will continue to outweigh the negatives only if the Union is able to resist these threats **and if it can mo-tivate its citizens to economic activity, its business sector to higher competitiveness, and its economy to a sustainable growth.**

What industries are most affected by the Commission decision on the Czech NAP?

The most affected sectors are obviously the most active ones: Steel, cement, glass, chemicals are just some of them – enormous sums of money have been invested in those sectors in the recent past resulting in enormous improvements of the environmental performance and these manufacturing sectors are to be exposed to additional economic pressures because of the insufficient allocation within the EU-ETS. Such industries cannot pass over the additional costs in the sales prices!

Is the Czech Republic going to succeed in the legal battle against the Commission?

Actually, it will be a very interesting process, since by the EU-ETS wording the Commission does not have any power to prescribe an allocation level for any Member States. The Article 9, section 3 of Directive 2003/87/ EC says:

"... the Commission may reject that plan [NAP], or any aspect thereof, on the basis that it is incompatible with the criteria listed in Annex III or with Article 10."

If I understand the wording correctly, there is nothing there about additional criteria like base year 2005. If the Court of Justice follows the directive closely enough, the case is not lost at all. We are entirely convinced that deciding upon the NAPs outside the wording above, which was the common case, is in fact illegal. There can perhaps be a discussion about the conditions set in Annexes but there should not be a Commission decision about the NAP level – it should be a mutual agreement and never an arbitrary decision.

Isn't the whole idea of emissions trading in danger? It lost much of its credibility already due to an over-allocation in the first phase for 2005-07.

The industry, on the contrary to the EU and national authorities, has studied the system very closely and we are convinced that it can play a role of a motivator to certain extent to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions. Unfortunately, in spite of numerous warnings the Commission is convinced that

the EU-ETS is a "work horse" of mitigation. This approach leads to the overstated role and eventual failure. Thus, the over allocation in the first run is a symptom, not the cause, the cause is much deeper and stems in the inappropriate role of the EU-ETS versus real mitigation measures that must be devised and thoroughly implemented. If the allocation is exercised by an administrative decision, the system is not a market instrument, just state planning act. The trading volume for 2006 in the amount of 800 million allowances versus real emission savings speak for themselves. If it is 5 % of the volume, where is the point of such system? The loudest advocates of the EU-ETS except the DG Environment are brokers and finance institutions. There are therefore no regrets on our side if such system collapses again.

Thank you for the interview

Blanka Ruzickova Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic





Czech House in Brussels – rue du Trone 60

Czech House opening is further step to preparation for the Czech Presidency to EU: Interview with Jan Kohout, Ambassador and Head of the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU



Where do you see the biggest contribution of the Czech House in the course of the coordination of actions toward the EU?

Czech House represents a fundamental project. It should improve the coordination between Czech

entities residing in Brussels - i.e. in a place with the largest concentration of Czech citizens in the world, in a place with the highest

WEST BOHEMIAN REGION OF KARLOVY VARY – EU OFFICE

The Region is located in western part of the Czech Republic on the border with Ger-



many. Karlovy Vary is a famous spa treatment centre with an international airport.

Goals of EU office:

- Information services for regional government, public and private organisations with emphasis on regional policy
- Networking with EU institutions and other organisations represented in Brussels
- Gathering and processing of relevant information within Brussels-based institutions, supporting initiatives of the regional government
- Facilitation of access to EU programmes of financial support

Contact details:

Werner Hauptmann, Head of Office 60, Rue du Trone B-1050 Bruxelles Tel: +32-2-2139 500 Fax: +32-2-2139 503 werner.hauptmann@karlovy-vary.region-eu.cz

www.kr-karlovarsky.cz

number of Czech institutions abroad, and in a place where the Czech Republic promotes its fundamental interests within the EU. Its opening is part of the preparations for the Czech Presidency; the Czech House will be a home to diplomats, who are going to work on the presidency.

