

# **The Czech Republic's Foreign Policy in 2011:**

## **A Brief Overview**

This document is part of an established series of annual reports on the Czech Republic's foreign policy published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Please note that this is the first time the document is available only on the Internet. Due to overwhelming preference among our readers for web-based information resources, we have decided to dispense with paper and CD-based copies.

Our regular readers will certainly appreciate that the document has been shortened and restructured to better serve their needs. Every care was taken to keep the text short, clear and fact-based. This also explains why we present the document not as a "report" but as a "brief overview".

Finally, we hope that our readers will recognize that foreign policy is a long-distance run and that most of its processes cannot fairly be assessed on a yearly basis. Working towards your goal by diplomatic means is like planting an orchard and watching it grow - it takes much time and patience before you can reap the fruits. However, even within the timeframe of one year, some events stand out.

**In terms of the overall coordination and consistency of the Czech Republic's external action, the turning point in 2011 was the introduction of two new policy documents: the Foreign Policy Concept of the Czech Republic and the Security Strategy of the Czech Republic.**

## **The Czech Republic's Foreign Policy Concept**

A fundamental review of the principles underlying Czech foreign policy was a priority for the Czech Government formed after the June 2010 elections. The aim was to shape an appropriate policy response to the new challenges and opportunities facing the country in the rapidly changing world. The previous foreign policy concept was introduced in 2003 and for a period ending in 2006, but remained in place beyond this timeframe. In the changing international situation, the need for its thorough revision was increasingly urgent.

The Government's policy statement made on 4 August 2010 promised to fill this gap and moreover to complement the revised foreign policy concept with a revised security strategy. The Government made it clear that the new policies must balance change with the highest possible degree of continuity and domestic political consensus.

The task to draft the new foreign policy concept was assigned to the Foreign Ministry. During the drafting process, the Foreign Minister had several meetings with members of the competent committees of both parliamentary chambers in order to forge the broadest possible consensus on the key priorities and ideas, as well as to discuss the proposed changes in the organization of Czech foreign service.

Additional expert consultations with parliamentarians were held by Deputy Foreign Ministers. The Foreign Ministry, in cooperation with the Prague Institute of International Relations, organized twenty meetings on selected foreign policy issues with experts from parliamentary parties. The topics addressed in the policy concept were informally discussed with foreign relations experts and political scientists. The Foreign Ministry sponsored research projects and conferences dealing with these issues. The process was coordinated with work on other policy documents, in particular on the Czech Republic's security strategy and a policy concept for the Czech Republic's role in the EU. The new Foreign Policy Concept is thus the result of a long and thorough preparatory process. It was approved by the Government on 20 July 2011.

The Foreign Policy Concept is divided into five parts: an introduction followed by chapters describing the basic principles, priority fields, and the tasks at hand in each field. It serves as a basis for periodic short-term foreign policy programmes developed by the Foreign Ministry to provide detailed guidance for action in each priority field, on the basis of continuous assessment of events taking place worldwide.

The main priorities identified in the Foreign Policy Concept are:

- *To safeguard the Czech Republic's security; to identify, prevent and counter any threats; to contribute to the development of an economically and politically strong EU;*
- *To maintain and develop the transatlantic link, i.e. the alliance between Europe, the United States and Canada;*
- *To develop good relations with neighbouring countries and to foster regional cooperation;*
- *To promote human rights and democracy worldwide by means of transformation and development cooperation;*
- *To promote the Czech Republic's economic interests abroad;*
- *To facilitate the European integration of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe;*
- *To promote the Czech Republic's positive image abroad.*

**Europe, in particular the EU,** has a primary role as the space within which the Czech Republic develops and grows. The Czech Republic is committed to preserving a strong EU as a framework for the promotion of its national interests. Czech membership of the EU is not an end in itself, but a means to advance national interests. In addition, a strong and stable EU enables the Czech Republic to contribute to global security and development. The Czech Republic's priorities in the EU are: shared responsibility for Europe's development; the EU as a space and as a tool; the EU as a community defined by its functions and shared values; analysis of the EU's functioning in the post-Lisbon period and a policy concept for the Czech Republic's role in the EU; action to increase the Czech Republic's weight in EU institutions; and the Common Foreign and Security Policy as a vehicle for promoting the interests of the Czech Republic and of the EU.

The EU is the Czech Republic's priority area for **multilateral** cooperation. Action within the EU is complemented by balanced and resource-based participation in NATO, the UN and other international organizations.

The Czech Republic's priorities for **bilateral and regional cooperation are:** (1) global powers (United States, Russia, China); (2) European nuclear powers; (3) neighbours: stable Central European region (Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary), cross-border and regional cooperation; (4) Eastern and South-Eastern Europe (Eastern Partnership countries, countries of South-Eastern Europe); (5) developed democracies (EU members, Israel, Japan, Australia, Canada, and the Republic of Korea); (6) emerging economies (countries with growth potential - India and Brazil, South-Eastern Asia).

The long-standing principled policy of promoting **human rights** worldwide has gained the Czech Republic international respect over the past years. The new Foreign Policy Concept continues this policy and points out that the human rights element, including democratization and the sharing of transition experience, must be given a greater role in development cooperation strategies.

The new Foreign Policy Concept calls for an **innovation of export and import promotion policies**, namely as regards the support available to small and medium-sized enterprises. In a free market economy, government policies cannot be expected to substitute for independent initiatives of entrepreneurs and their interest groups. Nonetheless, it remains the government's responsibility to find ways to efficiently encourage and assist private initiative. The Czech Republic is an export-oriented economy subjected to tough international competition. Its economic and trade interests, especially in non-European regions, are often the main factor that decides about the existence of Czech embassies and the tasks assigned to diplomats whose knowledge of local conditions can help find niches for Czech exports at local markets.

## **The Czech Republic's Security Strategy**

The Czech Republic's Security Strategy was approved by the Government on 8 September 2011. The drafting process involving several government authorities was coordinated by the Foreign Ministry. The draft was discussed with the competent parliamentary committees and with the wider expert community.

The Government's policy statement made in 2010 promised to revise the existing security strategy document adopted in 2003. The aim was to align the national strategy with NATO's new Strategic Concept and with the overall development of the international situation. The new Security Strategy reflects and describes the changes that have occurred in the international security landscape since 2003, including the key threats to the Euro-Atlantic area. It provides a basis for systematic and coordinated action promoting the Czech Republic's security interests. Compared with the 2003 security strategy document, it puts more emphasis on concerted use of national, bilateral and multilateral tools in safeguarding the country's security.

The Security Strategy identifies the basic values, interests, attitudes, ambitions and tools that determine the action taken by the Czech Republic to safeguard its security interests:

- The chapter "Principles of the Czech Republic's Security Policy" sets out the fundamental principles of the country's security policy;
- The chapter "Security Interests of the Czech Republic" defines the country's vital, strategic and other important interests;
- The chapter "The Security Landscape" identifies the most important trends, factors and specific threats affecting the security landscape in which the Czech Republic safeguards and promotes its interests;
- The chapter "Strategy for Promoting the Security Interests of the Czech Republic" outlines ways to safeguard the country's security interests and describes the available multilateral and national tools, including a short description of the Czech Republic's security system.

The **vital interests** include the safeguarding the Czech Republic's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence, and preserving all prerequisites for the democratic rule of law, including the safeguarding and protection of human rights and freedoms.

The Security Strategy identifies the following **strategic interests** of the Czech Republic:

- Security and stability, especially in the Euro-Atlantic area;
- Preventing and managing local and regional conflicts and mitigating their consequences;
- Maintaining the UN's global stabilizing role and increasing its efficiency;
- Strengthening the cohesion and efficiency of NATO and the EU and maintaining a functional and credible transatlantic link;
- Promoting the NATO-EU strategic partnership, including enhanced cooperation in the complementary development of defence and security capabilities;
- Developing the role of the OSCE in the prevention of armed conflicts, in democratization and in building mutual trust and security;
- Maintaining a functioning and transparent conventional arms control regime in Europe;
- Supporting and developing regional cooperation;
- Supporting international stability through cooperation with partner countries;
- Promoting democracy, fundamental freedoms and the principles of the rule of law;
- Safeguarding internal security and protecting the population;
- Safeguarding the Czech Republic's economic security and improving the country's competitiveness;
- Safeguarding the Czech Republic's energy, raw-material and food security and maintaining an appropriate level of strategic reserves;
- Preventing and suppressing threats to the security of the Czech Republic and its allies.

The Security Strategy also identifies **other important interests**. The promotion of these interests helps safeguard vital and strategic interests and strengthen society's resilience to security threats.

The other important interests are:

- To reduce crime, in particular economic crime;
- To foster a tolerant civil society, to suppress extremism and its causes;
- To make government institutions and the judiciary more efficient and more professional; and to this end to improve the public administration's interaction with the general public, individual business operators and companies;
- To encourage the development of civic associations and non-governmental organizations involved in security issues;
- To improve general security awareness and active involvement of the general public in safeguarding security;
- To support scientific and technological development, in particular the development of new technologies with a high added value of innovation;
- To develop technical and technological capacities for the processing and transmission of classified and sensitive information, with special regard to its protection and accessibility;
- To protect the environment.

The Security Strategy notes that there is a low probability of a massive military attack directly threatening the Czech Republic. The basic safeguard of this favourable state of affairs is the Czech Republic's membership of NATO and the EU and its good relations with neighbouring countries. However, in contrast, there is a growing number of asymmetric security threats. These threats are the result of certain global trends that give them a chance to grow and to spread from remote hotbeds of local and regional conflicts and tension. A characteristic feature of the current security landscape is that instability and conflicts outside Europe may directly impact on the Czech Republic's security.

The main source of threats is the extremist mindset, rejecting the basic values of our society, casting doubt on the concept of the democratic rule of law and denying fundamental human rights and freedoms. This mindset seems to be characteristic of some states and is increasingly shared by non-state actors, various groupings and their supporters.

The growing ambitions of new global and regional actors have a fundamental impact on the security equilibrium. Underlying the aspirations of some of these countries is their strongly increased military capability, including ownership of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, combined with their growing need for key raw materials, their activity in financial markets, their struggle for influence in strategic areas, and their increasingly aggressive pursuit of political ambitions in international fora. Unilateral attempts by some countries to build up their spheres of influence using a combination of political, economic, military pressure and intelligence activities may be considered a threat as well. Associated with these trends is the risk of erosion of the political and legal commitments related to European security.

In most cases, security threats have their origins in weak or failed states whose governments are unable to ensure their own defence, to provide safety and security for the population and to safeguard the rule of law. This may lead to internal and regional conflicts that, eventually, have adverse impacts on our security.

A negative aspect of the globalization process is that the interconnected financial markets, information and communication technologies and infrastructure are very vulnerable to misuse. The ease with which radical political and religious ideas can spread in a world fraught with problems caused by uneven development is a destabilizing factor. Greater mobility speeds up the spread of infectious diseases, including those with pandemic potential.

