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MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
Security Policy Department

COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY

2010 to 2012

PRAGUE 2010

**COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY
2010 – 2012**

MEASURES TO MINIMIZE RISKS AND IMPACT OF POTENTIAL TERRORIST ATTACKS
IN THE TERRITORY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
OR AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC ABROAD

PRAGUE 2010

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The document builds on the “National Action Plan to Combat Terrorism – updated for the period 2007 – 2009”. It is, however, conceptually very different from the previous documents. That is why it is published under the new title of „**Counter-terrorism Strategy for 2010 – 2012**“.

The „**Counter-terrorism Strategy for 2010 – 2012**“ was drafted as a general document intended to make its reader familiar with the key principles of counter-terrorism efforts in the Czech Republic. It provides insights into the main areas concerned in the context of the fight against terrorism and points out, to the extent given by its nature, to the current shortcomings of the Czech security system.

That is why, unlike the previous documents, this Strategy does not include a detailed description of recommendations and concrete measures to take. These will be elaborated in a separate document.

The previous amendments to the National Action Plan¹ have shown that, regardless of the fact that most of the recommended activities had been implemented on both agency and interagency level, some tasks remained outstanding. It concerns in particular those activities, whose implementation had failed to win an interagency consensus or which had lacked political will. These tasks have been, however, very important not only as tools helping to reach higher effectiveness of our counter-terrorism efforts, but also as activities having substantial impact on our efforts to counter other security risks. Since such tasks obviously go beyond the framework of the Strategy (even though they closely relate to its content), this document does not attempt to propose solutions to them. It does not have the ambition to voice particular tasks, which clearly go beyond its scope. It merely points out to the current as well as the persisting problems. One of the most important factors is financing and the need to ensure that each task will receive adequate financial resources for its implementation.

The “National Action Plan to Combat Terrorism – updated for 2007 – 2009” serves as a good example of the above. The Government Decree No. 1353 of November 2, 2009 took note of its Evaluation (the „Evaluation of the implementation of the “National Action Plan to Combat Terrorism – updated for 2007 – 2009”), in which the above mentioned outstanding issues can clearly be seen, such as the lack of political will to implement particular steps.

¹ The Czech Government adopted the National Action Plan to Combat Terrorism by its Decree No. 385 of April 10, 2002.

- The first amendment - the National Action Plan to Combat Terrorism as amended for 2003 - was presented on December 31, 2002 and adopted by the Government Decree No. 361 of April 14, 2003.
- The second amendment - the National Action Plan to Combat Terrorism as amended for 2004 - was presented on December 31, 2003 and adopted by the Government Decree No. 479 of May 19, 2004.
- The third amendment - the National Action Plan to Combat Terrorism as amended for 2005 to 2007 and adopted by the Government Decree No. 1466 of December 16, 2005.
- The fourth amendment - the National Action Plan to Combat Terrorism as amended for 2007 to 2009” and adopted by the Government Decree No. 129 of February 11, 2008.

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INTRODUCTION: COUNTER-TERRORISM – A LONG-TERM PRIORITY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Terrorism is a phenomenon which may have a devastating impact on any open democratic society, including the Czech Republic. **Terrorist attacks or attempts in Europe and worldwide shall raise our awareness.**

Terrorism, next to the organized crime as well as religious, national, and social conflicts, problems related to the integration of immigrants, and economic or environmental risks, remains one of the major security risks for today's world.

In the recent years, we have witnessed a number of planned or completed terrorist attacks worldwide. Their brief summary is found at the end of this chapter. Enhanced international cooperation and sharing of information on results of investigations of terrorist acts proved effective for the prevention of such acts in the future.

Recent terrorist attacks have emphasised the need to join forces globally to prevent and combat this phenomenon. National or regional response is no longer sufficient. The global cooperation thus becomes a question of vital importance. An active involvement of the Czech Republic is not only an expression of solidarity with other members of the international community but also a key element of enhancing its **own security**.

There are some relatively new dimensions of the terrorist threat – the threat to **the national critical infrastructure** or the **potential risk of terrorists misusing chemical, biological, radioactive, or nuclear material**. A potential risk is also posed by **modern information and communication technology** and its potential abuse for the terrorist propaganda, radicalization of extremists, and recruitment of new members.²

The terrorist groups have been changing their modus operandi all the time and that is why adequate adjustments in our response are needed. Terrorists always aim to intimidate and degrade their target. They turn their attacks into media shows: skilfully select the right time (national or religious holidays), place (well known and attractive locations), or target (government representatives, members of the local security forces, critics of terrorism, members of international military missions, or diplomats of anti-terrorist coalition countries). With the use of the international expertise, we have to keep evaluating the situation and focus our activities primarily on prevention.

The current number one challenge is the protection of so called soft targets, primarily locations where people gather en masse (hypermarkets, cultural and sports events, holiday destinations, etc.). There are, however, other potential targets to protect, such as the international military missions to which the Czech Republic deploys its soldiers, nuclear power plants, the air traffic (including airports), and other important facilities.

It is important to enhance multi-faceted **cooperation between the private and public sector**. It not only concerns facilities which handle dangerous (primarily chemical) substances, but also those which may become a target of a terrorist attack or a terrorist threat (hotels, hypermarkets, restaurants, sports and cultural facilities, etc.). It is necessary to establish permanent

² Protection of relevant parts of the critical infrastructure (the whole body of the transportation infrastructure, civil aviation, and critical information infrastructure) is covered separately in separate instruments. We will soon draw inspiration from the new EU Directive guiding protection of municipal and commuter means of public transport.

Protection of the cyber space is covered by the Analysis of the current protection of cyber space in the Czech Republic, which was, in line with the Decree of the National Security Council No. 4 of January 5, 2010 submitted by the National Security Council to the Government on February 28, 2010. The By solving outstanding issues, the Analysis will facilitate involvement of the Czech Republic in international information security exercises.

communication channels between these facilities and the national and regional security forces to react to any threat which may occur.

The Czech Republic's counter-terrorism efforts go hand in hand with the EU activities in this field. The Czech Republic makes use of the key EU documents, such as the European Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the related EU Action Plan to Combat Terrorism, the EU Strategy for Combating Radicalization and Recruitment to Terrorism and the EU Action Plan for Combating Radicalization and Recruitment to Terrorism, the EU Action Plan on Enhancing the Security of Explosives, the Action Plan on Chemical, Biological, Radioactive and Fission materials, the regular reports of the EU Counter-terrorism Coordinator (CTC), etc.

The UN also has a number of activities, such as the implementation of the UN Global Counter-terrorism Strategy of 2006 as well as the cooperation of the Czech anti-terrorist units with the UN bodies³.