Under one roof and at a new strong address, there will be employees of the Permanent Representation, Offices of most of the Czech Regions, the new seat of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Belgium, organizations for the promotion of business activities such as CEBRE – Czech Business Representation (Czech Chamber of Commerce, Confederation of Industry, Confederation of Employers' and

HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ REGION – EU OFFICE

Hradec Králové Region established its EU Office in January 2007. More than 300 European regions already have their representation in Brussels, thus this was a logical step for



the Region to join the "club". The EU Office should play a crucial role of relevant mediator between Brussels and the Region. Monitoring EC community grants, cooperation with other regional offices in Brussels (networking) and maintaining contacts with EU institutions is essential. The office also takes part in forming Region's EU image and helps to elaborate the regional innovation strategy.

Contact details:

Daniel Všetečka Head of Hradec Králové Region- EU Office 60, Rue du Trone B-1050 Bruxelles Tel: +32-2-2139 520 Fax: +32-2-2139 521 brussels@cep-rra.cz

www.kr-kralovehradecky.cz

Entrepreneurs' Associations), CzechInvest and CzechTrade, as well as for example CzechTourism, Czech Airlines, and ČEZ. The ground-floor should house a new gallery and presentation center of the Czech Center, Czech Airlines, and CzechTourism.

The buildings have a great location near the city center, not far away from the European Parliament and the European Commission, with the Royal Palace, the Belgian Parliament, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other government institutions nearby. Its accessibility is very good as well (subway lines, direct connection to an airport and to a railway station). It is great that such a location will be the home to a strong Czech address, which will also be easy to re-

MORAVIAN-SILESIAN REGION – EU OFFICE

Moravian-Silesian Region, one of the most dy-



namic developing regions of the Czech Republic, opens an EU office in Brussels. The Brussels office will be operated on an ad hoc basis by Hynek Orság, Head of the Department of European Projects of the Regional Authority, and Aleš Linhart, Secretary to the President of the Region.

President of the Region Mr. Evžen Tošenovský is member of the Committee of Regions, where he defends interests of not only the Region itself but of the whole Czech Republic in Commission for Territorial Cohesion and Commission for Constitutional Affairs.



Contact details: Aleš Linhart, Secretary to the President of the Region Hynek Orság, Head of Dept. of EU Projects 60, Rue du Trone B-1050 Bruxelles Tel: +32-2-2139 400 Fax: +32-2-2139 400 hynek.orsag@kr-moravskoslezsky.cz ales.linhart@kr-moravskoslezsky.cz member for everyone thanks to the publicity, which is associated with every presidency.

When is it going to be launched?

The ceremonial opening is being prepared for Thursday, 11th of October, with a rock concert and a number of other associated events planned. However, the moving is under way already – for example Czech Airlines has its office in the building already.

What is going to be the role of the Permanent Representation within the Czech House?

Permanent Representation is commissioned to execute and manage the whole project; besides, it is going to keep half of all offices within the project.

Nevertheless, we would like to promote a strong representation of the individual organizations. Our presence will therefore not be apparent on the operation of the building itself; the image of individual offices shall be preserved. Our premises within the Czech House are being connected to the neighboring Permanent Representation, and therefore all of our operations will be directed through our building. The Czech organizations in the Czech House will therefore

PARDUBICE REGION – EU OFFICE

The Representation of Pardubice Region to the European Union was set up in Brussels on 1st September 2007. The basic task of the office is to defend and support the



interests of the Pardubice Region in the EU, to cooperate on coordination of EU policies with the regional politics and to ensure communication between Regional government and EU institutions.

Director of the office is Radek Václavík, who wants to set up also fruitful contacts and relations with other European regions. The representation will also ensure complete service for visits of delegations and officials from the Pardubice Region.

