



13 – 14 JUNE 2022

CZERNIN PALACE, PRAGUE

FINAL PRESS STATEMENT BY CZECHIA (HOST)

European and Indo-Pacific partners met in Prague on 13th and 14th of June on the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Czechia Jan Lipavský to participate at the **Prague High-Level Dialogue on the Indo-Pacific** (Prague Dialogue).

The Prague Dialogue was **opened by Minister Jan Lipavský and his Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi**. They also participated in the first roundtable on the challenges and opportunities for the Indo-Pacific together with the foreign ministers of East Timor, Hungary and Lithuania and other high-level participants, as well as senior officials and representatives of academia. The following roundtables discussed synergies in Indo-Pacific strategies, Indo-Pacific security architecture of today, economic security, sustainable connectivity and corporate stake in the rules-based Indo-Pacific.

In total, more than 150 delegates from over 50 countries had in-depth discussions and brainstormed at six roundtables during the **two days of an intensive dialogue** at Czernin Palace. It aimed at deepening the EU's engagement in the Indo-Pacific in particular with those partners that have already developed Indo-Pacific approaches of their own.

As an event of the incoming Czech Presidency of the EU Council of Ministers organized in cooperation with the EU institutions, France and Sweden and as a follow-up to the successful Paris Ministerial Forum held this February, it was an important contribution **of the implementation of the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific**.

The **Russian aggression against Ukraine** has a massive global negative impact and undermines the rules-based international order based on international law with the UN Charter at its core. In this context, participants stressed the need for speedy implementation of the EU Strategy for the Indo-Pacific and open dialogue with Indo-Pacific partners, as well as the relevance of increased attention to security issues. The war has dire consequences, both direct and indirect, for the whole Indo-Pacific region. It is very timely that the EU has agreed on the EU Strategic Compass and has started its implementation. Participants highlighted many **other security and humanitarian challenges** such as Afghanistan, Iran, Myanmar, DPRK, maritime security, especially the situation in the East and South China Sea, or **new security challenges** like cyber security and information manipulation.

Discussions focused on **synergies** between existing Indo-Pacific strategies of partners, on possible convergences but also on differences of approach. Participants highlighted their interest in defining the shared objectives and projects for cooperation and coordination and appreciated the Prague Dialogue as a useful discussion platform.

The April 2021 Council Conclusions on the Indo-Pacific underlined that the EU would further **develop partnerships and strengthen synergies with like-minded partners and relevant organizations in security and defence**. NATO and Indo-Pacific countries were valuable partners for security discussions in Prague. This was especially useful also in view of the upcoming NATO summit in Madrid at the end of June and the participation of four Indo-Pacific partners therein.

Trade, economic security and resilience dominated the discussions on the second day of the Prague Dialogue. It was opened by Minister of Trade and Industry of Czechia Jozef Síkela and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs of Japan in charge of Economic Security Ketaro Ohno. The topics of free trade agreements negotiations were high on the agenda, including the need to step up market opening as well as trade and technology cooperation to support diversification and reduce critical dependencies. Participants of the Prague Dialogue discussed **sustainable connectivity, notably through the implementation of the EU Global Gateway Strategy, including Digital Partnerships** under negotiation. In this context, the role of private investment was stressed at the roundtable on **first-hand experience of companies** from both Europe and the Indo-Pacific.

Czechia looks forward to cooperation with all partners on planned events during the Czech Presidency and beyond, be it in Bangkok, Jakarta, Singapore, Hanoi, Prague or elsewhere in the Indo-Pacific.

Prague, 14th June 2022