The new Security Strategy makes the Czech Republic ready to provide an appropriate response to these and other risks in effective cooperation with its allies.



## **The EU and the Czech Republic's foreign policy in 2011**

The events of 2011 seemed to confirm the validity of the Security Strategy as regards its warning against the risks associated with globalization and interconnected markets. The economic crisis that hit the EU in 2011 stirred up tensions and undermined the self-confidence of EU members and even their trust in the validity and future of European integration, of the European welfare state and the European model of citizens' rights.

The Czech foreign service, in charge of foreign policy execution and coordination, had a limited room to manoeuvre. At the time of turbulent developments within the EU, it was taking action at multiple levels to save the country from being consigned to the periphery of influence and interest. 2011 was a difficult year, but it has also brought some events that will be rated as positive from the historical perspective.

A major success was the closing of the **accession negotiations with Croatia** in June and the signing of the EU-Croatia accession treaty in December 2011, followed by a ratification process.

A dominant issue on the EU agenda was economic development and the impacts of the crisis, namely on the Eurozone. There were extraordinary European Council meetings on the issues, as well as meetings of the Heads of State and Government of Eurozone countries. In late 2011 the discussion centred on the **Fiscal Pact**, adopted by the EU-25 at the beginning of 2012.

A process of special importance to the Czech Republic was the debate following the **Fukushima** Daiichi nuclear disaster and the resulting activities, such as the radical revision of Germany's **energy** policy (with considerable implications for the Czech Republic) and the decision to stress-test EU nuclear power plants. In the context of stress testing, the Czech Republic, in coalition with other countries, took an active stance against politically motivated efforts to weaken the nuclear sector. The tests continued until the end of 2011 and found that the level of safety in nuclear power plants in EU countries, including the Czech Republic, was satisfactory.

There was an increasingly intensive debate on the **external dimension of the EU energy policy**. Following the Commission's communication on the EU external

energy policy presented in September 2011, the Czech Republic expressed its views in a framework position drafted by the Foreign Ministry.

A discussion on the **multiannual financial framework** was set in motion.

Preparations (logistical, legal, etc.) for the relocation of the GSA (**Galileo**) agency from Brussels to Prague continued in 2011. The relocation itself took place in September 2012.

A dominant issue on the **European Neighbourhood Policy** (ENP) agenda was the Arab Spring and the question of increasing support for the Southern Neighbourhood. The Czech Republic's priority was to promote a balanced approach to both neighbouring regions, so as to protect the **Eastern Partnership** from being sidelined. In the ENP review process, the Czech Republic achieved the endorsement of the “**more for more**” principle which ensures that neighbouring countries get more EU support if they show more progress in the area of human rights, democratic values and the rule of law.

The Foreign Ministry, acting through the Czech Permanent Representation to the EU and in cooperation with like-minded EU members, took part in negotiations on the final version of the Commission's communication on the **Single Market Act**. The communication presented by the Commission in April 2011 sets out twelve levers to improve the functioning of the EU internal market. It is a major milestone in the EU's long-standing effort to complete a single internal market.

In parallel, the Czech Republic continued to work towards its general foreign policy priorities related to the EU, namely the approval of an additional protocol to the Lisbon Treaty.

### ***EU police and judicial cooperation***

The external dimension of EU police and judicial cooperation continued to gain importance. An example is the EU strategy on migration and asylum presented in the Commission's communication “The Global Approach to Migration and Mobility” (18 November 2011) which brings into play the external dimension of the EU asylum policy (Regional Protection Programmes). This move was a response to the surge of

economic migrants from Northern Africa during and following the Arab Spring, and to the increased influx of illegal migrants from the Middle East's volatile "crescent of crisis" (Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan) across the Greek border with Turkey.

To cope with the challenges facing its migration policy, the EU sought to improve its operational and legislative potential. Particular attention was paid to the protection of external borders (amendment to the FRONTEX regulation, amendments to the Schengen Borders Code and to the Schengen Evaluation Mechanism, and the ongoing debate on Schengen regulations).

In the area of visa policy, the EU continued to work towards visa liberalization with Russia, and also with Ukraine and Moldova, two Eastern Partnership countries open to reform in the relevant policy areas (migration management, law and order, document security). Visa facilitation became more strongly linked with readmission (cf. e.g. Foreign Affairs Council and Justice and Home Affairs Council conclusions). The Visa Information System (VIS) started operations in Northern Africa in October 2011. Discussions on an amendment to Council Regulation 539/2001 were set in motion. In this process, the Czech Republic advocated a change to the existing reciprocity mechanism – namely, the introduction of a new rule requiring the Commission to propose a reciprocal restoration of the visa requirement for a third country that has introduced the visa requirement for one or more of EU members. In general, from the Czech Republic's viewpoint, 2011 brought no improvement as regards the situation in the area of visa policy: there was no progress on the issue of Canadian visas and, in September 2011, Russia announced that Czech Airlines aircrews flying to Russia would be required to obtain visas. An agreement with Slovakia on mutual representation in issuing Schengen visas entered into force on 4 December 2011 (Slovakia represents the Czech Republic in Kenya, the Czech Republic represents Slovakia in Algeria, Ghana, the Philippines, Mongolia and Pakistan and, since the opening of a visa section at the Czech embassy in Kabul, also in Afghanistan).

## **The EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)**

2011 was the first year of operation of the **European External Action Service (EEAS)**: the selected staff from the Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council were permanently transferred to the EEAS on 1 January 2011. During 2011 the EEAS continued to improve its functioning and to work towards an understanding with other EU actors on the rules for their cooperation in third countries, including the delivery of EU demarches. Appointments to the EEAS were another major issue on the agenda: the Czech Republic secured three posts of heads of EU delegations (Iraq, Sudan, and Guyana), which was the best result achieved by any new EU member in 2011. On 22 December 2011 High Representative Ashton presented her first summary report describing the ways the EEAS reinforces the EU's role as an effective international actor and identifying the problems at hand (including the problems of inter-institutional cooperation between the EEAS and the Commission). The Czech Republic played an active role in the appointment of the EU Special Representative (EUSR) for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, and provided experts to take part in Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions, namely in civilian missions (EULEX Kosovo, EUMM Georgia, and EUPOL Afghanistan).

The establishment of the EEAS and related changes to the institutional framework led to changes in the organization and functioning of the informal **meetings of EU Foreign Ministers (Gymnich)**. The first Gymnich took place in Gödöllő, Hungary, on 11 – 12 March 2011. The topic was the Southern Neighbourhood, in particular the events of the Arab Spring. There was an in-depth exchange of views on the situation Libya and on the EU's next steps in the region. The programme included a session with the Foreign Ministers of candidate countries. The next Gymnich took place in Sopot, Poland, on 2 – 3 September 2011. The topics were the Middle East peace process, Libya, Strategic Partners (India, Brazil, and Republic of South Africa) and the Eastern Partnership, especially Ukraine and Belarus. The topics of both Gymnich meetings were thus relevant to the priorities of Czech foreign policy.

A new communication on the **European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)** presented in May 2011 sets out the main priorities and directions of a new EU

strategic approach to the ENP. The tools for achieving this end include the “more for more” approach which makes EU support conditional on compliance with six criteria in the area of democracy and on the progress of reform in these areas. As mentioned above, in the ENP review process the Czech Republic advocated a balanced approach to the Southern Neighbourhood and Eastern Partnership, and the application of the “more for more” principle as a way to improve the efficiency of EU assistance. The second Eastern Partnership summit in Warsaw on 29 – 30 September 2011 was attended by senior representatives of EU and partner countries, except for Belarus. The summit adopted a Joint Declaration and a separate declaration on the situation in Belarus.

One of the basic CFSP tools are **sanctions**. In 2011 the EU continued to impose and extend sanctions on third countries (as well as on non-state entities and individuals) in connection with the events of the Arab Spring (e.g. Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, and Syria), human rights violations (Belarus), failure to meet international commitments (Iran) or failure to respect election results (Ivory Coast). Where warranted by the situation on the ground, sanctions were lifted (Ivory Coast) or partly lifted (Transnistria). The Czech Republic supported the use of sanctions, but was careful to make sure that they do not target the civilian population.

In the area of **arms control**, the Czech Republic took part in regular exchange of information on the control of international trade in conventional arms, both within the Council’s working group on arms control (COARM) and on a bilateral basis. In connection with the events of the Arab Spring, EU members intensified their exchange of information on the exports of arms and military material to the Middle East. Using their increasingly harmonized export control policies, they sought to minimize the risks associated with exports of highly sensitive and dual-use goods to unstable regions. EU members also coordinated their action in the process leading towards the elaboration of the Arms Trade Treaty, the first global instrument regulating international trade in military arms and material. In 2011, the Czech Republic attended two meetings of the UN Arms Trade Treaty preparatory committee in New York. The Czech Republic also took an active part in EU projects intended to develop a common legal framework for arms export control policies in candidate countries (Croatia, Montenegro and Macedonia) and other third countries.

The Czech Republic took part in the international **fight against terrorism** especially in the context of the EU, UN and the OSCE. For example, in the Sixth Committee (Legal) of the UN General Assembly, the Czech Republic pressed for the earliest possible completion of work on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. In the EU, the counter-terrorism activities focused on the Horn of Africa, Central Asia, Sahel, and on South and South-Eastern Asia. EU strategies for the Horn of Africa and Sahel, adopted in 2011, combine the development and security dimensions of the EU's relationship to these regions. Action against terrorist financing was on the agenda of the political dialogues between the EU and India, the Gulf Cooperation Council, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United States and the UN. In December 2011 the Justice and Home Affairs Council adopted conclusions referring to the need to increase the coherence of the EU's internal and external policies as one of the priority challenges of the EU counter-terrorism strategy.

The Global Counter Terrorism Forum, in informal group including the EU was launched in New York September 2011 on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

## **Other dimensions of the multilateral policy**

### ***North Atlantic Alliance (NATO)***

The Czech Republic took an active part in the debate on topics relevant to the upcoming Chicago summit (May 2012): the future engagement in Afghanistan, NATO missile defence, NATO defence and deterrence posture review, and NATO-Russia relations. These topics were also on the agenda of the regular NATO Foreign Ministers meeting in December 2011.

In advance of the Chicago Summit, NATO worked on a Strategic Plan for Afghanistan to address i.a. the question of transition of security responsibility to the Afghan security forces and the question of NATO's role in Afghanistan beyond 2014. The Czech Republic supported the process, stressing that the transition from military engagement and reconstruction efforts to training and support activities would have to be carefully planned in advance (in 2011 the Czech Republic continued to lead the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Logar province, and the Czech Army actively supported and participated in the training of Afghan security forces as part of the NATO Training Mission).

