



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:

**26<sup>th</sup> January 2009:**

An international symposium called "Creating Opportunities – Integration, Employment and Social Mobility: European Experiences and Scope for Manoeuvre" took place in Berlin. The Czech Republic was represented at this symposium by the Deputy Minister of the Interior for European Affairs, Lenka Ptáčková Melicharová, and by the Director of the Department of Asylum and Migration Policy, Tomáš Haišman.



## Ivan Langer Introduced the Priorities of the Ministry of the Interior to the EU Parliament Committees in Brussels

On Wednesday, January 21, 2009, the Minister of the Interior, Ivan Langer, introduced the priorities of the Czech Ministry of the Interior during the Czech EU Presidency to the European Parliament committees in Brussels. The presentation took place at the EP Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE).

At the LIBE, the Minister introduced the programme of the Czech EU Presidency in the area of internal affairs and informed the MEPs present about the main priorities. Among these priorities belong modern technologies and safety, the second generation of the Schengen Information System (SIS II), international protection of children, and rational anti-drugs policy. Ivan Langer informed the MEPs about the conclusions concerning SIS II from the informal meeting of the EU Council ministers which took place in Prague in the middle of January. "At the informal meeting of the Council all the ministers of the EU and Schengen member countries dealt with the current situation of the development of SIS II. We agreed that the project is really in a crisis, which needs to be solved immediately. We also said that the Czech EU Presidency sees the task of leading the project out of the crisis as one of its priorities and we will do our best for this project to be revived, so that it can be passed on to the Swedish Presidency in good condition", said the Minister of the Interior, Ivan Langer. He also agreed with the MEPs that in the next months the cooperation of the Presidency and the EU Parliament on the so called first asylum package would continue. This package is a series of legislative proposals which start the second stage of building the common European Asylum System. The cooperation between the Presidency and the EU Parliament will also be crucial for the completion of the visa codex.

At the ITRE Committee, the Minister of the Interior introduced the priorities of the Czech Presidency in the area of the EU policy on information society and eGovernment. We are prepared to lead a debate on how to explain the advantages of high-speed Internet at the European level. In the time of the economic crisis it will be particularly necessary to point out the economic assets and savings that spreading of the high-speed Internet offers. One of these areas is undoubtedly Internet telephony



(VoIP). According to a recent survey carried out by the European Commission, households in the Czech Republic, Latvia, and Lithuania use the Internet to make phone calls more than any other countries in the whole Europe. During our Presidency we will try to find the right way to ensure positive future prospects for the European society thanks to the benefits of the ICT.

## The International Symposium called "Creating Opportunities – Integration, Employment and Social Mobility: European Experiences and Scope for Manoeuvre"

- took place in Berlin on January 26, 2009. This International Symposium on Integration, Employment and Social Mobility was attended by the Czech Deputy Minister of the Interior for European Affairs, Lenka Ptáčková Melicharová, and by the Director of the Department of Asylum and Migration Policy, Tomáš Haišman.

The conference was started by Maria Böhmer, the German Minister of State and Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees, and Integration. An essential speech was given by the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, who personally greeted the Deputy Minister, Lenka Ptáčková Melicharová, and congratulated her on the successful Czech Presidency of the EU Council.

Tomáš Haišman said that immigration and integration are closely related and complement each other. Integration policy is one of the key elements for the solution to legal migration. The situation in the migration area underwent an important change last year – the demand for foreign workers began to decrease. That is why each country necessarily has to react to the changing situation and apply flexibly the tools and procedures of successful integration to it.

## PRIORITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

### Priority Nr.2: Protection of Children

The Czech Presidency Is Going to Ignite Discussion on Various Aspects of the Protection of Children in Today's World.

One of our priorities during the EU Presidency is, undoubtedly, the issue of the protection of children. We are going to ignite discussion on various aspects of the protection of children in today's world. Our focus within this subject will be on active police cooperation during searches for missing children, which should be achieved mainly by means of better usage of the Schengen Information System. The goal is to make the issue of the protection of children more visible from the point of view of their missing and kidnapping as well as from the point of view of their protection against criminals. We are also going to focus on fighting illegal content of the Internet and on the issue of child abuse through the Internet. Within this priority, the Czech Presidency is going to organize a ministerial conference called Safer Internet for Children – Common Fight Against Illegal Content in April, 2009. Besides that, we already launched the web page [www.alertchild.eu](http://www.alertchild.eu), which should be used for the exchange of information about the systems of timely alerts and about the news in this area. We are going to follow the conclusions of the EU Council concerning the coordination mechanism of searching for missing children.

