



MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR  
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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**MUDr. Mgr. Ivan Langer**  
Minister of the Interior  
of the Czech Republic

### Short News:

**14<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (10:15 PM):**

Czech Minister of the Interior, Ivan Langer, met Vice-President of the European Commission, Jacques Barrot. The topics of their meeting were the Schengen Information System (SIS II) and other aspects of Schengen.

**14<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (9:30 PM):**

Another meeting took place, this time with Minister of Justice and Police of Norway, Knut Storberget. They discussed the subject of priorities in the area of internal affairs, Norwegian funds, and protection of children.

**14<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (7 PM):**

Czech Minister of the Interior Ivan Langer met his Macedonian counterpart – Minister of Internal Affairs, Gordana Jankuloska, at Corinthia Hotel. They discussed visa liberalisation.

Dear readers,

The last second of the year 2008 ended the period of the French Presidency in the EU Council and at the beginning of the new year the Czech Republic filled the empty space. Now, after the first few weeks in this role and after several events I believe it is doing quite well.

You are reading the first issue of CZ PRESS NEWS which will regularly inform you every other week about the most important news and updates concerning the Czech Presidency. We will try to make it not only informative but also interesting and attractive. I believe that the Czech Republic will successfully perform its Presidential role and I hope you will find this newsletter to be a useful guide on our way.

Ivan Langer, Minister of the Interior

### Informal Meeting of Ministers for Justice and Home Affairs

- took place on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> in Prague. Besides the ministers from EU member countries, the representatives of Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Croatia, Macedonia and Turkey also participated in the meeting at the Congress Centre in Prague. Minister of the Interior, Ivan Langer, brought up several topics for discussion concerning the Czech priorities for the Presidency.



At the beginning the ministers discussed modern technologies and security. Modern technologies are being dynamically developed, but they are also easily accessible to criminals and terrorists. Therefore, it is necessary to better coordinate their use on the European level and ensure an updated overview of how the measures that have already been taken work in practice, what has proven useful, where cooperation is not sufficient and which direction we should focus on in the future.

The subject of modern technologies stayed in discussion – this time the ministers discussed their use in the area of border protection, migration control and asylum policy. The Czech Presidency will, in cooperation with other member countries, attempt to simplify the existing measures that use the latest information technologies, make them more transparent and connect them with technologies planned for the future.

During the work lunch, Minister of the Interior Ivan Langer came up with the topic of improving international protection of children. The Czech Presidency announced the registration of a new European domain, [www.alertchild.eu](http://www.alertchild.eu), for exchange of information about timely alerts about missing children so called Child Alert systems. The ministers are convinced that the Schengen Information System should be put in a better use when searching for missing children and the cooperation in the fight against illegal content on the Internet and against crime committed on children via the Internet should also be improved.

At the afternoon meeting the ministers discussed the development of Schengen Information System II and agreed that the project is in crisis, which needs to be solved immediately. The plan of the Czech Presidency consists of a series of mutually connected measures. Its part is, besides the activation of the current project, creating a backup solution. The final decision about the aim of SIS II will be made in June 2009 at the latest.



## PRIORITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

### Priority Nr.1: Modern technologies

The use of modern technologies and information networks is today's key security issue. It is linked to the government's priority of "Europe without Barriers" and will be the general topic of the entire Czech Presidency in the area of home affairs. The Czech Republic wants to initiate a political discussion about the issue of "Use of modern technologies for security purposes and secure use of modern technologies". This should cover, apart from other things, a search for balance between security and technologies on the one hand and protection of privacy on the other hand. The roles of modern technologies in the field of security and the development of European information networks and databases require a global and unified approach. The Czech Presidency will therefore seek to open a debate which would lead to the development of a common methodology for efficient implementation of new instruments in the security agenda.