The review of NATO's overall posture in deterring and defending against the full range of threats was mandated at the 2010 Lisbon summit in order to find the appropriate mix of the three core components of NATO defence and deterrence – nuclear, conventional and missile defence capabilities. The results of the process were set out in the NATO Deterrence and Defence Posture Review (DDPR) document. The Czech Republic considered it important that the review confirmed NATO's continuing commitment to maintaining all three components of its defence and deterrence capability, and to strengthening its interoperability and cohesion with due regard to the key importance of the transatlantic link.

In the area of missile defence, the primary goal was to reach interim missile defence capability. The achievement of this important milestone in building NATO's missile defence system was officially announced at the 2012 Chicago summit. In the coming years, the system will be expanded in phases to cover all Allies and will become part of NATO's collective defence. The Czech Republic is one of the most vigorous and

long-standing advocates of this project. It considers missile defence an essential part of NATO defence and deterrence, as well as a political tool *par excellence* which strengthens the Alliance's cohesion by linking together missile defence assets on both sides of the Atlantic.

### ***EU Common Foreign and Defence Policy (CSDP)***

The Czech Republic supports continued development of the CSDP as an efficient tool enabling the EU to fulfil its role as a global crisis management actor and to honour its commitments, especially those related to the transatlantic link. Accordingly, in 2011 the Czech Republic took an active part in the debate on a review of the EU's capability to plan and conduct CSDP operations. The review was one of the core aims of the Weimar Initiative, launched under the Polish EU Presidency in December 2010 by a joint letter sent by the Foreign and Defence Ministers of France, Germany and Poland to High Representative Ashton. The initiative focuses on the building of the EU operational planning and conduct capability, increasing the synergies between civilian and military planning, enhancing the NATO-EU relationship, as well as on the building of EU battlegroups, developing the CSDP civilian and military capabilities, involving the partner countries (especially the eastern partners) and strengthening the link between internal and external security, i.e. between the CSDP and the policies of the area of freedom, security and justice (AFSJ). In this context, the Czech Republic fully supported the conclusions of the December 2011 Foreign Affairs (Defence) Council meeting.

### ***Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)***

The Czech Republic has warned about the erosion of the OSCE's operational capability that has become apparent especially during the last two years. Like the EU and western democracies, the Czech Republic does not regard the December 2011 OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Vilnius as a success. For the first time ever, OSCE Foreign Ministers did not adopt any decision on human rights issues. This is one of the consequences of the inconclusive 2010 Astana summit that failed in its primary mission – to give the OSCE a substantive vision for the coming years.



The Czech Republic's long-standing position is that there is no need to change European security institutions – instead, more effort should be made to harness their full potential. The obligation to honour existing commitments, including those arising from the Helsinki Final Act and other relevant CSCE/OSCE documents, must remain an urgent topic of European security debate. The Czech Republic also insists that an enduring solution must be found to the protracted conflicts in Georgia, Moldova and Nagorno-Karabakh. In 2011, in line with its traditional position that respect for human rights must be ensured across the whole region, the Czech Republic i.a. led and coordinated a group of fourteen countries initiating the launch of the Moscow Mechanism (a mechanism which enables the OSCE to send expert missions to any OSCE participating State for fact-finding purposes or as a good offices and mediation mission to promote dialogue on questions relating to the human dimension). The Moscow Mechanism was set up following the crackdown on the opposition in Belarus after the presidential elections in December 2010.

### ***United Nations (UN)***

The General Debate of the 66th session of the UN General Assembly took place on 21-27 September 2011. Leading the Czech delegation was the President of the Republic, Václav Klaus, accompanied by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Karel Schwarzenberg. In the national address, President Klaus underlined the need for peaceful dispute settlement, including in relation to the Israel-Palestine conflict, and mentioned the preconditions that must be met by the countries of Northern Africa in order to successfully complete their transition to democracy. He also expressed support for the development of nuclear energy as a legitimate source of energy. Foreign Minister Schwarzenberg attended i.a. the EU-United States and EU-Russia meetings, the High-Level Event on Libya, the High-Level Event on Nuclear Safety, a ministerial meeting on responsibility to protect and a conference on facilitating the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. One of the main events of the 66th session was the application by Palestine to be admitted as a full member to the UN.

At the end of 2011, the General Assembly session in New York elected members of the International Law Commission, and the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome

Statute elected judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Professor Pavel Šturma was elected member of the UN International Law Commission for the 2012-2016 term, and Judge Robert Fremr was elected to the ICC bench for the 2012-2021 term.

The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited the Czech Republic on 14 – 17 April 2011 as part of his tour of Europe. He was received by the President of the Republic and the chairpersons of both parliamentary chambers. The meetings concerned i.a. the current political issues (developments in Northern Africa and the Middle East) and Czech participation in UN activities. The Secretary-General appreciated the Czech Republic's activities in the UN, including i.a. the presidency of the Executive Board of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and membership of the Peace Building Commission (PBC).

### ***Prague Agenda***

The first Prague Agenda conference took place at the Foreign Ministry on 12 April 2011. The Prague Agenda is a process initiated by the US President Barack Obama's speech in Prague in 2009 which outlined the Obama administration's vision for nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and nuclear security, and by the signing of the New START treaty between the United States and Russia in Prague in April 2010.

The conference, opened by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Karel Schwarzenberg, was divided into three panels to reflect the three pillars of the Prague Agenda: 1/ Taking stock of and evaluating the future outlook in disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) 2/ Strategic balance implications of disarmament and WMD non-proliferation; 3/ Nuclear security, including international cooperation in the prevention of nuclear terrorism.

### ***Membership of the UNESCO Executive Board***

On 2 November 2011, the Czech Republic was elected to the UNESCO Executive Board for a four-year term. With 153 votes it ranked second after Russia in Electoral

Group II, followed by Montenegro and Macedonia. The first full session of the Executive Board attended by the Czech Republic took place in February 2012.

### ***UN Human Rights Council***

In line with its foreign policy priorities, the Czech Republic presented its candidature for election to the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) for the 2011-2014 term. **It was elected through secret ballot by a convincing majority of members of the UN General Assembly on 20 May 2011** (the Czech Republic gained 148 votes, Romania 131, and Georgia with 89 votes failed to win a seat).

In the first half of 2011, the Czech Republic attended HRC sessions as a non-voting observer. The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Karel Schwarzenberg, delivered a statement during the High-Level Segment at the 16th HRC session.

After becoming a full member, the Czech Republic joined the requests to convene the 16th and 17th special sessions on the situation in Syria (August and December 2011), and took an active part in the 18th regular session (October 2011). As part of burden-sharing arrangements, it drafted the EU statement as well as its own national statement for the panel on peaceful protests and made additional national statements in the discussion on Belarus, Sudan, Yemen, Libya, Cambodia, Syria, and Somalia.

In 2011 the Czech Republic sent preliminary questions to countries coming up for review under the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, and made comments on approximately half of them during the interactive dialogue. The Czech Republic's long-term focus is on respect for civil and political rights, and namely on the problems of civil society, human rights defenders, non-governmental organizations, the freedom of speech and media, the freedom of religion, protection against torture, violence against women, action against the discrimination of minorities, and on cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.

After becoming a full HRC member in June 2011, the Czech Republic became a member of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group (UPR) which conducts the reviews. At the 12th UPR session in October 2011 the Czech Republic was

a member of the “troika” facilitating the review of the human rights situation in Venezuela.

The Czech Republic’s third and fourth periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child were considered by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva on 31 May 2011. The reports covered the period beginning on 1 January 2000 and ending on 31 December 2006. The Czech Republic’s eighth and ninth periodic reports on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination were considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Geneva on 18-19 August 2011.

During the 66th session of the UN General Assembly the Czech Republic made active contributions not only in its capacity as an EU member, but also in its national capacity as an HRC member. On behalf of the EU, it conducted the negotiations on the resolution on human rights defenders, a task traditionally regarded as one of the most complicated. As part of burden-sharing arrangements, it drafted the EU statement for the informal dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders.

In 2011 the Czech Republic actively helped shape the EU human rights policy in the EU Human Rights Working Group (COHOM). The key tasks were to begin work on human rights country strategies for non-EU countries and to carry out a comprehensive review of the EU human rights policy. The review resulted in the adoption of a Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy with an Action Plan, and the appointment of an EU Special Representative on Human Rights in June 2012.

### ***EU election observation missions***

The Czech Republic has a long record of involvement in efforts to improve the functioning of EU election observation missions, in particular as regards the follow-up on their recommendations. This was also the purpose of the pilot project to facilitate the training of party agents in Sierra Leone on the basis of the recommendations of the 2007 election observation mission. In 2011 observers

nominated by the Czech Republic and selected by the EU took part in missions to Sudan, Niger, Chad, Uganda, Nigeria, Peru, Zambia, Tunisia, Nicaragua, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

### ***Council of Europe***

Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimír Galuška headed the Czech delegation to the session of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers which took place in Istanbul on 10-11 May 2011.

On 3 March 2011 the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights published a report on his three-day mission to the Czech Republic which took place in November 2010. The report points to the unsatisfactory situation of the Roma minority in the Czech Republic, especially in the context of inclusive education.

In July 2011, the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities adopted its third Opinion regarding the implementation of the Convention by the Czech Republic. The Advisory Committee invited the Czech Republic to increase its efforts to combat racism, intolerance and xenophobia and to eliminate, without further delay, the practices that lead to the segregation of Roma children at school.

### ***Transformation cooperation***

As in the previous years, the 2011 transformation cooperation programme focused on countries of priority interest to Czech foreign policy, in particular those that have a long history of contacts with the Czech Republic and can directly draw lessons from the Czech experience (Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iraq, Kosovo, Cuba, Moldova, Myanmar/Burma, Serbia and Ukraine).

In addition, some projects were implemented in Northern Africa (Egypt, Tunisia.) following the events of the Arab Spring. The transformation cooperation programme provided funding for 57 projects implemented by Czech non-governmental organizations and institutions in cooperation with their partners in the beneficiary countries, as well as for the separate activities that the Foreign Ministry implements

on the ground mainly through Czech embassies. Beside activities in the priority countries and in Northern Africa, there were some one-off activities in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. In addition, Czech organizations and companies were involved in a number of multilateral and international projects. The transformation cooperation programme puts emphasis on coordination with other providers of support, governmental as well as non-governmental, and reflects the current trend in EU policies towards the countries concerned. In 2011, the total expenditure on projects, scholarships and transformation cooperation was CZK 53, 390,000.

## **The Czech Republic and its neighbours**

An event of exceptional importance were the **first ever Czech-Polish intergovernmental consultations** which took place on the occasion of the official visit by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland, Donald Tusk, to the Czech Republic on 15 July 2011. The participants included the ministers and other representatives of the ministries of defence, industry, regional development, transport and infrastructure, foreign affairs, as well as representatives of the Czech Government Office and the Polish Prime Minister's Chancellery. The intergovernmental consultations confirmed the steadily rising importance of Czech-Polish cooperation in all areas and the interest of both countries to carry on their strategic dialogue. The partners agreed to continue meeting in this format.

A highlight in the intensive working contacts with the Germany was the official visit of the Bavarian Minister-President Horst Seehofer to the Czech Republic on 23-24 November 2011. Minister-President Seehofer met the Czech Prime Minister Petr Nečas and Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg. His programme also included crucially important visits to the historic sites at Lidice, Terezín and Ústí nad Labem.

In the second half of 2011 the Czech Republic held the **presidency of the Visegrad Group** (V4). The main objective for the Czech V4 presidency was to achieve practical, tangible results in key areas of V4 cooperation, including the EU multiannual financial framework, energy, Eastern Partnership, Western Balkans, and armed forces cooperation.

The most important events under the Czech V4 presidency in 2011 were the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the V4, Slovenia and Western Balkan countries (4 November 2011), the V4 Prime Ministers summit (14 October 2011) that decided to elaborate a common V4 position on the energy mix and, last but not least, the V4 Presidents summit (7-8 October 2011). An important priority of the Czech V4 presidency was to enhance the group's internal cohesion. To facilitate this process, the Czech V4 presidency laid the foundations for the "Think Visegrad" V4 think-tank platform and hosted a conference on the problems of stereotyped perception of common history ("My Hero, Your Enemy: Listening to Understand", held at the Foreign Ministry in December 2011).

### ***The Czech Republic and the Western Balkans***

The above-mentioned **conference of the V4 and Western Balkan Foreign Ministers** (Prague, November 2011) was one of the most important and successful activities intended to encourage the EU membership aspirations of Western Balkan countries. In addition, as part of the process of sharing the experience of European integration, the Czech V4 presidency initiated a project to establish a separate fund for the Western Balkans modelled on the International Visegrad Fund.

### ***The Czech Republic and the Eastern Partnership***

As part of the EU Eastern Partnership project, the Foreign Ministry organized a seminar on the local and regional aspects of public administration reform for experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. The seminar took place in Kharkov, Ukraine.

### ***The Czech Republic and its key partners***

The signing of the new **Czech-French Strategic Partnership Action Plan for 2011-2013** (signed by the Prime Ministers in Paris in February 2011) was another major step forward in the development of Czech-French relations. The document detailing the cooperation between the two countries in a number of areas, including foreign policy, energy, the environment, education, trade and defence, reflects the specific needs and suggestions of all ministries involved.

The Czech Republic and **Ukraine** emerged from the complicated period that followed the granting of asylum to Bohdan Danylyshyn and was marked by mutual expulsion of diplomats. The official visit by Prime Minister Mykola Azarov to the Czech Republic in December 2011 can be regarded as a sign of progressive improvement.

Bilateral relations between the Czech Republic and the **Russian Federation** developed dynamically. The Russian President Dmitry Medvedev made a state visit to the Czech Republic on 7-8 December 2011. President Medvedev had meetings with



the Czech President and Prime Minister. A unique exhibition of items from the Kremlin Armoury collection was opened in Prague on the occasion of his visit.

## **The Czech Republic's policy towards non-European countries**

In 2011 non-European countries came to play a more visible role in Czech foreign policy. This was primarily due to the active policy of diversifying the range of Czech economic and trade contacts to include steadily growing non-European countries. Some other non-European countries received more attention because of their dynamic internal development.

The most urgent issue on the agenda was the Arab Spring and the need to shape a policy response to the complicated developments in the Middle East.

The Czech Republic maintained a strong presence in Afghanistan, including the ISAF and the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Logar province.

The Czech Republic welcomed the establishment of a new African state – the Republic of South Sudan.

Regional policy strategies for dynamically developing non-European regions (namely for Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa) were developed on the basis of the new key priorities of Czech foreign policy regarding these regions.

The growing importance of non-European countries in Czech foreign policy is matched by the number and frequency of visits by senior Czech representatives, including top-level visits, visits by parliamentary delegations, political consultations, and trade promotion visits. These contacts provided a significant impetus to the development of political dialogue and trade contacts. In return, the Czech Republic hosted a number of senior official visitors from the countries concerned.

Concerted use of all available diplomatic tools to promote national economic interests became a matter of increasing importance to Czech foreign policy. In line with the Foreign Policy Concept, the pursuit of economic interests became a dominant element of relations with non-European countries. The immediate result was a visible rise in trade exchange (mainly in Czech exports) with some countries (e.g. the Republic of Korea, Australia, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan).

The active Czech approach to individual non-European countries (Africa, the Americas, Middle East) included development cooperation projects, transformation projects, and projects promoting contacts in economy, trade, science, technology and culture.

Relations with non-European countries were on the agenda of many regular and extraordinary EU and UN sessions, meetings and conferences, as well as on the agenda of senior and expert-level regional cooperation events. The Czech Republic promoted its foreign policy priorities also at these fora, in cooperation with its strategic partners.

There were continuing efforts to expand and develop the framework of treaties, bilateral as well as multilateral, with important non-European regional actors.

Discussions began on ways to optimize the network of Czech embassies in non-European countries. The aim was to make the embassy network more efficient and to increase Czech presence in some regions while taking into account the existing budgetary constraints.

## **The consular dimension of the Foreign Ministry's work in 2011**

Like in the previous years, the consular service provided support to many Czech nationals in need of assistance abroad. Its public information tools, including travel advisories on the Foreign Ministry website, were used to inform travellers about security and health risks and to help them avoid getting into problems abroad.

The consular service operates an online voluntary registration system in which Czech nationals planning to travel abroad can enter their contact details and travel itinerary. The data are used to establish contact with Czech travellers caught up in emergency situations abroad and to send them useful information.

There were continuing efforts to improve the consular support available to Czech nationals. An agreement between the Czech and Slovak Foreign Ministries on cooperation and mutual assistance in the delivery of consular services in emergency situations in third countries was signed by the two Foreign Ministers on 4 November 2011. The agreement requires Czech and Slovak embassies and consulates to provide consular assistance to the other country's nationals in regions where the other country is not represented, or where the other country's embassy or consulate is inaccessible because of great distance. The Foreign Ministries exchanged lists of the embassies and consulates that would provide such assistance to their respective nationals.

Consular statistics show that in 2011 Czech embassies and consulates issued 2,706 emergency travel documents to Czech nationals (a document permitting the holder to return to the Czech Republic in case the holder's passport has been lost or is otherwise unavailable). The consular service dealt with 417 cases of death abroad. 1,040 Czech nationals became victims of crime abroad. 1,167 Czech nationals were taken into custody and 379 began to serve their prison sentences abroad.

The network of Czech honorary consulates continued to grow. In 2011 there were 170 functioning Czech honorary consulates (consulates headed by an honorary consul and supervised by a career consulate). Like some other countries, the Czech Republic increasingly relies on honorary consulates to complement its network of career consulates. Honorary consuls do not have the status of Czech civil servants. However,

they must have the required qualifications, including good social standing and knowledge of the local conditions. Honorary consuls receive no salary and are expected to pay the costs incurred by their consulates.

Czech honorary consulates are increasingly important actors in the process of developing bilateral contacts in areas such as economy, trade, science and technology and culture, especially in countries where the Czech Republic has no career embassy or consulate. They play an irreplaceable role in promoting the Czech Republic in their countries, and in assisting Czech nationals and companies faced with problems abroad.

## **Czech development cooperation and humanitarian aid in 2011**

Despite lasting economic stagnation, the Czech Republic continued to work towards the Millennium Development Goals in an effort to contribute to global security and stability by helping eradicate poverty and promote economic and social development in partner countries.

On the basis of the Czech Republic's Foreign Development Cooperation Concept for 2010-2017, the Foreign Ministry finalized development cooperation programmes for **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Moldova and Mongolia**. Work on the development cooperation programme for **Afghanistan** (the fifth "programme country") as well as the process of transformation of the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Logar province, was set in motion as part of the preparations for transition of security responsibility to Afghan authorities.

In 2011, Czech official development assistance (ODA) totalled CZK **4.426 billion** (USD 250,460,000). The ODA-GNI ratio was **0.124%**. The largest beneficiaries were the five "programme countries" and other priority partners: **Georgia, Palestine, and Serbia**. As regards **sectoral distribution**, the Czech Republic focused on areas where it has comparative advantages, such as the development of public administration capacities, civil society and education in beneficiary countries. A large portion of bilateral assistance went to the water management, agriculture and energy sectors. Cooperation in these sectors was also a good opportunity to present Czech technologies.

To further improve Czech foreign development cooperation (FDC), the Foreign Ministry, in cooperation with the Education Ministry, began work on a new **strategy for awarding government scholarships to students from developing countries** in 2013-2018. An important change is that the new strategy includes arrangements for the sending of Czech teachers to developing countries. This is a result of an independent review of the previous policy, commissioned by the Foreign Ministry.

In addition to bilateral FDC, the Czech Republic paid active attention to global and European processes under way in the area of development. In the EU, the Czech Republic contributed to public consultations on the overall approach to EU development cooperation and the new approach to budget support. One of its major achievements is the recognition of the important role of **the EU's previous transition experience** in the **new EU development framework** (the Commission's communication "Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change").

As regards global processes in the area of development, the focus was on preparations for the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness which took place in Busan, Republic of Korea, in late 2011. The final declaration includes a commitment to forge a new **global development partnership** involving all actors, in order to increase and reinforce development results. The Czech Republic fully supported the process and the successful efforts to bring in non-traditional and emerging donors.

In 2011 the Foreign Ministry launched a wide-ranging consultation process on the future Czech **multilateral development cooperation strategy for the period ending in 2017**, in order to reflect the steadily dominant share of multilateral development assistance in total ODA funding (in 2011 the ratio of multilateral to bilateral assistance was 69% : 31%) and to shape a response to urgent global development challenges (such as climate change, sustainable development, security, as well as the question of post-2015 MDGs).

In the humanitarian field, the Czech Republic contributed to global efforts to **avert famine in the Horn of Africa and Western Africa (Sahel)**. In Afghanistan and Ethiopia, the Czech Republic successfully addressed the transition from humanitarian action to development cooperation.

In 2011, the Foreign Ministry completed the move to the ODA reporting standards of the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD-DAC) in order to further improve the **transparency of Czech FDC**. The new global development education strategy introduced in 2011 helps raise public awareness of the problems and needs of developing countries. Documents and other information on Czech FDC are available on [www.mzv.cz/rozvoj](http://www.mzv.cz/rozvoj).

## **The Foreign Ministry's role in economic diplomacy**

As mentioned in the chapter on the new Foreign Policy Concept, there is a need to innovate export and import promotion policies, namely as regards the support available to small and medium-sized enterprises. In a free market economy, government policies cannot be expected to substitute for independent initiatives of entrepreneurs and their interest groups, or to compensate for lack of competitive potential. Nonetheless, it remains the government's responsibility to find ways to efficiently encourage and assist private initiative. **Economic and trade interests, especially in non-European regions, are often the main factor that decides about the existence of Czech embassies and the tasks assigned to diplomats** whose knowledge of local conditions can help find niches for Czech exports. These principles were reflected in the work of the Foreign Ministry's economic diplomacy departments in 2011.

The Czech Republic's economy is open and dependent on exports and external economic relations. About 80% of the Czech GDP is generated by financial, business and other economic transactions with foreign partners. Accordingly, the Government has identified the promotion of Czech economic interests abroad as one of its priorities.

In 2011, the focus on the structure and promotion of Czech exports proved more important than ever before. The territorial structure of Czech foreign trade attests to the dominant role of developed countries. **Clearly the primary destination for Czech exports was the EU with its 83% share in total Czech exports** (a 1% decline year-on-year). The EU's share in Czech imports was 63.8% (a 0.4% increase year-on-year). The turnover of trade with the EU declined year-on-year by 0.2% to 73.7% of total volume of Czech foreign trade. These data illustrate the closeness of the Czech Republic's ties with other EU countries. This brings many advantages but also risks, especially when the EU's main economic engines slow down (this is especially significant in the case of Germany with its 29% share in the total turnover of Czech foreign trade). In 2011, the most important EU partners had the following shares in the turnover of Czech foreign trade: Germany (29%), Slovakia (7.4%), Poland (6.4%),



France (4.4 %), Italy (4 %), Austria (4 %), Netherlands (3.4%) and the United Kingdom (3.3%).

The successes of Czech manufacturers and exporters in Europe are naturally most hopeful and encouraging. European markets will remain the main destination for Czech exports in the coming years. However, in **2011 the political and expert community became more open to a discussion on the territorial structure of Czech exports.**

A high share of intra-EU exports is an obvious risk factor. That is why efficient EU economies seek to avoid it – e.g. Germany has a 63% share of intra-EU exports, Sweden 58% and Finland less than 56%. In 2011, the risks inherent in the existing structure of Czech exports were identified e.g. in a study by PricewaterhouseCoopers which pointed to **excessive dependence on EU markets** as one of the basic causes for the limited influx of foreign direct investment.

It is true that the EU countries with lower shares of intra-EU exports (see above) have direct transport links to non-EU regions, which gives them some advantage over the Czech Republic, a landlocked country located inside the EU. However, it is also true that the structure of their foreign trade is at least partly the result of the active and systematic export diversification policies pursued by their governments.

**With this in mind, the Foreign Ministry increased its focus on export diversification.** This did not mean a shift towards a policy of reducing exports to the EU, but rather an increased commitment to promoting exports to non-EU regions. To this end, the Export Strategy lists priority countries and countries of interest to Czech exporters. The countries were identified in consultation with the business community, on the basis of their growth potential, absorption capacity and compatibility with Czech economy. They include large economies, markets where Czech goods and services are already known, and markets where Czech exporters have yet to catch up with the competition. What they have in common is a dynamic growth of imports and a high growth potential.

**External economic relations and export promotion were clear priorities for Czech diplomacy in 2011.** The need to diversify Czech exports was one of the

important factors in the process of optimizing the embassy network which began in 2011.

In the light of positive feedback and good experience from previous years, the Foreign Ministry earmarked special funding for model projects **in support of economic diplomacy**. The priority territories were Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, United States, Vietnam, Belarus, the Balkans, Ethiopia, Israel, Republic of South Africa, Syria and the Gulf countries. The priority sectors were modern technologies with high added value (such as IT, biotechnologies, environmental technologies and services), as well as industries traditionally and positively identified with Czech presence in the country concerned (such as engineering and energy industries, water management, automotive industry, transport, and food processing technologies).

In order to coordinate their roles in promoting Czech economic interests and assisting Czech companies, both inside and outside the EU, the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Industry and Trade entered into an agreement on a guaranteed standard of services related to the promotion of the economic interests of Czech companies (30 June 2011).

As part of the policies to increase the efficiency of economic diplomacy, the Foreign Ministry's Diplomatic Academy set up a **dedicated economic education programme for diplomats** to improve their understanding of the current economic situation in the world, the new trends in the promotion of economic interests, and the tools available for this purpose.

### ***Multilateral economic relations***

The Czech Republic sought to play the greatest possible role in the work of international organizations, so as to advance its interests and to build up its image as a developed European country. The Foreign Ministry coordinated the shaping of national positions presented in multilateral organizations. It also examined ways to improve the policies promoting Czech exports and economic interests, in line with the Czech Republic's International Competitiveness Strategy. The Foreign Ministry took

part in organizing events (seminars, workshops, etc.) intended to more closely align Czech foreign policy with economic interests and to assist their promotion.

The Czech Republic continued to develop its cooperation with the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development** (OECD), making full use of the OECD's output namely as regards the challenges posed by the economic crisis and by economic reforms. The key priorities were cooperation in stabilizing public finances and making them sustainable in the long term, as well as in encouraging innovation, developing the education sector and adapting the economy to climate change. In June 2011 the Foreign Ministry hosted a ministerial conference on the "OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme". The conference discussed ways to foster the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in the region.

The Czech Republic took an active part in the work of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), an organization that it regards as an important tool to ensure global financial stability. It also contributed to the work of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the agencies of the World Bank Group (WBG). The Czech Republic took part in the reform steps taken by the IMF and WBG to reflect the growing economic strength of some developing countries.

The Czech Republic cooperated with the World Trade Organization (WTO) in its efforts to advance the liberalization of world trade and to maintain and develop a predictable and transparent international trade system based on firm rules. The Czech Republic promoted its interests in the WTO mainly under the umbrella of the EU common trade policy.

In September 2011 the Foreign Ministry hosted the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on the "Promotion of common actions and co-operation in the OSCE area in the fields of development of sustainable energy and transport". The forum was attended by more than 250 representatives of OSCE countries, expert organizations and NGOs.

In the area of climate change, the Czech Republic took an active part in the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 17) and the 7th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the

meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 7) which took place in Durban, Republic of South Africa, at the end of 2011. Representatives of almost 200 countries discussed the post-Kyoto Protocol framework, in particular a new legally binding global treaty to limit carbon gas emissions. Also on the agenda was financial assistance to developing countries, with a view to the fact that these countries bear the brunt of climate change. The Czech Republic, together with other EU members, urgently calls for an early adoption of a new, comprehensive and legally binding climate protection treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol after 2012.

In 2011 the Czech Republic began to prepare for participation in the Expo 2015 universal exposition in Milan. The exposition's theme is "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life".

In debates on the financial challenges facing international organizations in times of economic crisis, the Czech Republic, as a general policy, urged that international organizations should curb their spending rather than increase their membership contributions. The Foreign Ministry, in consultation with other competent government authorities, argued against any proposals to increase the budgets of international organizations, and called for cost-cutting measures.

## **Czech foreign policy has lost three leading figures**

Reports and overviews are expected to keep to impersonal facts. However, this time it is our sad duty to briefly remember three great people who left an indelible mark on Czech foreign policy and whom we have lost in 2011.

The passing of former President **Václav Havel** was a great loss to the Czech Republic. Václav Havel led the way in many areas of national life, his influence was felt in the way our country perceived itself and in the image and values it projected abroad.

It is difficult to describe the personality we have lost in Václav Havel. He was a writer, a leading dissident, President of Czechoslovakia, President of the Czech Republic, and above all a great European and a convinced democrat. He saw our country not merely as a bridge between the West and the East, but as a part of Europe and Western culture, with all the advantages but also with all the obligations this entails. At the same time, his attitudes made him a citizen of the wider world, keenly alive to his share of responsibility for the direction the world would take. Václav Havel was a statesman with a vision reaching far beyond the next election day and far beyond the borders of his country.

Another hard loss was the death of **Jiří Dienstbier**. Like Václav Havel, Jiří Dienstbier was not a person to be neatly pigeonholed. His life story, too, was certainly rich in dramatic turns. Jiří Dienstbier served as a spokesman for Charter 77 and was sentenced in 1979 to three years in prison for his activity in the Committee for the Defence of the Unjustly Prosecuted. In late 1989 he became Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister. Most of us will probably remember the moment when, on 23 December twenty-two years ago, Foreign Minister Dienstbier and his German colleague Hans-Dietrich Genscher symbolically cut the barbed wire on the border between Czechoslovakia and Germany. In a similar ceremony, Jiří Dienstbier cut through the barbed wire on the Austrian border. These iconic moments symbolized our liberation from the constricting bounds of the Iron Curtain and the beginning of our return to Western Europe, where we have always belonged intellectually.

Our respected colleague and original writer, **Jiří Gruša**, passed away in the same year. Another multifaceted and complex personality, Jiří Gruša did a great service to Czech diplomacy as ambassador to Germany (1991-1997) and Austria (1998-2004). He promoted the Czech Republic as president of PEN International (2003-2009) and as director of the Vienna Diplomatic Academy (2005-2009), one of the oldest and most renowned establishments of its kind in Europe. What was particularly impressive about Jiří Gruša as a diplomat was his readiness to let human feeling prevail over officialdom, his wonderful ability to genuinely communicate.

Jiří Gruša was instrumental in charting a new, positive course for Czech-German relations and, above all, in making the Czech-German Declaration a reality. In Germany as well as in Austria, Jiří Gruša was the best advertisement the Czech Republic could wish for – witty, creative, charming, but also a consistent thinker whose deep understanding of global processes was not limited by Central European perspective.

What the three personalities had in common was a rare ability to swim against the tide. They believed in higher moral principles and sought to make them part of their lives, a feat that sometimes seems to be beyond the powers of an individual. Their principled stance and their perseverance is the essence of their contribution to Czech foreign policy. They remain a lasting source of inspiration to all Czechs and particularly to Czech diplomats.

## ***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 (HC Brno)
Antigua a Barbuda	no diplomatic relations	1997	New York (HC St.John´s)	London
Argentina	1924	1993	Buenos Aires (HC Mendoza, HC Presidencia Roque Sáenz Peña, provincia Chaco)	Prague
Armenia	1992	1993	Tbilisi	Vienna
Australia	1972	1993	Canberra (Consulate Sydney, HC Adelaide, HC Hobart, HGC Melbourne, HC Perth HC Brisbane)	Warsaw (HC Prague)
Austria	1920	1993	Vienna (HC Graz, HC Klagenfurt, HC Linz, HC Salzburg, HC Wattens)	Prague (HC Brno, HC České Budějovice)
Azerbaijan	1992	1993	Baku	Prague
Bahamas	no diplomatic relations	2005	Havana	not designated
Bahrain	1990	1993	Riyadh (HC Manama)	Berlin
Bangladesh	1972	1993	Delhi (HC Dacca)	Berlin
Barbados	1977	1996	New York	London
Belarus	1992	1993	Minsk (HC Brest)	Prague (HC Brno)
Belgium	1919	1993	Brussels (HC Antwerp, HC Liège, HC Saint-Servais-Namur)	Prague
Belize	no diplomatic relations	1996	Mexico (HC Orange Walk Town)	not designated (HC 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>
Benin	1963	1993	Abuja (HC Cotonou)	Berlin (HC Prague)
Bolivia	1935	1993	Lima (HC La Paz)	Vienna
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1992	1993	Sarajevo	Prague
Botswana	1968	1997	Pretoria (HC Gaborone)	London HC Prague
Brazil	1920	1993	Brasília (CG Sao Paulo, HC Fortaleza-CE, HC Joinville, HC Recife-PE, HC Rio de Janeiro, HC Salvador-BA, HC Victoria/Vila Velha)	Prague
Brunei	1992	1995	Jakarta	not designated
Bulgaria	1920	1993	Sofie (HC Varna)	Prague
Burkina Faso	1968	1993	Accra	Vienna
Burundi	1963	1993	Addis Abeba	Moscow
Cambodia	1956	1993	Bangkok	Berlin
Cameroon	1990	1993	Abuja (HC Douala)	Moscow
Canada	1920	1993	Ottawa (CG Toronto, HCG Calgary)	Prague
Cape Verde	1975	1993	Lisbon (HC Praia)	Berlin (HC Prague)
Central African Republic	1970	2008	Abuja	Paris
Chad	1967	1994	Abuja	Moscow
Chile	1924	1993	Santiago	Prague
China (PRC)	1930 (1949)	1993	Beijing (CG Hong Kong, CG Shanghai)	Prague
Colombia	1934	1993	Lima (HC Barranquilla, HC Cartagena de Indias, HC Medellin, HC Bucaramanga, HC Cali)	Vienna
Comoros	1977	1995	Addis Abeba	Moroni
Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo)	1960	1993	Abuja (HC Kinshasa/Gombe)	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>
Cook Islands	no diplomatic relations	2008	Canberra	not designated
Costa Rica	1935	1993	Mexico	Berlin
Croatia	1992	1993	Zagreb	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 Abeba (HCG Djibouti)	not designated
Dominica	no diplomatic relations	1996	New York	not designated
Dominican Republic	1942	1993	New York (HC Santo Domingo)	Brussels (CG Prague)
East Timor		2002	Jakarta	not designated
Ecuador	1935	1993	Lima (HCG Guayaquil, HC Quito)	Warsaw
Egypt	1922	1993	Cairo (HC Alexandria)	Prague
El Salvador	1930	1994	Mexico (HC San Salvador)	Berlin
Equatorial Guinea	1970	1993	Abuja	Berlin
Eritrea		1993	Cairo	Berlin
Estonia	1922	1993	Tallinn	Prague (HC Brno)
Ethiopia	1944	1993	Addis Abeba	Berlin
Fiji	1970	1996	Canberra	not designated
Finland	1921	1993	Helsinki (HC Tampere)	Prague
France	1918	1993	Paris (HC Lille, HC Marseille, HC Nantes, HC Strasbourg)	Prague
Gabon	1976	1993	Abuja	Libreville
Gambia	1972	1993	Accra (HC Banjul)	Brussels
Georgia	1992	1993	Tbilisi	Prague

Country	Diplomatic relations established with the former Czechoslovakia	Diplomatic relations established with the Czech Republic	Seat of the competent mission of the Czech Republic	Seat of the competent mission of the given state for the Czech Republic
Germany	1920 GDR 1949 FRG 1973	1993	Berlín (CG Dresden, CG Munich, Consulate Düsseldorf, HC Dortmund, HC Frankfurt a.M., HC Hamburg, HC Nuremberg, HC Rostock, HC Stuttgart)	Prague
Ghana	1959	1993	Accra	Prague
Greece	1920	1993	Athens (HC Heraklion, HC Piraeus, HC Rhodes, HC Tessaloniki – temporarily closed)	Prague
Grenada	1979	1993	New York	not designated
Guatemala	1927	1993	Mexico (HC Ciudad de Guatemala)	Vienna (HC Prague)
Guinea	1959	1993	Accra (HC Conakry)	Berlin
Guinea Bissau	1973	1993	Accra	Brussels
Guyana	1976	1993	Brasília (HC Georgetown)	London
Haiti	1943	2005	Mexico (HC Port-au-Prince)	not designated
Honduras	1930	1993	Mexico (HC Tegucigalpa)	Berlin (CO Prague)
Hungary	1922	1993	Budapest	Prague
Iceland	1921	1993	Oslo (HC Reykjavik)	Vienna (HCG Prague)
India	1947	1993	Delhi (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

<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>
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	Mexico (HC Kingston)	Berlin (HC Prague)
Japan	1920	1993	Tokyo (HC Kobe)	Prague
Jordan	1964	1993	Amman	Vienna
Kazakhstan	1992	1993	Astana (HC Almaty)	Prague (HC Jaroměř)
Kenya	1964	1993	Addis Abeba	The Hague
Kiribati	no diplomatic relations	2007	Kuala Lumpur	not designated
Kosovo		2008	Pristina	Prague
Kuwait	1963	1993	Kuwait City	Prague
Kyrgyzstan	1992	1993	Astana (HC Bishkek)	Vienna
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	Tripolis	Prague
Liechtenstein	1938	2009	Bern	Vienna
Lithuania	1922	1993	Vilnius	Prague (HC Brno)
Luxembourg	1922	1993	Luxembourg	Prague
Macedonia/FYROM		1994	Skopje	Prague
Madagascar	1976	1993	Addis Abeba	Moscow
Malawi	1991	1993	Harare	Berlin
Malaysia	1971	1993	Kuala Lumpur	Prague
Maldives	1975	1993	Delhi	not designated
Mali	1960	1993	Algiers (HC Bamako)	Berlin (HC Prague)
Malta	1968	1993	Rome (HC Naxxar)	La Valletta (HC Prague)
Marshall Islands	no diplomatic relations	2009	Manila	not designated
Mauritania	1965	1993	Rabat (HC Nouakchott)	Berlin

<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>
Mauritius	1976	1993	Pretoria (HC Port Louis)	Berlin (HC Prague)
Mexiko	1922	1993	Mexico City (HC Guadalajara Jalisco, HC Monterrey, Nuevo León, HC Tijuana)	Prague
Micronesia	no diplomatic relations	2004	Manila	not designated
Moldova	1992	1993	Chisinau	Prague
Monaco	no diplomatic relations	2008	Paris (HCG Monte Carlo)	not designated
Mongolia	1950	1993	Ulaanbaatar	Prague
Montenegro		2006	Belgrade (C Podgorica)	Vienna
Morocco	1959	1993	Rabat (HC Casablanca, HC Fes)	Prague
Mozambique	1975	1993	Harare (HC Maputo)	Berlin
Myanmar/ Burma	1955	1993	Bangkok	Berlin
Namibia	1990	1993	Pretoria	Vienna
Nauru	no diplomatic relations	2007	Manila	not designated
Nepal	1959	1994	Delhi (HC Kathmandu)	Berlin (HC Prague)
Netherlands	1919	1993	The Hague	Prague
New Zealand	1958	1993	Canberra (HC Auckland)	Berlin (HC Prague)
Nicaragua	1930	1993	Mexico City (HC Managua)	Berlin (HC Prague)
Niger	1975	1995	Abuja (HC Niamey)	Berlin
Nigeria	1961	1993	Abuja	Warsaw
Norway	1921	1993	Oslo (HC Bergen, HC Sjøvegan, HC Trondheim)	Prague
Oman	1990	1993	Riyadh	Vienna
Pakistan	1950	1993	Islamabad (HC Karachi, HC Lahore)	Prague
Palau		2003	Manila	not designated
Palestina (Palestinian Autonomous Territories)	1983	1993	Ramallah (liaison office to the Palestinian Autonomous Territories)	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>
Panama	1929	1993	Mexico City (HC Ciudad de Panamá)	Berlin (HC Prague)
Papua New Guinea	1988	1995	Kuala Lumpur (HC Port Moresby)	not designated
Paraguay	1936	1993	Buenos Aires (HC Asunción)	Vienna (HC Prague)
Peru	1922	1993	Lima (HK Callao)	Prague
Philippines	1973	1993	Manila (HC Cebu City, HC Davao City)	Prague
Poland	1919	1993	Warsaw (HC Bydgoszcz, HC Częstochowa, HC Poznań, HC Wrocław) HC Lodź	Prague (CG Ostrava, CK Brno)
Portugal	1920	1993	Lisbon (HC Faro, HC Funchal, HC Porto)	Prague
Qatar	1990	1993	Kuwait	Budapest
Republic of Congo	1964	1993	Abuja (HC Brazzaville)	Berlin (HC Prague)
Republic of Korea	1990	1993	Seoul	Prague
Romania	1919	1993	Bucharest (HC Timisoara)	Prague
Russia	1934 (USSR)	1993	Moscow (CG Yekaterinburg, CG St. Petersburg, HC Khanty-Mansiysk, HC Nizhniy Novgorod)	Prague (CG Brno, CG Karlovy Vary, HC Ostrava)
Rwanda	1965	1998	Addis Abeba	Berlin
Samoa	no diplomatic relations	1995	Canberra	not designated
San Marino	1991	1993	Vatican	San Marino (HCG Prague)
São Tomé and Príncipe	1975	1993	Pretoria	not designated
Saudi Arabia	no diplomatic relations	1995	Riyadh (HC Jeddah)	Prague
Senegal	1967	1993	Rabat	Berlin
Serbia		2003	Belgrade	Prague
Seychelles	1976	1993	Addis Abeba (HC Victoria)	Victoria (HC Prague)
Sierra Leone	1962	1993	Accra	Moscow

<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>
Singapore	1973	1993	Jakarta (HK Singapore)	Singapore (HCG Prague)
Slovakia		1993	Bratislava	Prague
Slovenia	1992	1993	Ljubljana	Prague
Solomon Islands	no diplomatic relations	1996	Canberra	Brussels
Somalia	1960	2002	Addis Abeba	Moscow
South Africa (RSA)	1991	1993	Pretoria (Visegrad House Cape Town)	Prague
Sovereign Order of the Knights of Malta	1939	1993	Vatican	Prague
Spain	1919	1993	Madrid (HC Barcelona, HC Benidorm, HC Jerez de la Frontera, HC La Orotava /Santa Cruz deTenerife, HC Oviedo, HC Palma de Mallorca)	Prague
Sri Lanka	1957	1993	Delhi (HC Colombo)	Vienna (HC Prague)
Sudan	1956	1993	Cairo (HC Khartoum)	Vienna (HC Prague)
Suriname	1976	1993	Brasília (HC Paramaribo)	not designated
St. Kitts and Nevis	no diplomatic relations	1993	New York	not designated
St. Lucia	no diplomatic relations	1996	Mexico Ciy	not designated
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	no diplomatic relations	1995	New York (HC Kingstown)	not designated
Swaziland	1991	1993	Pretoria	Brussels
Sweden	1920	1993	Stockholm (HC Malmö)	Prague
Switzerland	1919	1993	Bern (HC Basel, HC Locarno HC Lugano)	Prague
Syria	1946	1993	Damascus (HC Aleppo, HC Lattakia)	Prague
Tajikistan	1992	1993	Tashkent	Berlin
Tanzania	1961	1993	Addis Abeba	Berlin
Thailand	1974	1993	Bangkok (HC Chiang Mai, HC Phuket)	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>
Togo	1960	1993	Accra (HC Lomé)	Paris
Tonga	no diplomatic relations	2007	Canberra	not designated
Trinidad a Tobago	1979	1997	PM New York, Mexico City (HC Port of Spain)	not designated
Tunisia	1959	1993	Tunis	Prague
Turkey	1924	1993	Ankara (CG Istanbul, HC Antalya, HC Izmir)	Prague
Turkmenistan	1992	1993	Tashkent	Vienna
Tuvalu	no diplomatic relations	2005	Kuala Lumpur	not designated
Uganda	1962	1993	Addis Abeba	Berlin
Ukraine	1922	1993	Kiev (CG Donetsk, CG Lvov, HC Kharhkov)	Prague (Consulate Brno)
Uruguay	1921	1993	Buenos Aires (HC Montevideo)	Prague
United Arab Emirates	1988	1993	Abu Dhabi	Vienna
United Kingdom	1918	1993	London (HC Belfast Newtownards, HCG Edinburgh)	Prague

Country	Diplomatic relations established with the former Czechoslovakia	Diplomatic relations established with the Czech Republic	Seat of the competent mission of the Czech Republic	Seat of the competent mission of the given state for the Czech Republic
USA	1918	1993	Washington (CG Chicago, CG Los Angeles, CG New York, HCG Anchorage, CG Atlanta, HC Boston/Wellesley, HC Buffalo/Clarence, HCG Fort Lauderdale, HCG Houston/West, HC Kansas City, HC Minneapolis/St. Paul, HCG New Orleans/Kenner, HC Orlando, HCG Philadelphia/Spring House, HC Pittsburgh, HK Portland/Lake Oswego, HC Salt Lake City, HCG San Francisco, HCG San Juan HC Livingston, HCG West	Prague
Uzbekistan	1992	1993	Tashkent	Berlin
Vanuatu	no diplomatic relations	2002	Canberra	not designated
Vatican	1920	1993	Vatican	Prague
Venezuela	1929	1993	Brasília	Prague
Vietnam	1950	1993	Hanoi (HC Ho Chi Minh City)	Prague
Yemen	YAR 1956 PDRY 1968	1993	Abu Dhabi	Prague
Zambia	1965	1993	Harare	Berlin
Zimbabwe	1981	1993	Harare	Vienna

NB:

- 1) State as at 31 December 2011.
- 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. Consulates General (CG), consulates headed by an honorary consular officer (HC), Consulates General 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.



***Heads of missions of the Czech Republic as at 31  
December***

<b>country</b>	<b>head of mission</b>	<b>date on which agrément granted</b>	<b>date on which credentials presented</b>
<b>Islamic Republic of Afghanistan</b> Kabul	<b>PELZ Petr</b> ambassador	27.3.2010	3.7.2010
<b>Republic of Albania</b> Tirana	<b>VÁLKY Vladimír</b> chargé d'affaires a. i.		
<b>People's Democratic Republic of Algeria</b> Algiers <i>Competence:</i> Algeria Mali	<b>KLUCKÝ Pavel</b> ambassador	28.8.2009 13.10.2009	13.12.2009 30.7.2010
<b>Argentine Republic</b> Buenos Aires <i>Competence:</i> Argentina Paraguay Uruguay	<b>ZAJAC Štěpán</b> ambassador	10.9.2007 1.10.2007 4.8.2008	18.4.2008 25.3.2008 19.11.2008
<b>Commonwealth of Australia</b> Canberra <i>Competence:</i> Australia New Zealand Cook Islands Fiji Samoa Solomon Islands Vanuatu Tonga	<b>KMONÍČEK Hynek</b> ambassador	23.2.2011 23.3.2011 6.7.2011 18.5.2011 17.6.2011 28.3.2011 12.5.2011	17.5.2011 8.2.2012 28.3.2012 2.2.2012 28.6.2012 26.11.2012
<b>Republic of Azerbaijan</b> Baku	<b>MATULA Radek</b> ambassador	6.6.2008	4.7.2008
<b>Kingdom of Belgium</b> Brussels	<b>ŠRÁMEK Ivo</b> ambassador	28.1.2011	12.10.2011
<b>Republic of Belarus</b> Minsk	<b>KARAS Jiří</b> ambassador	27.7.2009	15.9.2009
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b> Sarajevo	<b>SZUNYOG Tomáš</b> ambassador	27.7.2009	7.10.2009

<b>country</b>	<b>head of mission</b>	<b>date on which agrément granted</b>	<b>date on which credentials presented</b>
<b>Federative Republic of Brazil</b> Brasília <i>Competence:</i> Federative Republic of Brazil Guyana Venezuela Suriname	<b>JANČÁREK Ivan</b> ambassador	 6.3.2008 5.5.2011 18.4.2011 11.5.2011	 6.11.2008 12.11.2012  17.11.2011
<b>Republic of Bulgaria</b> Sofia	<b>VACEK Pavel</b> ambassador	24.1.2011	
<b>People's Republic of China</b> Beijing	<b>SEČKA Libor</b> ambassador	4.8.2009	11.1.2010
<b>Kingdom of Denmark</b> Copenhagen	<b>LYČKA Zdeněk</b> ambassador	15.4.2008	7.7.2008
<b>Arab Republic of Egypt</b> Cairo <i>Competence:</i> Egypt Sudan Eritrea	<b>KAFKA Pavel</b> ambassador	 11.1.2011 16.3.2011 30.3.2011	 4.4.2011 16.2.2012 16.2.2012
<b>Republic of Estonia</b> Tallinn	<b>LANGER Alexandr</b> ambassador	6.5.2008	28.8.2008
<b>Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia</b> Addis Ababa <i>Competence:</i> Ethiopia Djibouti Madagascar African Union Commission Somalia South Sudan Burundi Rwanda Kenya Tanzania Uganda Seychelles Comoros UN Economic Commission for Africa	<b>LIBŘICKÝ Marek</b> ambassador	 30.7.2009 15.10.2010  14.7.2011 6.5.2011  14.10.2011 12.12.2011	 22.12.2009 28.2.2011  5.1.2010  6.12.2011 19.10.2011  8.11.2012 20.3.2012  11.5.2010

<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 the Philippines</b> Manila <i>Competence:</i> Philippines Palau Micronesia Marshall Islands Nauru	<b>RYCHTAR Josef</b> ambassador	  28.8.2009 31.8.2009 22.9.2009 27.1.2010 12.2.2010	  13.11.2009 23.3.2010 20.1.2012 19.7.2010 29.3.2010
<b>Republic of Finland</b> Helsinki	<b>TOMČO Martin</b> ambassador	15.10.2010	17.2.2011
<b>French Republic</b> Paris <i>Competence:</i> French Republic Monako	<b>CHATARDOVÁ Marie</b> ambassador	 5.5.2010 16.7.2010	 3.12.2010 18.1.2011
<b>Republic of Ghana</b> Accra <i>Competence:</i> Ghana Togo Sierra Leone Liberia Ivory Coast Burkina Faso Gambia Guinea Guinea-Bissau	<b>MACHÁLEK Miloslav</b> ambassador	 26.11.2009 23.2.2010 16.6.2011 30.4.2010 6.1.2010 31.3.2010 15.1.2010 24.1.2011	 11.2.2010 23.11.2011 22.6.2012 3.3.2011  4.6.2010 30.11.2010 27.2.2012
<b>Georgia</b> Tbilisi <i>Competence:</i> Georgia Armenia	<b>JESTŘÁB Ivan</b> ambassador	 21.12.2007 29.2.2008	 24.4.2008 19.6.2008
<b>Republic of Chile</b> Santiago de Chile	<b>KUBÁNEK Zdeněk</b> ambassador	5.11.2007	26.3.2008
<b>Republic of Croatia</b> Zagreb	<b>KÜHNL Karel</b> ambassador	23.7.2007	16.10.2007

<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 India</b> Delhi <i>Competence:</i> India Bangladesh Sri Lanka Nepal Maldives	<b>STAŠEK Miloslav</b> ambassador	6.1.2010 9.9.2010 5.3.2010 3.2.2010	5.8.2010 19.9.2011 14.2.2011 15.3.2011 2.3.2011
<b>Republic of Indonesia</b> Jakarta <i>Competence:</i> Indonesia Brunei East Timor Singapore ASEAN	<b>SMETÁNKA Tomáš</b> ambassador	8.6.2011 10.8.2011 2.8.2011 29.9.2011	28.10.2011 4.10.2012 14.12.2011 29.12.2011
<b>Republic of Iraq</b> Baghdad	<b>VRABEC Josef</b> ambassador	25.5.2011	27.10.2011
<b>Islamic Republic of Iran</b> Tehran	<b>HAVLAS Josef</b> chargé d'affaires		
<b>Ireland</b> Dublin	<b>KAFKA Tomáš</b> ambassador	28.4.2008	2.9.2008
<b>Republic of Italy</b> Rome <i>Competence:</i> Italy Malta	<b>BURIÁNEK Petr</b> ambassador	25.5.2011 12.5.2011	12.9.2011 10.11.2011
<b>State of Israel</b> Tel Aviv	<b>POJAR Tomáš</b> ambassador	8.12.2009	27.5.2010
<b>Japan</b> Tokyo	<b>FIALKOVÁ Kateřina</b> 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 South Africa</b> Pretoria <i>Competence:</i> Republic of South Africa Botswana Namibia Mauritius Lesotho Swaziland Angola Sao Tome and Principe	<b>FAJKUSOVÁ Blanka</b> ambassador	  9.6.2011 10.11.2011  June 2011  13.9.2011	  1.2.2012 20.2.2012    
<b>Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan</b> Amman	<b>HOLUBKOVÁ Ivana</b> ambassador	10.9.2006	5.6.2007
<b>Canada</b> Ottawa	<b>ŽEBRAKOVSKÝ Karel</b> ambassador	11.9.2008	21.10.2008
<b>Republic of Kazakhstan</b> Astana <i>Competence:</i> Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan	<b>KOPECKÝ Bedřich</b> ambassador	 13.2.2008 11.4.2008	 5.5.2008 26.8.2008
<b>Democratic People's Republic of Korea</b> Pyongyang <b>Republic of Korea</b> Seoul	<b>ŠTRAUCH Dušan</b> ambassador  <b>OLŠA Jaroslav, jr.</b> ambassador	 9.8.2010  19.3.2008	  4.9.2008
<b>Republic of Kosovo</b> Pristina	<b>DOLEŽEL Jiří</b> chargé d'affaires		
<b>Republic of Cuba</b> Havana <i>Competence:</i> Cuba Bahamas	<b>JAKOBEK Milan</b>  chargé d'affaires ambassador	  22.4.2010	  28.10.2010
<b>State of Kuwait</b> Kuwait City <i>Competence:</i> Kuwait Qatar	<b>VÁVRA Martin</b> ambassador	  24.8.2008 3.11.2008	  1.12.2008 11.2.2009