**22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009:**

In the afternoon, the Minister of the Interior, Ivan Langer, met the Director General of the International Organization for Migration, William L. Swing, in Prague. They discussed the future aims of the organization, the migration situation and the possible impacts of the economic crisis on foreign workers in the Czech Republic.



**22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009:**

The Director of the Department of Asylum and Migration Policy, PhDr. Tomáš Haišman, met the General Secretary for Migration and Consular Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain, Mr. Javier Elorza, in Prague. Among other things, they discussed migration between the EU and Latin America and between the EU and Africa, and the preparation of the ministerial conference on "Building Migration Partnerships", which will take place in Prague on 27<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> April, 2009.

**21<sup>st</sup> January 2009:**

The Minister of the Interior, Ivan Langer introduced the priorities of the Czech Ministry of the Interior during the Czech EU presidency to the European Parliament committees in Brussels. The presentation took place at the EP Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy.

### Interview with Deputy Minister, Lenka Ptáčková Melicharová



**When you look two weeks back – you participated in the informal discussion of the Council of Justice and Home Affairs, which took place in Prague. How would you judge the meeting?**

Personally, I had a very good feeling from the meeting. Everybody did a great deal of work, and the engagement of our colleagues from the Ministry of the Interior, the Czech Police, the Permanent Representation in Brussels, the Office of the Government, and the Czech Ministry of Justice was admirable. Because "our Council" was the first big event in the Prague Congress Centre, it was more difficult for all of us. It should mainly be judged by our foreign colleagues. Their responses were very positive. They didn't hide their fascination with St. Vitus Cathedral and the Prague Castle, where the formal dinner took place. It's a weight off my mind – a big one, but so far the only one. Other hard tasks still lie ahead.

**There are five more months of the EU Presidency lying ahead. What other important meetings are there in wait for the team of the Ministry?**

Since January 2 there have been meetings every day. My colleagues manage working groups, prepare materials, and also ensure the organization of meetings and discussions in Brussels, Prague, and in other places. We would need a few pages to name them all. One of the most important events we are currently preparing is the formal February meeting of the Council of Justice and Home Affairs, which takes place in Brussels on February 26 and 27. The Ministers will be talking, for instance, about the election of a new head of Europol or about Guantanamo.

We are now also getting ready for what will probably be the most difficult month of the Czech Presidency for our Ministry and that is April. There will be three ministerial conferences in April – Registers and e-Identity in Hradec Králové, Safe Internet and Migration Partnership in Prague; the Council of Justice and Home Affairs will be holding a meeting, and there will be a USA – EU ministerial troika

**Has the Ministry of the Interior achieved any success for the first month of the EU Presidency? Is there anything you are really proud of?**

I am really proud of my colleagues, the team of the Ministry of the Interior, whose members really pull at the same end of the rope. I can't, unfortunately, name all of them, but at least the "workhorses" of the Presidency, among whom belong: Katka Flaigová, Ondřej Koutek, Míša Michalová, Pavel Suchánek, Tomáš Haišman, Martin Linhart, Petr Habarta, Jiří Čelíkovský, Andrea Faberová, Pavla Novotná, Ondřej Veselský, Markéta Matlochová, and others.

**How do you like David Černý's sculpture Entropa?**

My artistic soul likes this "provocation". I feel a bit bitter about the mystification, but what else could we expect from David Černý? His works always provoke and are never boring. I think that art can and must dare to say things differently than the European diplomatic language. And Černý's sculpture is mainly about stereotypes or complexes, if you will, but also about fun and overstatement.

On the other hand, I must say that if I were to decide about Entropa, I probably wouldn't send it to Brussels. However, it attracts a lot of attention there, and considering the fact that almost nobody remembers what artefacts hung there during the previous Presidencies, the reminiscence of this "map of Europe" is likely to be wedded to the half-year Presidency of the Czech Republic.

### Plan of events: 2<sup>nd</sup> February – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2009

**3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Feb Prague:** 21st meeting of the Board of Trustees of FRONTEX (European agency for operative cooperation on the outer border of the EU member countries)

**3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Feb Zbiroh:** Meeting of the European Crime Prevention Network EUCPN Pojar, and the Minister of the Interior, Ivan Langer.

**5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Feb Prague:** Informal discussion between the EU and the USA at a high level

**16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Feb Turkey:** The second preparatory meeting for the ministerial conference on "Building Migration Partnerships" organised by the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU