



MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

EU2009.CZ

CZ PRESS NEWS

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

BUILDING ON FIRM FOUNDATIONS

No. 3

16th February, 2009



**Kateřina Flaigova
and Jan Šamanek**
– leaders of the Czech delegation
of the informal meeting EU - USA

Past Events:

Prague, 5th – 6th February, 2009

An informal high-level meeting between the EU and the USA took place. It was a meeting on the level of expert directors. It was led on behalf of the EU by the delegation of the Czech Presidency in cooperation with the representatives of the General Secretariat of the EU Council, the European Commission, Frontex, Eurojust, Europol and of the future EU Presidency country - Sweden.

Prague, 5th February, 2009

A meeting of the CEPOL Strategy Committee took place. It dealt mainly with the new structure of the agency, the proposals for this new structure which were seconded at the "extended" Troika meeting, and the yearly programme.

Informal Meeting of the EU and the USA

A high-level informal meeting between the EU and the USA took place in Prague on 5th and 6th of February.

The participants were expert level directors. It was led on behalf of the EU by the delegation of the Czech Presidency in cooperation with the representatives of the General Secretariat of the EU Council, the European Commission, Frontex, Eurojust, Europol and of the next EU Presidency country - Sweden.

The content of the meeting was the issues of a long-term cooperation between the EU and the USA. One of the points of this meeting was also the preparation for the EU – USA Troika meeting, which will also take place in Prague, in April 2009.

During the first block of the meeting the exchange of information concerning the topic of the missing children alert system, Child Alert was discussed. The representatives of the Ministry of the Interior informed the American side about their activities in this area and invited the American experts to a conference which will take place in Prague on 19th May 2009. This conference will focus on sharing the best practice in the area of establishing missing children alert systems and their operation in the EU countries and in the USA.

During the second block of the meeting the issue of abusing the Internet for the promotion of extre-



mism and terrorism was discussed. The delegates agreed that the Internet creates a positive space for free communication, access to information and for expressing ideas. However, it can be, and in fact it is, abused by criminals as a mean of committing crime, which is why it is necessary to take consistent action against these illegal activities. In the context of this situation the member countries of the EU and the USA should establish closer cooperation in order to share their best practices in this area and to look for other possible tools to help prevent or punish such activities.

During the third block of the meeting the representatives of both sides exchanged information about the latest development of visa policies and border protection. It was stated that there was progress in the field of visa reciprocity policy - in 2008 seven more EU member states entered the Visa Waiver Regime. The Czech EU Presidency emphasized the importance of achieving full visa reciprocity.

European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) Meeting

- took place at Zbiroh castle between the 3rd and 5th of February, 2009, within the Czech EU Presidency.

The meeting was opened by the representative of the Czech Republic in the EUCPN, Mgr. Alena Horakova, the head of the Human Rights Section of the Crime Prevention Department. At the beginning she introduced the priorities of the Czech Presidency in the area of crime prevention and invited the participants to the upcoming CZ PRES events – the international conference on "Child Alert Systems in EU Countries" on the 19th May, 2009, and to the international conference on "Reducing Demand for Prostitution" on the 3rd of June, 2009.

The agenda included a discussion of the 2008 Annual Report, which was submitted to the JHA Council for approval, and the EUCPN action plan for 2009. During the morning section of the meeting, the representatives of the Netherlands, United Kingdom, and Belgium presented their national systems and strategies for crime prevention. The participants were informed about updates of the website www.eucpn.org and about other upco-

ming events in EU countries, such as conferences, special seminars, etc. In the afternoon the participants became acquainted with the analyses of the current situation in the area of organized crime within Europe and of looking for appropriate all-European prevention activities. Part of the meeting was also focused on the future direction of the EUCPN and transformation of official EU institutions.

The exclusive ambience of the castle premises, traditional Czech hospitality, and flawless service contributed to the high appraisal of the level of the meeting and its organization.



Prague, 4th February, 2009

The Prague Congress Centre hosted a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Frontex agency (A European agency for operative cooperation on the outer border of the EU member countries), where the Czech priorities in the area of internal affairs and border protection were presented. The Frontex agency, with its headquarters in Warsaw, provides coordinated support to the EU/Schengen member countries in the area of protecting the EU's outer borders. At this forum, the Czech Republic was represented by Colonel Mgr. Vladislav Husák, the Director of the Czech Republic Foreign Police.