In 2010, the Czech Republic started to implement the **Stockholm programme** for the area of justice and home affairs (2010 – 2014), which also tackles counter-terrorism issues. In spring 2010, the European Commission plans to publish an Action Plan to the Stockholm programme, which will include further tasks for the Czech Republic.

The EU member states differ substantially both in their chances to become a potential target as well as in their security measures and systems. The Czech Republic wishes to look for inspiration primarily to those countries, which have had a long and successful history of counter-terrorism. We intend to analyze different methods and approaches and apply those that had proved most efficient and useful.

The Czech Republic, in line with its international obligations, has been monitoring and assessing the development of the international political situation. The Czech authorities wish to find ways to support the international counter-terrorism efforts by, for example, deploying the Czech forces to the international military and non-military stabilization missions.⁴

As regards the **humanitarian and development aid**, the Czech Republic has considered such aid as integral part of the complex body of measures to combat terrorism. The aid should be provided by both public and private sector and by NGOs. We wish to alleviate the negative impact of the economic, social, cultural, and religious differences which may be identified as factors contributing to the rise of terrorism.

Even though the Czech Republic has not been yet a target of any attack commonly referred to as a “classic” act of terrorism⁵, the risk of such an attack still persist.

- Terrorists perceive the Czech Republic as a country actively involved in the current global counter-terrorism efforts. The Czech Republic is therefore one of their potential targets.
- It can be assumed that the greatest risk factor for the Czech Republic as regards terrorism, in addition to its transit location in the heart of Europe, is the fact that the Czech Republic is a territory used for short-term stay by persons suspected of links to radical or terrorist groups or their supporter organizations as well as by the extremists.

³ The Counter-terrorism Committee of the UN Security Council (CTC) upon implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution No. 1373 (2001), the UN Security Council Committee No. 1267 for the implementation of sanctions against Al-Kaida and Taliban, and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task-force.

⁴ E.g. members of the Rapid Deployment Force, chemists, the medical unit, the map-makers, meteorologists, and members of the Military Police stationed primarily at the Western Balkans and the Near or Middle East.

⁵ A terrorist attack should be understood as politically motivated violence intended to spread fear in the society (next to direct victims and damage to property). The atmosphere of fear is subsequently misused by the terrorists to help promote their goals.

- We must not underestimate events potentially jeopardizing Czech interests abroad (embassies, personnel deployed to military missions, businesses, and individuals). Czech nationals staying abroad have also fallen victims to terrorist attacks.
- There is yet another potential risk in the radicalisation of purely "domestic" extremist groups, both extreme right and left. Hatred and extremism have a potential of "growing" into terrorism. In the Czech Republic, however, such risks are currently not significant. There may be, however, a potential threat in self-radicalization of individuals, who have no ties to the existing terrorist groups.

Based on these key assumptions, the Czech Republic has to keep preparing itself systematically for a potential open confrontation with terrorists.

We need to view the current counter-terrorism activities in the context of our efforts to counter other security threats. The Czech security forces have therefore been active in all forms of combating extremism, organised crime, including trafficking in drugs, weapons, and human beings, corruption, threats against the critical national infrastructure, and other potential problems.

Apart from the devastating attacks in London (July 2005) and Madrid (March 2004), there have been numerous other incidents, including those detected in the preparatory phase, e.g.:

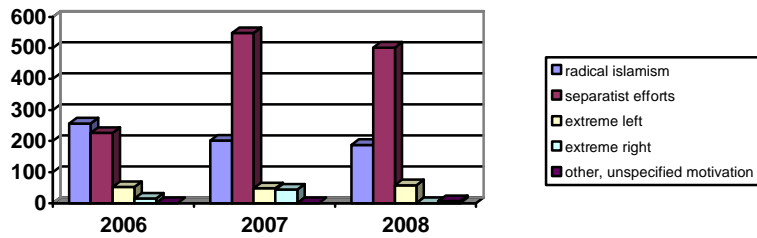
YEAR	EVENT
2005	July 2005: over 70 people died in a series of three suicidal attacks in Sharm al Sheikh, Egypt. One victim was a Czech national.
	September 2005: Jyllands-Posten, a Danish magazine published caricatures of Muhammad, the prophet, triggering repeated outbursts of violence against "western" targets worldwide.
	October 2005: an intervention against members of so called "Hofstad group" planning numerous terrorist attacks in the Netherlands.
	November 2005: The Australian police arrested several people suspected of planning an attack against a nuclear facility in Sydney
2006	June 2006: the Canadian law enforcement detected a group planning attacks against government facilities.
	July 2006: two offenders of Lebanese origin planted compression tanks full of gas into commuter trains in the vicinity of Cologne, Germany. The bombs did not explode due to a mechanical error.
	August 2006: the law enforcement in the UK intervened against a group planning attacks on board of aircrafts with the use of liquid explosives.
2007	January 2007: a TOMCAT attack against the US embassy in Greece.
	June 2007: terrorist incidents at airports in Glasgow and London („physicians' plot“).
2008	May 2008: an attack planned against the Oskarshamn nuclear power plant in Sweden.
	June 2008: the Russian Federation Federal bureau of investigation announced to have detected plans

	for terrorist attacks against the Moscow metro.
	September 2008: an attack against the Marriott hotel in Islamabad. The Czech ambassador to Pakistan was killed in the attack.
	November 2008: terrorist attacks in Bombay leaving 257 dead.
	December 2008 – May 2009: unrest in Greece resulting in a number of bomb and arson attacks (including the damage of Škoda Auto dealership caused by fire). These incidents clearly show that the dividing line between terrorism and extremism (in this case left wing) is hard to tell.
2009	April 2009: the police in Egypt detected plans of Hezbollah to attack tourist facilities in the Sinai peninsula.
	August 2009: the German law enforcement arrested members of Sauerland, a terrorist group planning a number of attacks against both civilian and military targets in Germany.
	July and August 2009: ETA bomb attacks in Mallorca.
	September 2009: the US law enforcement arrested a group of people suspected of plotting an attack against the public transportation in New York.
	October 2009: two men of the US origin charged with a preparation of terrorist attacks in Denmark, particularly against the offices of Jyllands-Posten.
	October 2009: terrorist attacks in Afghanistan leaving six UN staff dead; terrorist attacks in Pakistan, leaving over 80 dead.

The most complete statistical data on the terrorist threat in the EU are found in the Europol TE-SAT report (European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report).⁶ It is important to point out, however, that the decision to include or not a particular incident to the EU statistics is made by each member state. The EU has no rules in this respect. There had been several incidents in the Czech Republic in the period concerned, which displayed some features of terrorist attack. The authorities, however, concluded that these were rather extremist than terrorist activities. It is obvious, however, that the acts of extremism, especially some of its expressions, and the acts of terrorism are, especially in some countries, very close and hard to strictly divide.

Persons, who were, in 2006 – 2008, apprehended in the EU for a probable cause of having been involved in terrorist activities (particular motivation) – graph and table:

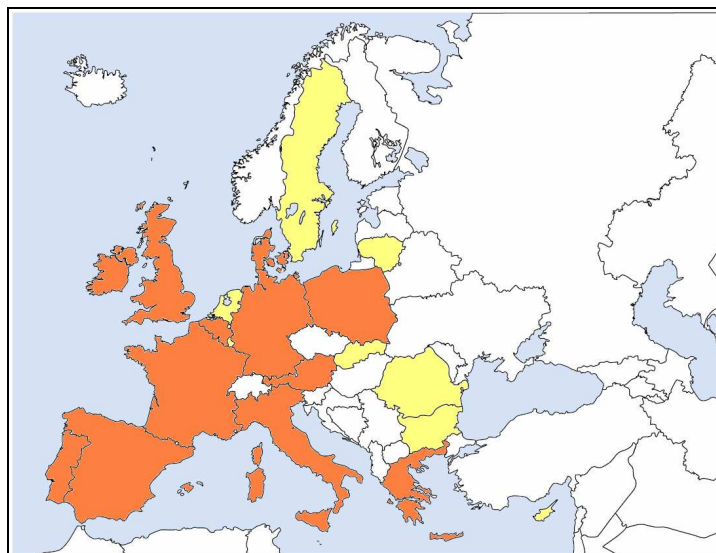
⁶ See: http://www.europol.europa.eu/publications/eu_terrorism_situation_and_trend_report_te-sat/tesat2009.pdf



As indicated in the graph, most incidents are related to separatist movements, related to the situation in the Basque country, the Northern Ireland, and Corsica. The **Map** shows:

- The EU countries, where targets were attacked by terrorists in 2006-2008 (or where such attacks had been detected in the planning phase) - orange colour;
- Other countries, where the law enforcement arrested (in 2006 to 2008) persons suspected to have been involved in terrorist activities - yellow colour.

Terrorists have attacked targets in all our neighbouring countries. It is yet another reason to stay aware of this phenomenon.



KEY PRINCIPLES OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

The responsible approach of the Czech Republic is meant to ensure that the key aspects of the counter-terrorism agenda are addressed before than at the very moment of imminent threat or concrete terrorist act.

Given the transnational features of today's terrorism the Czech security forces strive to ensure that their procedures are, up to the largest extent possible, in line with the international endeavour, particularly with the activities of the EU, NATO, and the UN.

Measures to combat terrorism are designed as a set of mutually **interconnected steps, each focusing on concrete elements of a particular issue**. The fulfilment of proposed and approved measures is subject to regular evaluation and review.

It shall be stated that not all of the goals contained in the previous versions of the National Action Plan of Combating Terrorism were met. Some activities have remained outstanding.

- **Some of the key strategic objectives have not been implemented yet.** It concerns primarily those requiring not only an interagency cooperation but also a broad political consensus.
- Other complications in meeting the planned goals were due to the lack of financing. In such cases the goals were dealt with by means of compromise or partial solutions within the capabilities of each particular body in charge.

As mentioned above, solutions to more difficult and complex problems require a wide political and interagency consensus. By no means have the authorities responsible for the most complex issues abandoned their plans. They have remained active and have been looking for solutions.

In the process of formulating strategies to combat terrorism, the authorities promote proportionality among individual elements of the National Action Plan (especially when it comes to the balance between the "preventive" a "repressive" aspects).

The counter-terrorism measures should be complemented by activities to promote fundamental values, such as democracy, principles of the rule of law, and respect of human rights.

While the Czech law enforcement sector feels its responsibility for protection of the public against terrorism, it does not lose sight of the question of privacy protection. **Each and every measure** in this document strives at maximum **proportionality of the two key values – security on one hand and the individual freedoms on the other**.

The Czech Republic fully respects the fundamental principles of democracy as well as the democratic values. It has always designed its counter-terrorism measures carefully in order not to limit the fundamental rights and freedoms beyond the scope defined by law.

Basic principles of counter-terrorism:

- **To respect democratic principles and to protect human rights;**
- **To cooperate and share information among the bodies involved;**
- **To strengthen the involvement of the Czech Republic in the international counter-terrorism efforts;**
- **To test and train people to face the terrorist threat;**
- **To educate;**
- **To inform the public duly and accordingly.**

1. ENHANCED COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION AMONG BODIES INVOLVED IN COUNTER-TERRORISM IMPROVED CONDITIONS IN SUPPORT OF THEIR EFFORT

1.1 Communication and cooperation among bodies involved in counter-terrorism

One of the key conditions of success in counter-terrorism is the ability of the security forces to quickly gather information on intentions and activities of the terrorist groups, to expedite the exchange of information, and to cooperate with all relevant bodies (especially the intelligence and police services) locally as well as internationally. **Both the intelligence services and the Police of the Czech Republic are intensively involved in international cooperation.**

One of the means of making the exchange of information more operational and expedient is to implement the conclusions of „Design of data-videoconference cooperation among the integrated operations centres and the Police of the Czech Republic⁷“.

The efforts of the security forces are **primarily preventive**. Their goal is to detect terrorist plans or potential terrorist attacks as early as possible. **Cooperation between the Police and the intelligence forces is therefore a must. Both forces benefit from their mutual relationship and complement each other.** The intelligence services play an important role in the phase of latent preparations for an attack while the Police make use of their executive powers (e.g. to start criminal proceedings). Both services also cooperate in investigating and prosecuting offenders (suspects).

Similar approach is required by the international obligations arising from the membership of the Czech Republic in the EU and NATO, but also stipulated in a number of bilateral instruments.

The **Joint Intelligence Group** (Společná zpravodajská skupina) is an important body to support the exchange of information in the fight against terrorism. It is a permanent working body of the Committee for the intelligence activities (one of the committees under the National Security Council). The Joint Intelligence Group is composed of representatives of the Prime Minister's Office, Czech intelligence services, Ministry of the Interior, Police of the Czech Republic, and the Ministry of foreign Affairs. Representatives of other government bodies may be invited as appropriate.

In line with the **Government Decree No. 1060 of September 13, 2006 on coordination of activities of intelligence services of the Czech Republic in the process of evaluating information important for the national security and related especially to the counter-terrorism efforts**, the Czech authorities decided to entrust the collection and evaluation of terrorism-related information and intelligence gathered by the intelligence services to the hands of the Security and Intelligence Service (Bezpečnostní informační služba). The Decree stipulates the obligation of other intelligence services (the Office for Foreign Relations and Intelligence and the Military Intelligence) to make the intelligence gathered by them available to the Security and Intelligence Service. The Security and Intelligence Service is in charge of subsequent evaluation of the intelligence received. It duly informs the Prime Minister of the results.

The Police of the Czech Republic have made an important step by establishing the **National Contact Point for Terrorism**, which was launched on March 30, 2009 within the Unit for

⁷ Ref. No. PPR-1616-1/OPER-2007, and Ref. No. PPR-1848-13/OPER-2003.

Combating organized crime, under the Criminal Police and Investigation Service. It has been operational 24/7 since July 1, 2009.⁸

To further strengthen the current system, we shall gradually improve cooperation and information exchange (primarily operational) between the intelligence services and the Police of the Czech Republic. In a mid-term horizon, a design that would make it possible to incorporate other important actors should be conceived.

The models of cooperation and information exchange, however, do not have to be built from scratch. **A number of foreign partners have offered to their Czech counterparts study trips and other forms of insights into already well-functioning inter-agency platforms for sharing of intelligence related to terrorism.** The Czech security forces have been using such expertise, adjusted to the local specifics, in the process of designing similar solutions in the Czech Republic.

⁸ The National Counter-terrorism Contact Point (Národní kontaktní bod pro terorismus - NKBT) was established upon a resolution made by the Committee for the Intelligence Activities No. 18 of July 4, 2008. The National Counter-terrorism Contact Point is a specialized central workplace of the Police of the Czech Republic facilitating communication, information exchange, and analyses to support the counter-terrorist efforts (<http://www.policie.cz/clanek/nkbt.aspx>).

1.2 Powers of the security forces involved in counter-terrorism

This area includes preventive activities, role of the security forces when responding to an attack and in its subsequent investigation. Such activities fall primarily within the competence of the Police of the Czech Republic and the intelligence services.

The Czech Republic has analysed in detail the powers of the Police, the intelligence services, and other specialized forces in combating terrorism. This particular analysis paid special attention to the comparison of the situation in the Czech Republic and the measures applied abroad.⁹

The powers of the Czech Police and the intelligence forces in the field of combating terrorism are, when compared to their foreign counterparts, relatively limited. The evaluation mission lead by the Council of the EU, which visited the Czech Republic in 2004 and 2008 came to similar conclusions (and recommended a well-founded extension of powers of the security forces).

The current powers of the intelligence services to gather intelligence necessary to fulfil all tasks under their responsibility should be more precisely formulated as powers to collect intelligence, under conditions stipulated by law, from the public administration bodies and other selected subjects. These bodies are obliged by law to provide such intelligence. Selected partial aspects in this field are dealt with in separate documents, since this area goes beyond the scope of anti-terrorism.¹⁰

Some of the current powers of the intelligence services and the Police shall be extended so that these bodies are better equipped to combat the international terrorism and react to the intelligence and queries submitted by their counterparts abroad. Such powers shall be complemented by adequate supervisory measures.

When extending the powers of intelligence services it is necessary to stay within the limits defined by law while respecting, to the largest extent possible, the fundamental human rights and freedoms as well as the basic principles of handling of personal data in accordance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms.

There are a number of steps to be taken **in the field of electronic communications**¹¹. In this area it is necessary to carry forward the discussion on removing some legislative and technical irregularities¹². The emphasis should be put on the following:

- **Solving the question related to the obligation of the internet services providers to store and provide necessary data to authorised bodies, primarily the Police of the Czech Republic and the intelligence services** (it concerns data on the sender, recipient, and time of sending, not the contents of the message). It is necessary to make sure **that all internet services providers are obliged by law to provide upon request their operational and**

⁹ The Government Decree No. 737 of June 15, 2005 to the Analysis of the legal competencies of the Czech intelligence services necessary to counter the international terrorism.

¹⁰ E.g. the „Further steps to be taken to implement the tasks arising from the Information on the implementation of tasks arising from the National Action Plan of Combating Terrorism or the Concept of combating the organized crime to improve information flows from the financial sector to the competent bodies”.

¹¹ See e.g. the Act No. 127/2005 Coll., on the electronic communication, Act No. 480/2004 Coll., on selected services of the information society, as amended.

¹² The Government Decree No. 361 of April 5, 2006 to the Analysis of the potential and the impact of the planned authorization of competent bodies to, under conditions stipulated by law, intercept or interrupt the electronic communication networks. This task has been partially implemented (with regards to the Czech police) by Article 71 of the Act No. 273/2008 Coll., on the Police of the Czech Republic (with the exception of issues related to the criminal proceedings) respectively by the Regulation No. 336/2005 Coll., on the character and extent of information provided from the database of subjects using the public telephone networks and on technical and operational aspects and stations to connect the end telecommunication equipment to initiate wire-taping as well as by the Regulation No. 485/2005 Coll., on the scope of operational and localization data, on periods for which such data are kept, and on the form and system of their transmission to the bodies empowered for their use. On January 11, 2010, the Government negotiated a draft bill to amend the Act No. 127/2005 SB., on the electronic communication and subsequently adopted a Decree No. 31. The draft bill has been submitted for reading by the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament.

Localization data. So far, these providers have been treated solely as providers of services of the information society and not as providers of electronic communication services.

- Implementation of Article 71 of the Act No. 273/2008 Coll. on the Police of the Czech Republic, which stipulates the right of remote and permanent access to the bank data on the time and place of use of means of electronic payment.

It should be underlined that **the proposed extensions of powers are designed, especially in relation to the intelligence services, as primarily preventive.** The key objective of the intelligence services is to prevent terrorist attacks. To fulfil their mission, they have to be well equipped to intercept signals and indications of a potential terrorist threat.

Any extension of powers of the intelligence services to gather information shall be complemented by measures to improve their control, better say by introducing measures to create such system of control and supervision.

In reaction to the above mentioned changes towards the extension of powers, **the Czech Republic shall create a relevant system of control of its intelligence services.**¹³ Both Article 12 of the Act No. 153/1994 Coll., on the intelligence services in the Czech Republic and Article 29.3 of the Act No. 101/2000 Coll., on the protection of personal data envisage the same.¹⁴

It should be reminded that the parliamentary control shall not be perceived as the only supervisory tool in this respect but as yet another element in the existing set of controls.¹⁵ That is why it is necessary to work on reviewing and fine-tuning of the current scheme.

¹³ The current Czech laws guiding the aspect of the intelligence services in the Czech republic and their control, are:

- Act No. 153/1994 Coll., on the intelligence services in the Czech Republic, as amended;
- Act No. 154/1994 Coll., on the Security and Intelligence Service, as amended;
- Act No. 289/2005 Coll., on the Military Intelligence.

¹⁴ See the Government Decree No. 1236 of October 2006 on further steps in the process of the intelligence services' transformation.

¹⁵ We have already introduced some, primarily executive and judicial, control mechanisms. On the executive level, the intelligence services fall under the direct supervision of the Cabinet, which is also responsible for the coordination of intelligence services' activities. The Cabinet, in keeping with Article 68, Para 1, of the Constitution of the Czech Republic, shall report to the Chamber of Deputies. The judicial control of the intelligence services lays in the general principle of the subjective right of individuals for legal protection of independent and impartial courts (in keeping with Article 36 of the Charter of Fundamental rights and Freedoms. The capacity to enforce one's own rights arises from the relevant legal instruments (e.g. the Act No. 141/1961 Coll., on judicial criminal proceedings, Act No. 99/1963 Coll., Civil Code of Procedure). The judiciary also has control over the use of the technical means of investigation used by the intelligence services (i.e., it may provide or deny its consent with intelligence services' activities which may interfere with citizens' fundamental rights and freedoms). The Parliamentary control (by the Chamber of Deputies) is stipulated for the Security and Intelligence Service and the Military Intelligence. There is none, however, to cover the Office for International Relations and Intelligence. In the light of this, it is necessary to review and complete the entire system of the intelligence services' control. It is recommended to complement the Parliamentary control by a parallel control system by an independent subject.

2. PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC, CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AND OTHER POTENTIAL TERRORIST TARGETS

2.1 Priorities in the field of protection of critical infrastructure and the public

This area includes both prevention activities related to the impact of a potential attack as well as the process of removing the consequences of potential attacks themselves, should the terrorists manage to, regardless of all measures, materialize their threats. The key platform to assist the victims of potential terrorist attacks is the integrated emergency system. It is important to determine the role of the Police of the Czech Republic as a coordinator and provider of guidelines for the operational centres of the integrated emergency system (emergency lines) with the objective to improve the communication with people who call these lines and to improve the process of disseminating correct and timely information on the attack to other elements of the integrated emergency system.

“The Plan of the protection of the public up to 2013 with a vision to 2020” is the key document describing the current situation in the field of the protection of the public in the Czech Republic (also in relation to the international legal obligations of the Czech Republic). The **“Timetable of measures to protect the public - up to 2013 with a vision to 2020”** stipulates particular tasks and measures to be implemented. The **“Concept of preparedness of the Czech health care system for a potential crisis”** is yet another document which stipulates measures to alleviate the health-related impact of a potential big disaster, primarily of a chemical, biological, or radioactive nature, in territory of the Czech Republic. **The integrated emergency system is the key platform ready to remove the consequences of potential terrorist attacks, or natural or industrial disasters.**

The **“Plan of crisis management training”** is meant to guide the training of the public servants in the crisis management skills. It was adopted by the Government Decree No. 14 of November 16, 2004 which also stipulates the groups of public servants to be trained as well as the curricula of the education and training programmes.

The level of readiness of the individual elements of the public protection system is fully comparable with the rest of the developed world. There are, however, some aspects, such as investments, technical solutions, logistics, protection of particular facilities, or communication with the public, which require further intensive work. The whole spectrum of activities and measures shall be focused on the prevention of misuse and an efficient reaction to potential terrorist attacks with the use of chemical, biological, radioactive, and nuclear materials.¹⁶

Readiness of all elements of the integrated emergency system to handle crises is regularly tested in **joint crisis management exercises** (on the international, central, as well as regional level). **All exercises end with a thorough and detailed evaluation.** Evaluation is the only means to detect gaps which need to be bridged. Last but not least, **it is important to analyze the aspect of communication with the mass media and the public as well as whether and how the mass media inform the public on a particular threat.**

Protection of critical infrastructure is permanently in the hands of the **Civil emergency planning committee** (see the **„Complex Czech Republic Strategy of protection of the critical infrastructure“** and the **„National programme of protection of the critical infrastructure“** adopted by the Committee on September 23, 2009 and stipulating tasks up to 2012)¹⁷. In line with

¹⁶ In this respect, we need to draw the attention to the Council conclusions on strengthening chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) security in the European Union - an EU CBRN Action Plan, document No. 15505/1/09, adopted by the JHA Council on November 2009.

¹⁷ These documents will be, in keeping with the national Security Council Decree No 5 of January 5, 2010 submitted to the Government.

the compulsory transposition of the **Council Directive No. 2008/114/EC of December 8, 2008 on the identification and designation of European critical infrastructures and the assessment of the need to improve their protection**, the Czech authorities decided to amend the **Act No. 240/2000 Coll.**, on crisis management (the Crisis Management Act), as amended. Currently, implementing provisions to this Act are being drafted, these provisions will stipulate the aspects of, for example, protection of critical infrastructure, cross-cutting and industry-specific criteria, details of the plan of readiness to protect the critical infrastructure, etc.

“Civilian Protection Policy until 2013 with a view to 2020” is the key document describing the current situation in the field of the protection of the public in the Czech Republic (also in relation to the international legal obligations of the Czech Republic). The **“Schedule of Civilian Protection Measures until 2013 with a View to 2020”** stipulates particular tasks and measures to be implemented. The **“Emergency Preparedness Policy for the Health Sector”** is yet another document which stipulates measures to alleviate the health-related impact of a potential large-scale disaster, primarily of chemical, biological, or radioactive nature, in territory of the Czech Republic. **The integrated emergency system is the key platform ready to remove the consequences of potential terrorist attacks, or natural or industrial disasters“.**

The “Plan of Crisis Management Training” is meant to guide the training of the public servants in the crisis management skills. It was adopted by the Government Decree No. 14 of November 16, 2004 which also stipulates the groups of public servants to be trained as well as the curricula of the education and training programmes.¹⁸

It is necessary to continue enhancing cooperation between the security forces on one side and the civilian sector on the other (e.g. providing expert consultations to businesses, which may become target of a terrorist attack.).

¹⁸ The process aims at the introduction of the community policing as well as provision of data to representatives of the local government and self-government to help maintain law and order.

2.2. Protection of transport infrastructure

One of the key priorities in the field of protection of the critical infrastructure against terrorism is the protection of the civil aviation and the secure land transport of high-risk items.

The level of protection of **civil aviation** in the Czech Republic meets the quality standards set by the EU. It has been paying (and will continue to do so) an increased attention to prevention, training, and control of all relevant measures and procedures.¹⁹

We should progressively develop **our counter-terrorism measures to protect the public, property, and the environment in transports of items or materials posing high risk**. Responsibility rests primarily with the Ministry of Transport, transport administration offices, Police of the Czech Republic, the Czech Armed Forces, the Fire Emergency Service, the Customs Service, and the Czech Railways.

The „Transportation policy of the Czech Republic for 2005 to 2013“ stipulates the key priorities of protection of the transportation infrastructure.

The Ministry of Transport has been working on a related project „**Management of transport of materials and items or high risk in Europe and in the Czech Republic - its position within the crisis management system in the Czech Republic**“. This project wishes to design a system of transport management to suit materials and items posing a high risk both in the EU as well as in the Czech Republic. It has been proposed to introduce an „Information system for preventive and rescue measures to facilitate protection against mobile sources of risk (IS DOK)“, which will become an on-line information support for response to potential transportation crises. The same issue has been analyzed by RAILPOL, an international association of the railway police. Both activities should be coordinated to prevent **parallel development of two identical systems of monitoring transport of items and materials of high risk**.

Even though protection of the transport infrastructure has remained a relatively independent area, some of its measures can be considered as counter-terrorist. That is why we recommend closer cooperation between the Ministry of Transport and other government bodies wherever it is efficient and relevant.

The key measure remains, however, the consistent and prudent control (and sanctions) of the **binding rules embedded in the international instruments ADR and RID**, which stipulate conditions of the transport of dangerous materials on roads, and by rail, respectively. An increased attention will be paid to conditions stipulated by the EU Directive, which deals with the traffic safety in extremely long tunnels.

The Fire Emergency Service, the Police of the Czech Republic, the Customs Service and the Czech Railways have not yet established an international information system to control transportation of dangerous materials across the Czech territory.

Some departments have recently been equipped (e.g. the Fire Emergency Service) with measuring tools, special equipment, and protective gear. At the moment, they rank among the **best equipped units in the EU to handle leaks of dangerous substances**. In the event of a terrorists attack on the transport infrastructure or during transport of dangerous materials, the above-mentioned units will use their equipment to support other intervening elements of the integrated emergency system (e.g. “decontamination”).

¹⁹ The national Security Council, by its Decree No. 15 of April 15, 2008 had adopted the amended “National security programme of protection of the civil aviation in the Czech Republic against unlawful conduct”. Simultaneously, it amended and publicized the „National programme of the management of quality of security measures to protect the civil aviation in the Czech Republic against unlawful conduct “ and the „National programme of security-related training in the civil aviation in the Czech Republic“. The amended Act on civil aviation had come to force on July 1, 2006 and the related Implementing Regulation No. 410/2006 Coll. came to force on September 14, 2007.

The Czech Armed Forces, in line with the Central Emergency Plan, deploys its forces and equipment to help decontaminate soil, machinery, and people, facilitates its special teams to collect and expediently analyze samples, to perform epidemiological research, identification of biological agents, and monitoring of radioactivity and the presence of chemicals. In case of terrorist use of dangerous substances, the Czech Army and its assets would be used in support of the key elements of the integrated emergency system and other intervening subjects (e.g. in „decontamination“).

In the near future, we plan to remove the outstanding disproportions in the quality of equipment of different elements of the integrated emergency system.

3. SECURITY RELATED RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE PRINCIPLES OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

The security related research in the Czech Republic has helped create proper conditions for a relevant reaction of the security forces to the existing security threats, be it against lives, health, or property. Counter-terrorism measures and efforts will become an integral part of the security research programmes of the Ministry of the Interior. The Ministry of the Interior will therefore be able to commission, in 2010 to 2015, numerous relevant research projects.

Research is closely related to education and dissemination of information to relevant experts and those members of staff, who may have to deal with situations stemming from a terrorist attack. It is therefore important to:

- **continue implementing the training programme, devoted to terrorism-related risks and targeted at the middle and top police management**, i.e. individuals responsible for the protection of facilities at risk (of a potential terrorist attack), respectively for interventions related to a potential terrorist threat (the attendees receive information on "current security risks worldwide", "motivations of potential attackers", "how to identify suspects", "adequate reaction to a potential attack", "communication with bystanders", "communication with the media", etc.);²⁰
- **train members and personnel of all elements of the integrated emergency system** (training of typical interventions of the system, etc.);
- **train judges and prosecutors** in the current trends and processes to combat terrorism;
- **in cooperation with the National Anti-terrorist Contact Point, train members of the Police** (training devoted to the current counter-terrorism trends and activities).

The national priorities in the security research will continue to be coordinated with the EU and use will be made of relevant EU programmes that focus on the protection of the critical infrastructure, risks of misuse of chemical, biological, radioactive, and nuclear materials and stipulate steps to combat cyber crime.²¹

The counter-terrorism agenda in the Czech Republic has two more important elements – timely, expert, and coordinated emergency-related public information system (to cover all emergencies including those related to terrorism) and a system to facilitate cooperation between the government administration and local administration on one hand and the media on the other.

In case of extremely serious events going beyond the responsibility of one single government agency (such as threats posed by natural or industrial disasters, epidemics, military threats, terrorist attacks, etc.) the authorities will activate the Central Emergency Management Committee (Ústřední krizový štáb), which has tools at its disposal to coordinate activities of press departments of relevant state agencies.

Ministries and other government agencies have composed, in line with their particular responsibilities, models of media reaction to potential terrorist activities. Such models are to be used at times when the Central Emergency Management Committee does not convene.

The public is informed, on a continuous basis and via the mass media, on measures to protect the public and on how to react to various threats. It is necessary to keep raising the public awareness

²⁰ Next to this programme, there are numerous other training and education activities to enhance readiness to face terrorism and other security threats (conducted by the Office for the detection of organized crime, Service of the Criminal Police and Investigation, the Military police, or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

²¹ In this respect, let us mention the activities of the European Security Research and Innovation Forum (ESRIF), which had been established in 2007 as a European strategic civil protection research taskforce. Its main objective is to develop mid- and long-term civil protection research strategies and to innovate upon a dialogue between the private and the public sectors.

about the proper conduct in cases of mass emergencies or violations of law and order (**at fairs, exhibitions, workshops, training, activities of the prevention and information groups, etc.**). We will continue disseminating all relevant information in the press and on the Internet.

All elementary schools as well as most secondary schools have included in their curricula the issues of protection of the public in case of emergencies as well as the first aid. It is recommended that regional and municipal authorities (managing both public schools and crisis management centres) support and deepen cooperation between the integrated emergency system and schools. It can be said that the schools with established cooperation with the integrated emergency system, display a very good level of training programmes. Schools receive lecturing material on how the integrated emergency system protects the public in case of an emergency and students learn accordingly about the terrorist threat. Teachers responsible for these programmes may attend courses organized by the National Institute for Life-long Learning or training offered by the Fire Emergency Service. A system of future university teachers' education in this field is about to be completed.

Informing the public on proper conduct in reaction to various emergencies should remain a **permanent priority of the security forces in the Czech Republic** (primarily the integrated emergency system). The Psychological service of the Ministry of the Interior, the Police of the Czech Republic, and the Fire Emergency Service have taken active part in the process of preparing, implementing, and evaluating integrated emergency system exercises and have been cooperating over years in aspects related to the crisis and emergency psychology (concerning both the public as well as members of the security forces).

We have analyzed in detail the **foreign experience with the so called “levels of vigilance”**. It is a colour-specific system to indicate levels of expected risk posed to the protected interests. The levels are used as an “aid” to help inform the public as well as security forces on the immediate threat and on the emergency of the relevant counter measures. **All elements of the integrated emergency system have agreed that there is no immediate need to build such system in the Czech Republic.**

The Czech Republic has completed a number of texts and other instruction materials (flyers, brochures, manuals, textbooks, web pages, etc.) designed for the public and describing the proper conduct in cases of emergency. These materials, however, do not sufficiently cover threats posed to the public by terrorists and mass violations of law and order (see the Ministry of the Interior plan of reaction to various types of threats – Emergency type: mass violations of law and order).

Any further activities should be differentiated and the terminology used should differ to suit individual groups of recipients (the integrated emergency system, the public, local administrations, and the private sector). **We should not forget to explain motivations and philosophy behind the concept of proper reaction to the mass violations of law and order** (to explain to the public the importance of information).

Long-term efforts will focus on the aspects of **education of members of all elements of the integrated emergency system**. Proper information and advice in emergencies can come only from well prepared and trained members of the Police, Fire Service, and medical staff. Last but not least, we should make maximum use of the existing counter-terrorism means and measures dedicated to support the integrated emergency system and the crisis management as such.

More than ever in the past it is necessary to incorporate the topics of communication with the public and public relations to all crisis management exercises.

4. PREVENTION OF RADICALIZATION²² IN THE SOCIETY ACTIVITIES TO PREVENT TERRORIST RECRUITMENT

Even though the Czech Republic does not belong to countries, where terrorists misuse the coexistence of the majority („original“) population and immigrants to win new supporters and recruits, it would not be wise to underestimate this issue. The security forces are not here to intervene only when problems escalate but primarily to prevent. The developments in Western Europe provide enough inspiration for the Czech Republic, which can learn from mistakes made by some countries when dealing with the issue of integrations of immigrants.

Proper measures to integrate the immigrant community are the key aspect in the process of securing national stability. To facilitate conflict-free cohabitation of both majority and immigrant population, we have to educate the public in intercultural skills, understanding of diversity, and awareness of the benefits the immigrant communities can offer to the majority population. The integration process, however, should not be understood as an assimilation effort, but rather as a gradual process of integrating immigrants in the society. In any case, such integration will require **mutual** tolerance and understanding of diversity, while respecting the Czech legal framework.

The immigrant integration efforts as well as measures to protect political, economic, social, and cultural rights of immigrants in the Czech Republic have been coordinated, since 1999, in accordance with the conclusions of the document **”Principles of Integration of Immigrants in the Czech Republic”** and, as of 2006, in accordance with the measures proposed in the updated version of “Principles”. The integration measures are targeted at approximating legal status and responsibilities of foreign nationals residing in the territory of the Czech Republic to those enjoyed by the Czech citizens. The intention is to strengthen the principle of equal treatment of foreigners in employment, entrepreneurship, welfare, education, health care, and housing.

The Ministry of the Interior is in charge of coordinating the integration efforts while all government agencies involved in the implementation of the **Principles of Integration of Immigrants in the Czech Republic** have to regularly update their own **Integration Policy Plans**, which include draft legal as well as practical measures to help integrate immigrants. Integration support programmes have been financed from the Government budget or covered by the EU resources. There have been numerous integration projects implemented by regions, municipalities, and NGOs, targeted at both general aspects of integration as well as at integration specifics (prevention of radicalization of members of excluded immigrant communities or prevention of potential negative influence of newcomers).

In 2005, the Police of the Czech Republic introduced new ways of working with minorities and foreigners. All Police regions have now their **minority liaison officers** and have been gradually introducing **Police assistants**. The minority liaison officer is an individual with expertise in minority policing and able to mediate and facilitate communication between the Police of the Czech Republic and minorities. Such officer assists to help solve potential conflicts or violations of law and offers assistance to the minority population. The Police of the Czech Republic have also been **educating their members in policing of minorities and foreigners**. As a part of the minority integration strategy, the Police of the Czech Republic and other security forces invite representatives of minorities to become police officers.

All relevant steps in this field should make maximum use of the potential offered by the EU as well as UN parallel efforts.

The key to success, however, are people. We have to **improve our human resources devoted to the minority policing or policing of foreign language speaking (immigrant) communities**

²² For the purposes of this document, „radicalisation“ shall mean the process (concerning individuals, groups, or the entire society) which is typical for its escalating rigidity, implacability, and extremity as well as for its inclination to support of even commit violence as a means or a method to introduce changes in the society - thus directly or indirectly threatening the democratic rule.

(with special focus on the expert training of dedicated experts, etc.) **to further develop the potential of cooperation between the law enforcement and selected education facilities in the Czech Republic** (language training, intercultural and professional skills, innovated training modules or other activities to involve schools and other education facilities in minority related projects, etc.). The security experts should work on their capacity to recognize contact points or people in various minority communities, who may provide assistance in potential conflicts (NGOs, other information channels). We recommend that the law enforcement made use of the newly established regional Foreigner integration support centres as well as emergency projects implemented by municipal authorities in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior in selected municipalities threatened with potential foreigners-related problems.

We will seek further development of programmes of awareness rising and informing (training, etc.) **about security risks posed by enclosed immigrant communities in selected regions and locations.** The above activities are to be targeted at selected representatives of relevant municipalities.

In line with the relevant foreign experience, **we recommend to focus particularly on aspects related to the prevention of excluded immigrant communities, potential radicalization of their members, and, last but not least, the threat posed by radical newcomers** (e.g. in respect of prevention of radicalization and terrorism in prisons). Analysis of the current situation in prisons would need to be made first and relevant steps would follow accordingly

At the same time, it is desirable to enhance communication of the public authorities with representatives of various immigrant or religious communities on both regional and local level (in concerns in particular the law enforcement bodies, the government administration, teachers, social workers, etc.).

The EU, respectively its member states, has implemented numerous programmes and policies to help prevent and prosecute violent radicalization. **Nevertheless, not all outcomes are directly usable in the Czech Republic.** The effort to “actively counter radicalization” shall not lead to a simple adoption of measures that had not been sufficiently discussed. On the other hand, double standards shall not be applied and we should not subconsciously seek cultural or religious motivation when dealing with criminality of particular groups of persons from the immigrant communities.

