

## INFORMAL JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS COUNCIL

The Presidency was successfully started in January by the **informal meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council** in Prague. Apart from other things, the Ministers agreed on the need for a European approach to modern technologies and security characterised by a balance between three key values: security, mobility and privacy. In their discussions, the Ministers also addressed specific issues of the use of modern technologies in the fields of border control, migration management and asylum policy. In addition, they focused on the possibilities of improving international protection of children. The process leading to the finding of a compromise solution to the project of the Schengen Information System of the second generation (SIS II) was also initiated at this meeting.



## INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

An important event in the area of **international protection of children** was the April Ministerial Conference "Safer Internet for Children", which adopted the Prague Declaration, aimed to support a coordinated approach of all stakeholders (state administration, law enforcement authorities, international organisations, private sector representatives and NGOs) to the protection of children against threats related to the Internet and other communication technologies.

We also initiated the creation of the website [www.alertchild.eu](http://www.alertchild.eu); it will contain particularly the information on the national alert systems for missing children and on the activities of Member States in this area.

In May, an expert conference on "Child Alert Systems in the EU Member States" was held in Prague. The aim was to present the alert systems used in some EU Member States and third countries and thus encourage their introduction in the Member States with no such mechanisms established yet.



## SCHENGEN INFORMATION SYSTEM OF THE SECOND GENERATION

The Schengen Information System is a database used particularly in searching for persons and things in the Schengen area.

The common goal is the launch of an upgraded database – the Schengen Information System of the second generation – **SIS II**. The Czech Presidency managed to lead the SIS II out of a crisis caused by the continual postponing of its launch and provide a new impetus for its development. Thus, SIS II should eventually be launched by the end of 2011.

The use of the Schengen Information System is important for the security of EU citizens. It is one of the measures which compensate for the lifted controls at the internal borders of the Schengen area.



## MIGRATION POLICY

At the end of April, Prague hosted the Ministerial Conference "**Building Migration Partnerships**", the largest event organised by the Ministry of the Interior during the Czech Presidency. Delegations from 46 countries participated in this event.

The Conference culminated in the adoption of the "Prague Joint Declaration on Migration", in which the participating countries declared their support for a comprehensive approach to migration and emphasised the principle of partnership. The message of the Declaration is the commitment to maximise the benefits of legal migration on the one hand and minimise illegal migration on the other.

In practice, this means to facilitate visa regime for tourists, students and scholars, while strengthening border controls with non-Schengen countries, in order to suppress illegal migration and hinder the activities of human smugglers and traffickers.



## BUILDING NEW TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

The April meeting of the Ministerial EU-USA Troika in Prague started a new phase in **building transatlantic relations**.

Consequently, the June Council adopted its Conclusions on the closure of the Guantanamo Bay Detention Centre, with an annex describing a mechanism for exchanging information concerning the accepted Guantanamo detainees. The primary responsibility for the closure of Guantanamo rests with the USA, while the decision to accept a person is fully in the competence of individual EU Member States; nevertheless, with respect to the non-existent controls at the internal borders of the Schengen area, a possible acceptance of a person into one Member State might also affect the others. Therefore, the Member States decided to cooperate with each other and share information according to the mechanism described in the stated Conclusions.



## POLICE COOPERATION

At the April meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council, the UK candidate, Rob Wainwright, was appointed **the new Director of Europol**.

In April, the Ministers also approved the Council Decision giving a new legal basis to Europol as an EU agency financed from the Union budget.

In June, two Council Recommendations were adopted. The first deals with the **police radiocommunication in border areas** and sets out further steps for improving cooperation in this field with a view to introducing "unified" European radiocommunication technology. The latter addresses the issue of the **fight against illegal car races**, emphasising the need for exchanging information between relevant police bodies of EU Member States.



## FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AND ORGANISED CRIME

Concerning the field of **fight against terrorism and organised crime**, a Conference of EU National Rapporteurs on Trafficking in Human Beings "Joint Analysis, Joint Action" was held in March. The Ministry of the Interior created a special website, [www.national-rapporteurs.eu](http://www.national-rapporteurs.eu), as a useful tool to facilitate closer cooperation. This site provides basic information on the National Rapporteurs in individual EU Member States. The creation of this basic instrument for sharing and exchanging information within the EU was greatly appreciated by the Conference participants.

The outcomes of this Conference were followed up in June with the Council Conclusions on establishing an informal EU network of National Rapporteurs, which should contribute to better exchange of precise information on the situation in the area of human trafficking in individual Member States, as well as to the sharing of experience and best practices.



## CEPOL THE EUROPEAN POLICE COLLEGE

In May, the Governing Board of **CEPOL** (a network of national police educational institutions from 30 countries) met in Český Krumlov.

The main points discussed were the planned educational and training activities, the modernisation of the structure of the agency, its budget for 2010 and the management of the agency's Secretariat.

Although CEPOL offers a number of high-quality products important for international police cooperation, it was necessary to raise the awareness and increase trust in the operation of this EU agency at the European level. Therefore, the Czech Presidency focused on the issue of financial and HR management and the presentation of the European dimension of CEPOL's educational activities, which is essential for ensuring an efficient approach to combating organised and trans-border crime.



## CIVIL PROTECTION

In February, a seminar on raising the awareness of EU citizens about the appropriate behaviour in emergency situations was held in Brno. Based on the outputs of this seminar, the June Council adopted Conclusions on the **civil protection** awareness raising, containing recommendations in three areas, i.e. promoting public awareness, security of the rescue service personnel and training of the diplomatic personnel in the Civil Protection Mechanism.

In April, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Directors-General for Civil Protection from the EU Member States, European Economic Area countries and candidate countries was held in Prague. The most important topics in the civil protection area were discussed at this meeting.

During the Czech Presidency, 11 February was designated the European 112 Emergency Number Day.



## LOOKING BACK AT THE CZECH PRESIDENCY

The Ministry of the Interior organised or participated in organising **more than 70 events** under the auspices of the Czech Presidency. These events varied in form and included expert seminars, informal meetings of specialists and senior leaders, conferences bringing together both experts and Ministers, and official Ministerial meetings.

They were held mainly in the Czech Republic, but also abroad. In the Czech Republic, we used locations in Brno, Český Krumlov, the Zbiroh Chateau, Kroměříž, Hradec Králové and mainly Prague, where the events were held not only in the Prague Congress Centre, but also at Žofín, in the National Archive or the Liechtenstein Palace hosting the EU and USA Ministerial Meeting.

Altogether, some 4 thousand delegates from 48 countries of the world participated in these events.