### The minister's point of view



**The Czech Republic has gained its first experience as the presiding country in the EU Council. How does the Minister of the Interior, Ivan Langer, feel about it?**

I regard the EU as our common home in which we all contribute every day by everything that our parents taught

us and that we inherited from our ancestors. At the same time we are, brick by brick, building new ideas, so that we are able to respond to the needs of our hectic time. The goal of The Ministry of the Interior during the Presidency is to help to maintain this house, so that every inhabitant knows that everyone can truly feel "at home" in it. This goal should be achieved by the priorities of the Ministry of the Interior, which we want to present to you in CZ PRESS NEWS.

**We are not exactly one of the biggest members of this family. What is your opinion of the role of small countries during their Presidency?**

You know, I don't like to distinguish between big and small countries and I don't think that the Presidency of small countries should be considered less significant than that of the big countries. Every country

is different and brings its own point of view into the European agenda that reflects its historical background and experience from its domestic politics. We can often hear in the media only about achieving one's own priorities and about the fact that small countries have worse conditions. It is important to point out that the presiding country should mainly act as a mediator, as a connecting piece of all the member countries, and be able to bring different opinions to a consensus.

**About a month ago the Czech Republic celebrated the first year of entering the Schengen area. How can the Czech Republic under the current circumstances contribute to better European safety?**

We are well aware of the fact that removing the border checks at the common internal borders logically brings increased security threats. In order to maintain a high level of security for citizens, it is necessary to adopt compensating measures, especially in the area of police cooperation and access to the Schengen Information System (common database of Schengen countries containing data about wanted criminals, illegal foreigners and stolen vehicles) that has been a major success and has made searching for people and things easier even to the Czech administration.

**13<sup>th</sup> January:** Minister of the Interior, Ivan Langer, held a meeting in Strasbourg with the European Parliament delegation and members of the LIBE (Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs). Ivan Langer brought to the attention of the committee's members the main priorities of the Ministry of the Interior during the Czech Presidency, among which belong: use of modern technologies for security purposes, international protection of children and rational anti-drug policy.

**8<sup>th</sup> January:** Minister of the Interior met the ambassadors in Prague. During the talks before the informal meeting of JHA, which takes place in Prague on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> January, the minister provided them with detailed information on particular topics of the informal meeting. They also discussed recent issues in internal affairs.

**8<sup>th</sup> January 2009:** Minister of the Interior, Ivan Langer, met representatives of foreign media and introduced the priorities of the Czech Presidency in the area of internal security.

**7<sup>th</sup> January 2009:** Minister of the Interior, Ivan Langer, met Vice-President of the European Commission, Jacques Barrot. Minister Langer introduced the departmental priorities and the most important events of the Czech Presidency of the Ministry of the Interior. As part of this meeting they discussed the most significant legislative and non-legislative proposals in the area of internal affairs.

### Plan of events: 19<sup>th</sup> January – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2009

**20. 1. Vienna:** Minister Langer will be attending Informal Meetings of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

**21. 1. Brussels:** Minister Langer will be talking about the priorities of the Czech Presidency in LIBE (Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs).

**22. 1. Prague:** Secretary General of Council Affairs and Migration at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be meeting the director of Department of Asylum and Migration Policy, PhDr. Tomáš Haišman, and discuss the following issues: Global approach to migration, Prague conference Building migration partnerships (April 2009), and migration and Latin America.

**22. 1. Prague:** General Director of International Organization for Migration (IOM), William Lacey Swing, will be coming for a short visit to the Czech Republic to talk about the priorities of the Czech Presidency. He will be meeting the director of Department of Asylum and Migration Policy, PhDr. Tomáš Haišman, and the Deputy-Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tomáš Pojar, and the Minister of the Interior, Ivan Langer.

**26. 1. Berlin:** International symposium about integration, employment and social mobility. The Czech Republic will probably be represented by the Minister of the Interior, Ivan Langer.

**29.–30. 1. Prague:** Conference called Enhancing CBRN Security in Hotel Intercontinental organized by European Commission under the auspices of the Czech Presidency.