



# COMMUNICATING EUROPE: CZECH PERSPECTIVES ON EU ENLARGEMENT

Tuesday 2 – Wednesday 3 December 2008



With the Assistance of the  
Strategic Programme Fund - Reuniting Europe  
of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office,  
the British Embassy, Prague  
and the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In association with the Prague Security Studies Institute



With less than a month to go before the start of the Czech EU Presidency on 1 January 2009, this seminar is planned as an informal debate engaging senior figures from the Czech Republic with leading counterparts from the Western Balkans. It allows for frank off-the-record discussion on key policy questions, including:

- the nature and dynamics of the Czech EU-enlargement debate and the attitudes to future enlargement,
- the aims of the Czech EU Presidency, with a particular focus on the Western Balkans
- the major concerns of Czech policy makers with regard to the Western Balkans,
- the Czech pre-accession experience and lessons from membership, and
- the role of Czech think tanks and the media in the EU debate, in the Czech Republic and beyond.

## TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER

1200-1330

Informal Lunch. Meeting point: Hotel Constans, Břetislavova 309, Malá Strana

1330

Group leaves Hotel Constans to walk to Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czernin Palace, Loretánské náměstí 5

1400-1415

## INTRODUCTION

**Chris LANGDON and Gerald KNAUS**

European Stability Initiative

**Jiří SCHNEIDER**

Programme Director, Prague Security Studies Institute, PSSI

1415-1545

**THE CZECH EU PRESIDENCY AND THE WESTERN BALKANS – THE CURRENT ISSUES**

*How does the Czech EU Presidency plan to address candidacy applications of the Western Balkan countries in the first half of 2009? What can be expected from the European Council? How can the visa liberalisation agenda best be addressed during the Presidency? What does the Czech Presidency expect from the Western Balkan countries?*

Opening Remarks followed by discussion

**Tomáš POJAR**

First Deputy Foreign Minister, Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Tomáš SZUNYOG**

Director, Western Balkans, Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1545-1615

Tea/coffee

1615-1745

**EU ENLARGEMENT – LESSONS FROM THE CZECH EXPERIENCE: BEFORE AND AFTER EU ACCESSION**

*What are the lessons from the Czech experience of the EU accession process? How did the Czech Republic's negotiators address contentious issues such as competition policy, free movement of labour, access to EU funds, and relations with neighbours? What are the lessons since May 2004?*

**Josef KREUTER**

Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs, Ambassador to the EU 1993-2000, and Deputy Chief Negotiator 2000-2002

1800-1900

**UNDERSTANDING THE CZECH DEBATE ON THE EU**

*What are the key drivers of the Czech domestic debate about the EU? How will it impact on the Czech EU Presidency?*

**PETR DRULÁK**

Director, Institute of International Relations

1910

Walk to British Embassy

1930-2230

**WORKING DINNER – INFORMAL DISCUSSION**

Hosted by HM Ambassador, Linda Duffield, at the British Residence  
With the Ambassadors of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, and Serbia

**WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER**

0830

Meet in Hotel Lobby for walk to Czernin Palace

0900-1000

**THE CZECH ECONOMY AND EU ENLARGEMENT**

*What has been the impact of EU enlargement on the Czech Republic's economic development? What are the lessons for the Western Balkan countries?*

**Tomáš SEDLÁČEK**

Chief Macroeconomic Strategist, ČSOB Bank

1000-1030

Tea/Coffee

1030-1145

**THE JHA AGENDA AND VISA LIBERALISATION**

*As the Czech Presidency prepares to take over co-ordination of EU policy-making on visa liberalisation for the Western Balkans, how will it address the issues? A major EU Seminar on migration policy is planned for April 2009; how will it advance the agenda? How does the Czech Government co-ordinate its policy positions on this issue?*

**Tomáš URUBEK**

Head of Unit, Department for Asylum and Migration Policy, Czech Ministry of the Interior

**Marek SOUČEK**

Coreper II Co-ordinator, European Policy Co-ordination Department, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

1145-1200

Break

1200-1315

**INFLUENCING EUROPE: THE THINK-TANK SCENE IN PRAGUE AND ITS WIDER IMPACT**

*How does the Czech Republic's rich think-tank and civil society scene influence Czech policy-making? How do Czech think-tanks influence EU and NATO policy-making? What does work and what does not when trying to influence European policy debates?*

**Jeff LOVITT**

Executive Director, PASOS, Policy Association for an Open Society

**Alice SAVOVOVÁ**

Executive Director, Association for International Affairs (AMO)

**Jiří SCHNEIDER**

Author, *"Think-tanks in Visegrád Countries"* and Programme Director, Prague Security Studies Institute, PSSI

1315-1515

**WORKING LUNCH:**

**HOW DOES THE CZECH MEDIA COVER INTERNATIONAL NEWS?**

*The Czech Republic now has two 24 hour Czech language TV news channels, two financial dailies and a large number of web-based news and discussion sites. What does this mean for the coverage of news from South East Europe? How do Czech journalists make EU-related issues relevant and interesting to their viewers and readers?*

**Martin EHL**

Chief International Editor, Hospodářské Noviny

**Jakub SZÁNTÓ**

Deputy Foreign Editor and programme editor of Události, Czech TV News

1530-1630

**HOW WILL EU SOFT POWER AND EU FOREIGN POLICY BE PUT TO THE TEST IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE IN 2009?**

*This session will focus on the Western Balkans and draw on the expertise of participants from South East Europe and specialists on the region from the Czech Republic.*

*Presentation followed by discussion*

**Gerald KNAUS**

Chairman, ESI

1830

**BRAINSTORMING:**

**COMMUNICATING EUROPE – THE WAY FORWARD**

*Meeting up in Café .... (Optional)*

1930

**COMMUNICATING EUROPE**

**INFORMAL DINNER AND SCREENING**

*Dinner with screening of ESI documentary followed by an informal discussion on communicating changing realities in South East Europe.*

## The European Stability Initiative

[www.esiweb.org](http://www.esiweb.org)

*"The ESI is the nucleus of what Europe really needs in order to be able to develop a true foreign policy, crisis prevention and peace building capability - painstakingly independent and thorough analysis of truly difficult issues. Others might have been better than ESI in capturing the headlines, but no one has been better than the ESI in engaging the brains."*

**Carl Bildt**

*"Among the people whom I have so far met on the Balkans circuit they have the clearest view of what needs to be done... their approach is to spend enough time thoroughly researching and analysing their topics to be able to present recommendations that they feel they can stand behind also in the longer term."*

**Martti Ahtisaari**

*"The mission of ESI: to challenge international organisations in the Balkans to wake up from bureaucratic inertia"*

**Die Welt**

The European Stability Initiative (ESI) is an independent policy research institute with offices in Istanbul, Brussels and Berlin, as well as in the Balkans. ESI aims to contribute to the development of a stable, prosperous and peaceful Europe by providing timely and relevant analyses of political and economic trends in Europe. **It supports the process of European enlargement as the most successful policy of bringing peace and prosperity to the European continent and building a genuine political European Union.**

In recent years, ESI has made a large and visible contribution to a number of European debates: the future of international policy in the Balkans; proposals to overcome the dangerous stand-off in the divided town of Mitrovica; giving the Balkans a clear European perspective (proposed before the Thessaloniki summit); proposals for the future of European assistance to the region; proposals for international policy towards Kosovo. Since 2004, Turkey has also become a central focus of ESI's work which resulted in two internationally acclaimed studies: "Islamic Calvinists" and "Sex and Power in Turkey". Recently, ESI has expanded its activities to the Caucasus where it has held capacity building seminars and has set up new country offices.

All ESI reports are made available to the general public as well as to policy makers, academics, journalists and interested readers in Europe and the United States. ESI reports are sent out to more than 25,000 subscribers, and the ESI website has an average of 50,000 visits per month.

ESI has been supported by a large number of governments, including the Swedish, Norwegian, Dutch, German, Belgian, Irish, Danish, Slovene, Swiss, Luxembourg, United Kingdom, Canadian and U.S. governments, as well as the European Commission, the ERSTE Foundation, the U.S. Institute of Peace, the German Marshall Fund of the United States, Open Society Institute, the C. S. Mott Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation, the Fondation Roi Baudouin, and the Körber Foundation.

Fourteen ESI analysts are based in Berlin, London, Brussels, Vienna, Istanbul, Pristina, Belgrade, Tbilisi, Baku, and Yerevan. They regularly brief EU Commissioners and foreign ministries across Europe. They also build the capacity of new policy institutes working on political economy issues in the Balkans.

**Media which have recently reported on ESI:**

The New York Review of Books  
The International Herald Tribune  
The New York Times  
The Economist  
Wall Street Journal  
Financial Times  
The Guardian  
BBC  
Neue Zürcher Zeitung  
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung  
Süddeutsche Zeitung  
Die Welt  
Die ZEIT  
Der Spiegel  
Libération  
Le Monde  
Le Figaro  
Le Soir

Furthermore, a range of newspapers, magazines, radio and TV stations in Austria, Turkey, Sweden, Norway, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Albania, Switzerland, the U.S., Denmark, and Croatia have recently reported on ESI.

Please go to [www.esiweb.org](http://www.esiweb.org) for more information in English, German, French, Turkish, and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian.



## **THE PRAGUE SECURITY STUDIES INSTITUTE**

The Prague Security Studies Institute (PSSI) is a non-profit public policy organization established in early 2002 to advance the building of a just, secure, democratic, free-market society in the Czech Republic and other post-communist states.

PSSI's mission is also to help educate and train an ever-growing number of informed and security-minded young policy-practitioners in the field of Security Studies on a global basis. The Institute concentrates on identifying and analyzing foreign policy and security issues in the Transatlantic relationship and in the Asia-Pacific region. It aims to propose practical and prudent policy options to address these and other security challenges. PSSI offers programs that meet the critical requirement of equipping new generations of young leaders to manage the complex security-related challenges of the 21st century.

To fulfil its mission, PSSI is actively pursuing a variety of activities under its four principal programs: the Security Scholars Program; the Program of Atlantic Security Studies; the Corporate Council Program; and its Outreach Program.

PSSI has organized a series of successful international Seminars including, "NATO and the Greater Middle East" in 2003, "Energy and Security" in 2004, "Business and Security" in 2005, "Democracy and Security" in 2007, and "Asia-Pacific Security Challenges" in 2008.

PSSI is closely affiliated with PSSI Washington, which is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization also committed to enriching the public policy debate on security-related issues in the U.S.–Czech relationship, the Atlantic alliance more broadly, as well as the Asia-Pacific region.

### **The Prague Security Studies Institute**

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