Counter-radicalization is a long-term interagency process. It is extremely difficult to recognize such indicators of radicalization, which would help us analyze the developments in this field. That is why we recommend implementing security-related research projects to measure effectiveness of particular measures to counter radicalization and recruitment. Without such measures, we can only speculate whether the measures adopted have or have not born fruits.

It is extremely important to avoid generalisations. Even though criminal activities of any community are usually organized only by a small number of radicals, the uninformed public may perceive these activities as typical of the entire group. Such perception may in turn cause further radicalization of the community.

All steps taken to help prevent radicalization of the immigrant communities and their potential support of terrorism have to be implemented hand in hand with **measures to counter „domestic“ extremism, racism, and xenophobia**, respectively with education and awareness raising activities targeted at the public at large. The above is also covered by activities related to the implementation of the **„Counter-extremism strategy“**, adopted by the Government Decree No. 572 of May 4, 2009.

5. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES AND ASPECTS RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL LAW

The Czech legislative framework allows for the criminal prosecution of all manifestations of terrorism²³. A terrorist attack is understood to be not only a physical attack against a particular target, but also any **logistical support of terrorist activities (with a special focus on terrorist financing)**.

The law stipulates adequate measures of **protection, compensation, and support of victims of terrorism as well as of protection of witnesses and other people involved in criminal proceedings** (i.e. including terrorism-related cases).

We have considered (after a thorough analysis of the current situation, foreign case law and experience, and foreign law) **further amendments of the law** to allow for the **prosecution** of, for example, **anonymous terrorist threats**, the reaction to which is not only costly, but also police intensive.

The Czech Republic is currently party to all thirteen universal counter-terrorism instruments²⁴ as well as to the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism.

To ratify other Council of Europe counter-terrorism instruments, the Czech Republic will first have to introduce in its legislation the criminal liability of legal entities²⁵. Ratification of some other instruments has been postponed for other reasons²⁶.

To duly implement the obligations arising from international instruments, the Czech Republic should, without delay, introduce in its legislation **the criminal liability of legal entities**.²⁷

The introduction of criminal liability of legal entities in the Czech legislative framework is also required by the **EU Framework Decision on combating terrorism (2002/475/JHA)**. The Framework Decision shall be implemented by the member states no later than December 31, 2010. The criminal liability of legal entities is the only outstanding obligation, which prevents the Czech Republic from implementing the Framework Decision.

In its Decree No. 1451/09 of November 30, 2009, the Czech Government took note of the Analysis and international comparison of legal instruments guiding criminal liability of legal entities for the conduct, prosecution of which is required by international instruments, presented by the Minister of the Interior. Subsequently, the Government tasked the Minister of Justice to submit, by May 31, 2010, a draft bill introducing the criminal liability of legal entities into the Czech law. The merits of crime should cover unlawful conduct embedded in international instruments and in the EU acquis. Decisions on charges against criminally liable legal entities will be made by criminal courts in criminal proceedings.

The new body of law will also help to implement obligations arising from instruments concerning the fight against international organized crime and corruption.

²³ Primarily the Act No. 40/2009 Coll. of January 8, 2009, Criminal Code - § 311: Terrorist Attack.

²⁴ Obligations of the Czech Republic to the UN concerning counter-terrorist instruments are hereby almost completely fulfilled. The Czech Republic has not yet ratified 3 counter-terrorism related amendments or protocols to treaties adopted in 2005 by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International maritime organization.

²⁵ Convention on prevention of terrorism (opened for signature on May 16, 2005, entered in force on June 1, 2007, not yet signed by the Czech Republic), Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and financing of terrorism (opened for signature on May 16, 2005, entered in force on May 1, 2008, not yet signed by the Czech Republic).

²⁶ Protocol amending the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism (opened for signature on May 15, 2003, signed by the Czech Republic on November 27, 2007).

²⁷ The initial draft bill on criminal liability of legal persons and their prosecution, which was submitted to the Czech Parliament in 2004, was rejected in the first reading by the Decree No. 1327 of November 2, 2004.

CONCLUSIONS: COUNTER-TERRORISM PRIORITIES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Even though the public may feel a sort of “terrorism fatigue”, further counter-terrorist efforts do make sense. By all means, terrorism **has become a world-wide, latent, permanent, and omnipresent threat**. Those who hoped that it would soon be over, have proven wrong and we have no grounds to believe, that the threat of terrorism may ‘die out’ or dramatically decline in the foreseeable future. That is why we should not delay our steps and “argue” that also this time the Czech Republic will not be chosen as target of the next devastating attack.

Open manifestations of the domestic or international terrorism are not common in the Czech Republic. However, the potential risk of a politically motivated attack against the Czech Republic or its interests abroad (led by the international terrorists) could be closely related to the foreign policy orientation of our country.

The extent to which the Czech Republic is prepared to a potential terrorist attack in its territory or against its interests abroad must be in line with its geographical location as well as its involvement in the international counter-terrorist efforts.

It should not take us too long to implement good, respectively internationally proven, ideas in the Czech practice. Let us not reinvent the wheel. Many countries world-wide have “combat-proven” solutions readily available for implementation here in the Czech Republic. At the same time, it is important to make sure that the national bodies coordinate their efforts and avoid situations, when state agencies invest their resources in finding solutions, which have already been identified.

We have marked a significant success in many areas and have grounds for optimism but still, our security-related achievements require further effort to solve other key issues. Each security force has some significant weaknesses and the same is true for the entire system. It is highly recommended to professionalize our security-related mechanisms. Those security solutions, which we have in the past partially replaced with improvised activities or informal channels of information exchange, must be formalized.

We are aware of the fact that prevention is the key aspect of counter-terrorism. This aspect is primarily in the hands of the intelligence and security services. The success of counter-terrorism relies heavily on the intelligence services’ capacity to gather, in the right time, information on the terrorist organizations, their sources of financing, activities, or attacks planned. The intelligence services play a leading role in the process of information gathering and analysis. That is why we should provide them with all support needed to catch up with their foreign counterparts.

All competences of the intelligence services, including the current ones, must be clearly stipulated – the purpose of their powers, the conditions of their implementation, and incidents concerned must be embedded in law. The legal competences of intelligence services must be kept under due control. The process of clarifying competences of the relevant institutions must be complemented by their mutual cooperation, both locally and internationally. It is important to keep in mind that without a consistent system of information sharing, counter-terrorism efforts would have almost no chance of success.

This document focuses primarily on key issues and priorities. For further information, we refer you to the „Current counter-terrorist priorities“, which will, among others, tackle those tasks from the past National Action Plans which have not yet been implemented.