Zbiroh, 3rd – 4th February, 2009

A meeting of the Board of the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) took place. The Board is the supreme body of this institution and it consists of the national representatives in the position of policy makers for all EU countries. The purpose of the meeting was to learn about the analyses of the current situation regarding organized crime within Europe and to find appropriate prevention strategies. The Board meets according to a rotation system, so in the first half of 2009 the Czech Republic presides over it and the complete agenda is within the gestion of the Crime Prevention Department of the Ministry of the Interior.

Prague, 29th January, 2009

The Minister of the Interior, Ivan Langer, participated in a bilateral meeting with the Serbian Minister for the Interior, Ivica Dačić. The agenda included, for example, the cancellation of the visa duty, entering into a contract on police cooperation, and the priorities of the Ministry for the Interior during the Czech EU Presidency.

Priority No. 3: Rational Anti drug Policy

The area of fighting drugs is traditionally a subject of interest to all the EU member countries. The Czech Republic pays special attention to this issue. It will take steps within the new EU Drugs Action Plan for the period between 2009 – 2012, which is based on the general EU Drugs Strategy approved in December 2008.

One of the main priorities is the issue of limiting the amount of drugs available. We also pay special attention to the issue of the production and abuse of amphetamine drugs.

The Czech Republic will also be coordinating the unified presentation of the EU within the regular meeting of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, whose part will be the evaluation of the ten-year period for fulfilling the conclusions of the 20th special meeting of the UN General Assembly concerning drugs.

The geographical priority in this field remains the Eastern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy. In this sector we will be focusing on developing a technical help programme for the Ukraine, Moldavia, Belarus, and, if possible, Georgia. The Czech Republic is also trying to continue the French initiative for intensifying the fight against drugs in Western Africa.

Interview with Head of Crime Prevention Department

Jitka Gjuričová



Between February 3rd–5th the castle of Zbiroh hosted the meeting of the board of the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN). Could you briefly introduce this committee to us and explain its importance?

The European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) is an

international forum which focuses on co-operation in crime prevention, in particular in the field of exchanging information and good practice. Since 2001 regular meetings have been held four times a year based on a rotation system which copies the EU presidency. The Czech Republic, as the presiding country, and the prevention department of the Ministry of the Interior, as the gestor for EUCPN on behalf of the CR, organized the first EUCPN meeting this year.

Child protection is among the priorities of the Ministry of the Interior during the Czech Presidency. Which goals would you like to achieve in child protection in the remaining months of our presidency?

Last summer we started a new project entitled "National Coordination Mechanisms for Searching for Missing Children". Interestingly enough, this project appears to be a follow-up on a French initiative, but a follow up which started a few months in advance. At end of November 2008 during the meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA), France invited the member states to cooperate on the creation of emergency alert systems for missing children searches. The aim of our activities will be to ensure that the existing emergency alert systems, which

have been created not only in the Czech Republic but in six other countries as well, can be implemented at an international level in the case there is a requirement for a cross-border search. Among our goals is an improvement in police cooperation during searches for missing children, including the extension of police information systems with more detailed information on missing children and persons who have committed sexual assaults. We are also preparing simulation drills which will test the abilities of police forces to cooperate during searches for missing children.

You are preparing the conference "Best practice in child alert systems with regard to child abduction" which is going to take place in May 2009. What does the "alert system" mean and what assets can we expect?

The Child Alert System is analogous to our National Coordination Mechanism for Searching for Missing Children. The countries which have already set up such child alert systems (France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, United Kingdom, Greece and the Czech Republic) will present their experiences with the system usage. The Czech office SIRENE will demonstrate a simulation of a police search for a missing child at multinational level. Representatives from the USA have expressed great interest in this conference and they are going to present their emergency alert system, called Amber Alert (Amber, nine-years old girl, had been kidnapped and later she was brutally murdered), as well. The purpose of the conference is to present individual emergency alert systems and identify their common features and the possibilities for interfacing them at international level.

Programme of Events – 17th February – 2nd March, 2009

Vienna, February 23 – 24, 2009: Conference on data collection and people trafficking – organized by Austrian Ministry of the Interior in cooperation with IOM (International Organization for Migration)

Prague, February 24, 2009: Troika DG – France, Czech Republic, Sweden – preparatory meeting of general directors and deputy ministers responsible for public administration

Prague, February 24 – 25, 2009: Meeting of Steering Committee CEPOL (European Police College)

Prague, February 25, 2009: Preparatory meeting of CEPOL conference with Russia

Prague, February 25, 2009: Meeting with EU Parliament members, members of ITRE (Industry, Research and Energy)

Brussels, February 26 – 27, 2009: Justice and Home Affairs Council.

Vienna, February 28, 2009: UNGASS negotiations – discussions about political declaration on drugs and about the UN Action Plan.