Contact details:

Radek Václavík, Director Representation of Pardubice Region to the EU 60, Rue du Trone B-1050 Bruxelles Tel.: +32-2-2139 530 Fax: +32-2-2139 531 radek.vaclavik@pardubickykraj.cz

www.pardubickykraj.cz



have their building to themselves – from an entrance to the offices themselves.

Czech House - Grand Opening

The Czech House will be opened officially on the 11th of October at 5.30 pm.

The launch of such a project is in Brussels considered as an overall presentation of the Czech Republic, not just the organizations entering the new building. That is why other institutions participate in the event as well. It is significantly supported by the City of Prague as

PILSEN REGION - EU OFFICE

European Office of the Pilsen Region was established in January 2006 and since September 2007 it can be found on the new address Rue du Trône 60, Brussels - Ixelles.



The office has become an efficient link between EU institutions and the Region. Raising profile of the Region, promoting its main objectives, providing information on the relevant EU policies – these are the primary tasks of the office. Further more, the office helps to promote EU back in the Region and raise awareness of EU amongst the regional stakeholders and citizens.

Contact details:

Zbyněk Prokop, Head of office Euroepan Office of Pilsen Region 60, Rue du Trone B-1050 Brussels Tel (CZ): +420-377 195 583 Tel (B): +32-2-2139 540 Fax: +32-2-2139 541 Mobile: +32-473-530 951 zbynek.prokop@pilsenregion.eu www.plzensky-kraj.cz well as all Czech Regions and other representations in Brussels. We also count on the participation of the Technology Center of the Czech Academy of Sciences within its project CZE-LO. It is also coordinated with the Open Days in Brussels, which are visited by many delegations and important guests and each country wants to show off as much as possible.

That is why the festivities will also include a street party with rock concerts, presentations of all regions, agencies and companies starting already at 3 pm, and other social and cultural events. I cannot give away everything; however, I can say that the Czech francophone singer Iva Frühlingová, who is quite famous in Belgium, should be part of the program.

We would like everyone to know from the start where the Czech House is. At the same time, it is also a first attempt. If it is successful, I would like it to evolve into a regular Czech event in Brussels; an event, which is also organized by other countries here.

> Thank you for the interview. Blanka Jakubcová CEBRE

ÚSTÍ REGION – EU OFFICE

Ústí Region will establish its Liaison Office in autumn this year and becomes a newcomer on the scene of regional representations. The main objective of our office



is to assure strong representation of the regional interests and the continuous information flow, along with maintaining close contact with the European institutions and other organizations located in Brussels. Another crucial task is to establish connections with other regions and help to find resources and partners for the projects that are of importance for the region. Ústí region will try to achieve an effective and direct participation in the European integration process

Contact details:

Markéta Pokorná Representative of the Ústí Region Representation of Ústí Region to the EU 60, Rue du Trone B-1050 Brussels Tel: +32-2-2139 510 Fax: +32-2-2139 511 brusselsoffice@kr-ustecky.cz

www.kr-ustecky.cz



Czech software contributing to higher safety of the European transport



The Czech company Truck Data Technology, s.r.o. was one of the first companies in the area of transport and logistics to implement the newly valid EU Regulation 561/2006 in its program TAGRA. It is a program, which analyses data from analog and digital tachographs. Its use makes it easier for companies to comply with the valid social labor legislation within the Regulation of the Council 3820/85 and 561/2006 affecting the area of transport, the abidance of which is required and monitored within the member states.

The TAGRA software, which was developed in cooperation with the representatives of institutions dealing with transport research, Association of automobile carriers ČESMAD Bohemia, Slovak Labor Inspectorate and others, has found its place not only among the Czech and Slovak carrier, but also with government supervisory authorities and institutions of both countries, under the active cooperation of which it is continuously being improved and customized to their specific requirements. The company TDT has also extended its cooperation in the area of high schools and universities specializing in transport, and it has also become a member of the Association for transportation telematics of the Czech Republic.

With regard to the simplicity and intuitive use, the program not only facilitates the work of the traffic police during their road checks of trucks and long distance buses over 3.5t, or the work of state administration supervisory authorities, which supervise the adherence to the legal regulations in companies, but it mainly simplifies the work of transport companies, which are affected by the legislation, because its use only requires a basic PC knowledge and it is not necessary for the user to know the given legislation. Using the TAGRA software, a system operator or an owner of a company may immediately review the adherence to the already mentioned regulations on the basis of ascertained and analyzed data, and to take measures to prevent a repetition of such violations as well as to prevent violations of safety at work.

The program may also be used, for example, for a calculation of wages of drivers as it monitors kilometers actually driven and actual working hours, vehicle use, etc.

The relation to the traffic safety is apparent. When using the TAGRA software correctly and rigorously planning the routes of drivers by an employer, working hours should not be exceeded and rest times of the drivers should not be cut, which should have a positive effect on the reduction of the risk of a traffic accident on the road in the area of truck and bus transport caused by the fatigue of drivers. According to available statistics, it is the fatigue, which is the second most frequent factor (after alcohol abuse) affecting the drivers at the time of a traffic accident.

Jaroslav Šmalcl Truck Data Technology, s.r.o.



Flexibility as a cure for the European labor market

"Flexicurity is most frequently defined as an integrated strategy, strengthening flexibility and security on the labor market at the same time."

Europe is doing exceptionally well this year; the economy is growing and European managers expect that their companies will be doing even little better in 2008. Companies are prospering, investing, and ready to create new jobs. Especially companies in Germany, Austria, and Great Britain are preparing to increase the number of employees significantly.

However, this does not mean that the European labor markets are in order. Europe still has 17 million unemployed people, long-term unemployment persists (namely young people, older employees, and handicapped people), the labor force is getting older, the skills and competences of job applicants do not correspond to the requirement of companies, labor legislation is too rigid and protectionist, and social systems are too benevolent. Europe has set off for the century of knowledge and services, however, its labor markets are far from being ready for that.

The European Commission has decided, in compliance with the revised EU strategy for growth and jobs, to carry out a certain stock-taking of the labor legislation in Europe and came up with its Green paper on the modernization of the labor law in November of 2006. As expected, the first reactions brought one basic observation - Europe is missing flexibility and Europe is afraid of flexibility. Europe is not, however, a reflection of the 19th century capitalism - it has its European social model, its values. However, face to face with the omnipresent globalization, even the familiar social style of Europe must be inevitably modernized and adapted to reality. An increased flexibility on the labor market must have a new safety, which, however, mustn't become its drag.

The flexicurity concept – i.e. a certain symbiosis of flexibility and security in work – is not entirely new. Its various modifications have been tested by northern European states and even analyzed in OECD member states. The most frequently recommended model is the Danish model, however, even this model is not perfect and transferable without restraints, and moreover, it may not withstand the internal pressure of national reforms and the European regulation pressure.

An expert group of the European Commission was therefore appointed at the beginning of 2007 in order to analyze the situation in the EU-27, and – while fully respecting the diversity of individual national systems and practice – to define the common flexicurity principle. *The flexibility* is about smooth transitions in the course of a life and work cycle, about mobility, about getting better jobs, and about the development of talent. The flexibility is about flexible forms of work, about knowledge, and about the coordination of a family and working life. *The security* is not about a protection of one specific job any more – it is about the people having such specific knowledge, which would enable them to achieve progress in their working life, and which would help them to find a new job. It is also about reasonable social benefits, facilitating transitions on the labor market, and about an access to further professional education, and lifelong learning.

It is both very pleasant and promising that the thinking of Europeans has undergone a change in this area. 76 % of European citizens agree with the fact that it is a thing of the past to have just one job during one's life. 76 % of citizens think that the readiness to go from one job to another is the most useful asset while looking for a new job, 72 % of citizens say that employment contracts should be more flexible to promote a creation of new jobs, and 82 % of citizens claim that an access to regular specialized training increases the chances of an individual for a new work opportunity.