<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 Cyprus</b> Nicosia	<b>ŠKEŘÍK Ladislav</b> ambassador	2.5.2011	15.6.2011
<b>Republic of Lebanon</b> Beirut	<b>ČUMBA Svatopluk</b> ambassador	31.1.2011	22.7.2011
<b>Libya</b> Tripoli	<b>KOUTSKÝ Josef</b> ambassador	26.10.2009	24.2.2010
<b>Republic of Lithuania</b> Vilnius	<b>PECH Radek</b> ambassador	17.8.2009	1.2.2010
<b>Republic of Latvia</b> Riga	<b>ŠEPELÁK Pavol</b> ambassador	22.9.2011	29.11.2011
<b>Grand Duchy of Luxembourg</b> Luxembourg	<b>KORSELT Vít</b> ambassador	19.5.2010	20.10.2010
<b>Republic of Hungary</b> Budapest	<b>BAMBASOVÁ Helena</b> ambassador	31.5.2010	27.9.2010
<b>Republic of Macedonia/ FYROM</b> Skopje	<b>BRAUN Jozef</b> ambassador	29.10.2007	20.3.2008
<b>Malaysia</b> Kuala Lumpur <i>Competence:</i> Malaysia Tuvalu Papua New Guinea Kiribati	<b>FŮRY Jan</b> ambassador	14.5.2008 24.7.2008 6.2.2009 27.6.2008	16.9.2008 14.7.2009
<b>Kingdom of Morocco</b> Rabat <i>Competence:</i> Morocco Mauritania Senegal	<b>MED František</b> 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>
<b>United Mexican States</b> Mexico City <i>Competence:</i> Mexico Guatemala Belize Costa Rica El Salvador Honduras Nicaragua Panama	<b>HAVLÍK Jiří</b> ambassador	  20.9.2007 20.2.2008 29.6.2011 30.3.2011 30.5.2011  15.4.2011 28.4.2011	  8.5.2008 2.10.2008 19.9.2011 12.4.2012   11.8.2011
<b>Republic of Moldova</b> Chisinau	<b>KVAPIL Jaromír</b> ambassador	18.8.2009	29.1.2010
<b>Mongolia</b> Ulaanbaatar	<b>JÍLEK Václav</b> ambassador	16.4.2008	21.7.2008
<b>Federal Republic of Germany</b> Berlin	<b>JINDRÁK Rudolf</b> ambassador	13.10.2006	11.12.2006
<b>Federal Republic of Nigeria</b> Abuja <i>Competence:</i> Nigeria Niger Benin Čhad Cameroon Equatorial Guinea Gabon Republic of Congo Democratic Republic of the Congo Niger Central African Republic	<b>SIRO Jaroslav</b> ambassador	 17.12.2007 18.12.2007 15.12.2010 22.4.2010 7.4.2008 13.3.2009 14.11.2011 24.6.2011 4.6.2010 6.7.2011	 15.2.2008 7.8.2008  3.12.2010 29.7.2009  3.2.2012 14.9.2012
<b>Kingdom of the Netherlands</b> The Hague	<b>HORÁK Jaroslav</b> ambassador	4.6.2010	8.9.2010
<b>Kingdom of Norway</b> Oslo <i>Competence:</i> Norway Iceland	<b>NOVÝ Luboš</b> ambassador	 27.4.2007 15.5.2007	 23.8.2007 12.1.2008

<b>country</b>	<b>head of mission</b>	<b>date on which agrément granted</b>	<b>date on which credentials presented</b>
<b>United Nations</b> New York PM Dominican Republic Grenada Barbados Jamaica Trinidad and Tobago Antigua and Barbuda Dominica St. Lucia St. Kitts and Nevis St. Vincent and Grenadines Haiti	<b>HRDÁ Edita</b> ambassador		24.1.2011 12.10.2011 5.3.2012 25.10.2011 30.1.2012  13.6.2012 20.10.2011  14.6.2012 20.1.2012
<b>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation</b> Paris PM to UNESCO	<b>KAISEROVÁ Halka</b> permanent representative of the Czech Republic		
<b>Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development</b> Paris PM to OECD	<b>DYBA Karel</b> permanent representative of the Czech Republic		Note of appointment tendered 10.10.2007
<b>Islamic Republic of Pakista</b> Islamabad	<b>KŘENEK Miroslav</b> ambassador	17.6.2011	4.10.2011
<b>Republic of Peru</b> Lima <i>Competence:</i> Peru Colombia Bolivia Ecuador	<b>EISENBRUK Vladimír</b> ambassador	24.5.2010 20.1.2011 22.6.2010 2.2.2011	2.2.2011 15.12.2011 13.10.2011 4.5.2011
<b>Republic of Poland</b> Warsaw	<b>SECHTER Jan</b> ambassador	5.5.2008	22.7.2008
<b>Portuguese Republic</b> Lisbon <i>Competence:</i> Portuguese Republic Cape Verde	<b>ŠARBOCHOVÁ Markéta</b> ambassador	5.8.2009 23.9.2009	15.10.2009 30.1.2010



<b>country</b>	<b>head of mission</b>	<b>date on which agrément granted</b>	<b>date on which credentials presented</b>
<b>Council of Europe</b> Strasbourg PM	<b>BOČEK Tomáš</b> permanent representative of the Czech Republic		
<b>Republic of Austria</b> Vienna	<b>KOUKAL Jan</b> ambassador	26.9.2006	28.11.2006
<b>Romania</b> Bucharest	<b>ŠITLER Jiří</b> ambassador	3.6.2010	14.12.2010
<b>Russian Federation</b> Moscow	<b>KOLÁŘ Petr</b> ambassador	6.7.2010	8.2.2011
<b>Hellenic Republic</b> Athens	<b>ŠEVČÍKOVÁ Hana</b> ambassador	3.6.2010	3.11.2010
<b>Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</b> Riyadh <i>Competence:</i> Saudi Arabia Bahrain Oman	<b>HLADÍK Eubomír</b> ambassador	6.11.2008 21.12.2008 6.1.2009	11.1.2009 20.10.2009 23.11.2009
<b>Republic of Slovakia</b> Bratislava	<b>KARFÍK Jakub</b> ambassador	20.8.2009	21.10.2009
<b>Republic of Slovenia</b> Ljubljana	<b>VOZNICA Petr</b> ambassador	31.7.2009	6.10.2009
<b>United Arab Emirates</b> Abu Dhabi <i>Competence:</i> United Arab Emirates Yemen	<b>LUDVA Jaroslav</b> ambassador	25.10.2009 19.5.2011	17.5.2010 12.2.2012
<b>United States of America</b> Washington	<b>GANDALOVIČ Petr</b> ambassador	18.4.2011	7.7.2011
<b>Republic of Serbia</b> Belgrade <i>Competence:</i> Serbia Montenegro	<b>HUBÁČKOVÁ Hana</b> ambassador	5.12.2007 4.2.2008	18.3.2008 16.5.2008
<b>NATO</b> Permanent Delegation Brussels	<b>POVEJŠIL Martin</b> ambassador		note of appointment tendered 25.8.2009
<b>European Union</b> Permanent Representation to the EU Brussels	<b>VICENOVÁ Milena</b> ambassador		took office on 7.1.2008

<b>country</b>	<b>head of mission</b>	<b>date on which agrément granted</b>	<b>date on which credentials presented</b>
<b>Holy See</b> Vatican <i>Competence:</i> Holy See Sovereign Military Order of Malta San Marino	<b>VOŠALÍK Pavel</b> ambassador	30.4.2008 30.6.2008 9.7.2008	27.9.2008 26.2.2009 3.2.2009
<b>Syrian Arab Republic</b> Damascus	<b>FILIPI Eva</b> ambassador	10.6.2010	7.10.2010
<b>Kingdom of Spain</b> Madrid <i>Competence:</i> Spain Andorra UNWTO	<b>BERAN Karel</b> ambassador	28.7.2009 6.8.2009	5.10.2009 16.11.2009
<b>Kingdom of Sweden</b> Stockholm	<b>Hynková Jana</b> ambassador	19.10.2011	8.12.2011
<b>Swiss Confederation</b> Bern	<b>LAZAR Boris</b> ambassador	28.1.2008	11.4.2008
<b>Kingdom of Thailand</b> Bangkok <i>Competence:</i> Thailand Cambodia Laos Myanmar/Burma	<b>SEDLÁČEK Milan</b> ambassador	4.6.2010 28.1.2011 18.2.2011 27.1.2011	7.1.2011
<b>Republic of Tunisia</b> Tunis	<b>SLABÝ Alexander</b> ambassador	17.7.2009	19.11.2009
<b>Republic of Turkey</b> Ankara	<b>HUBINGER Václav</b> ambassador	30.12.2009	21.4.2010
<b>Ukraine</b> Kiev	<b>POČUCH Ivan</b> ambassador		16.11.2011
<b>Republic of Uzbekistan</b> Tashkent <i>Competence:</i> Uzbekistan Tajikistan Turkmenistan	<b>KOPECKÝ Robert</b> ambassador	22.10.2008 14.1.2008 9.7.2010	3.2.2009 20.4.2009 28.9.2010

country	head of mission	date on which agrément granted	date on which credentials presented
<b>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</b> London	<b>ŽANTOVSKÝ Michael</b> ambassador	7.9.2009	10.12.2009
<b>Office of the UN, OSCE and other international organisations based in Vienna</b> Vienna PM MAAE OBSE UNODC CTBTO UNIDO	<b>KUCHYŇOVÁ ŠMIGOLOVÁ Veronika</b> ambassador		note of appointment tendered  25.8.2009 11.9.2009 25.8.2009 18.8.2009 21.8.2009
<b>Office of the UN and other international organisations based in Geneva</b> Geneva PM	<b>SEQUENSOVÁ Kateřina</b> ambassador		6.9.2011
<b>Socialist Republic of Vietnam</b> Hanoi	<b>KRÁL Michal</b> ambassador	24.4.2008	15.8.2008
<b>Republic of Zimbabwe</b> Harare <i>Competence:</i> Zimbabwe Malawi Mosambique Zambia	<b>ZAHRADNÍČEK Luděk</b> chargé d'affaires		took office on 9.12.2008