The main players on the labor market are employers and employees. The correct functioning of the labor markets and the balance between the supply and demand should therefore be in the interest of both social partners. The labor universe changes quickly and companies as well as employees must be ready for its changes. The discussions about the flexicurity concept have, however, revealed a basic difference in an approach to this concept. While employers and entrepreneurs view the flexicurity as a way to a higher rate of openness and flexibility of the labor markets, to the modernization of the labor laws, and to the creation of sustainable jobs, the unions view the new concept of the European Commission as a way to a degradation or even destruction of the labor law, and they view the flexicurity as a way to uncertain forms of employment. With an attempt to control the feared flexicurity, they try to exaggerate its internal aspect, while the internal flexicurity is viewed as only some possible alternative.

In any case, flexicurity may become an effective tool in the course of realization of national reforms. The right mix of all flexicurity ingredients - flexible labor law, active policy of employment, effective education system, and modern social security - should stay in the hands of each member state. The role of the European Commission should consist of a sole monitoring of the situation and of creating a platform for an exchange of experience and best practices. The common evaluation report of the EC on employment in 2007/2008 should concentrate on the analysis to what extent individual member states develop their comprehensive policies covering all four flexicurity components. Within the next cycle of integrated movements for growth and jobs, individual member states shall be asked to submit an explicit report through their National reform programs on their policies for the support of flexicurity.

> Vladimíra Drbalová Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic

Chambers will meet in Prague in 2009



In October 2009 more than 500 representatives from European chambers of commerce and industry from all over Europe and further a field will gather in Prague for the annual congress of Eurochambres, the European Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. By hosting this event, Prague is going to join cities such as Paris, Vienna or Rome, which welcomed Eurochambres Congress in previous years. The decision was made by the plenary assembly of all Eurochambres members in Brussels at the end of May.

It illustrates growing reputation of the Chamber not only in the Czech Republic but also within the European Union"

"The fact that Prague will host Eurochambres annual congress in two year's time is a challenge but at the same time a great appreciation of the work of Czech Chamber of Commerce. It illustrates growing reputation of the Chamber not only in the Czech Republic but also within the European Union", says Jaromír Drábek, president of Economic Czech Chamber of Commerce.

The Congress should finalise efforts of the first half of the year during which the Czech Republic will hold the presidency of the European Union. Main theme of the Congress will closely follow-up on the motto of Czech presidency "Europe without barriers". Discussions will be focused on issues such as how to tackle existing barriers for doing business in Europe, how to face global competition and how can chambers best help to support and develop businesses across the European Union.

Ondřej Hradil CEBRE



The 2006 Eurochamrbes Congress was held in Thessaloniki, Greece.



Czech Chamber of Commerce (CCC)



The Czech Chamber of Commerce is theself-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.

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.

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 pro-

vides 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 (BUSI-NESSEUROPE).

Contact:

Czech Chamber of Commerce Freyova 27 190 00 Prague 9 Czech Republic Tel.: +420 296 646 356 Fax: +420 296 646 227 Email: cebre@komora.cz www.komora.cz

Contact:

Confederation of Employers' and Entrepreneurs' Associations of the Czech Republic Václavské náměstí 21 113 60 Prague 1 Czech Republic Tel.: +420 222 324 985 Fax: +420 224 109 374 Email: kzps@kzps.cz www.kzps.cz

Contact:

Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic Lighthouse Vltava Waterfront Towers Jankovcova 1569/2c 170 04 Prague 7 Czech Republic Tel.: +420 234 379 488 Fax: +420 234 379 489 Email: cebre@spcr.cz

www.spcr.cz



- 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.

CEBRE - Czech Business Representation Bastion Tower, level 20, 5 Place du Champ de Mars, B-1050 Brussels; Tel: + 32 2 550 3547/49; Fax: + 32 2 550 3548; cebre.europe@mail.be

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