



**Asociace
pro mezinárodní
otázký**
Association
for International
Affairs

International Seminar

Date: December 1-2, 2010

Venue: Mirror Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Loretánské nám. 5, 118 00, Prague, Czech Republic

Priorities of Polish Presidency: Czech Perspective

In cooperation with the Polish Institute of International Affairs and with the support of the Czech-Polish Forum, the Open Society Fund Prague and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Prague.

INTRODUCTION

Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2009 came out as a somewhat turbulent period. However, as the priorities chosen by the Czech policy-makers fell under the Polish scope of political interest, the overall outcome of the Presidency was positively evaluated in Warsaw. Czech approach to some of the most burning issues, e.g. resolving the gas crisis or the strict stance against any violation of the Single Market rules, were appreciated in Poland.

The priorities for the Presidency of the Council of the EU as stipulated by the Polish government so far, overlap in many areas with the Czech Presidency priorities, and in general terms, with the vital interests of the Czech foreign and European policy. Nevertheless it is to be examined whether the mere fact of priority compliance entails that both countries would wish to see them realized to same extent and with the application of the same measures.

Both Czech Republic and Poland are extremely interested in issues like Eastern Partnership or Energy Security. Yet, the need of a better and stronger cooperation within these areas has often been voiced. What is more, Poland, as any other state will have to gain support from other member states to promote its goals (and thus veiled national interests).

On the other hand, if there are common ground and numerous goals, there are also areas, including the Common Agricultural Policy reform, where Polish and Czech views will tend to be divergent.

Therefore, discussing mutual insights into the policy priorities will be beneficial to both sides. It could prepare the ground for a feasible cooperation between the Polish Presidency and the Czech Republic.

BRIEF SEMINAR SUMMARY

The two-day seminar in Prague will consist of four panels touching upon the selected priority areas of Polish Presidency. The topics include Financial Framework for 2014-2020; Eastern Partnership; Common Security and Defense Policy and External Dimension of the EU Energy Policy, which are listed among top priority areas of the Polish Presidency.



**Asociace
pro mezinárodní
otázky**
Association
for International
Affairs

The main aim of the gathering is to discuss these issues from the point of view of both countries as well as to identify possible areas and ways of cooperation. The participants will be mainly government officials from the Czech Republic and Poland; however, they will also come from the academia, research institutes, interest groups and business.

A policy paper stemming from the debates should be published and distributed among policy makers.

OBJECTIVES

- to bring together Polish and Czech policy makers and members of public administration responsible for the preparation of Polish Presidency and/or working within the Presidency's priority areas;
- to stimulate debate among experts from ministries, public administration, interest groups and academia about the Polish Presidency priority areas;
- to pin-point areas of possible deeper cooperation and identify specific ways of their mutually beneficial advancement during Polish Presidency;
- to identify and describe possible points of contention in order to eliminate misunderstandings during the Polish Presidency;

STRUCTURE OF THE DEBATE

In each unit, firstly, the representative of the Polish public administration will be asked to introduce their planned and expected activities within selected priority area. Secondly, the representative of the Czech public administration will be asked to present his view on the priority area. Then, an expert's view will be provided by a specialist in the debated field in order to stimulate the debate.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, 1st December

13:30 Registration

14:00 Welcoming Remarks

- Maria Staszkievicz, Director, Association for International Affairs

14:10 - 15:30 Financial Perspective 2014-2020

- Alena Falathová, Project Manager, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Prague (Chair)
- Ignacy Niemczycki, Senior expert in the EU budget unit, Department of Economic Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Poland
- Kateřina Matoušková, Head of Unit, Financial Perspective and EU Budgetary Relations Unit, National Fund Department, Ministry of Finance, Czech Republic
- Paweł Tokarski, Analyst, Polish Institute of International Affairs, Republic of Poland

15:30-16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:30 Common Security and Defence Policy



**Asociace
pro mezinárodní
otázký**
Association
for International
Affairs

- Tomáš Karásek, Director of the Research Centre, Association for International Affairs, Czech Republic (Chair)
- Joanna Jurewicz, First Secretary of the Common Security and Defense Policy Unit, Security Policy Department, Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Poland
- Jiří Kyrián, Deputy Director of the Security Policy Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic
- Marcin Terlikowski, Analyst, Polish Institute of International Affairs, Republic of Poland

Evening: Dinner organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Prague (special invitations)

THURSDAY, 2nd December

9:30 – 11:00 Eastern Partnership

- Maria Staszkievicz, Director, Association for International Affairs, Czech Republic (Chair)
- Jarosław Dziędzic, Head of the Eastern Partnership Unit, Eastern Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Poland
- Petr Mareš, Ambassador, Special Envoy for the Eastern Partnership, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic
- Petra Kuchyňková, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic

11:00 – 11:20 Coffee Break

11:20 – 12:40 External Dimension of the EU Energy Policy

- Petr Binhac, Analyst, Association for International Affairs, Czech Republic (Chair)
- Szymon Polak, Head of the Energy Policy Unit, Department of Economic Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Poland
- Lukáš Hlavatý, Unit of International Energy Relations, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Czech Republic
- Veronika Zapletalová, Analyst, International Institute of Political Science, Czech Republic

12:40 – 13:00 Hungarian Presidency Perspective

- Ádám Szesztay, Head of the Department of the Strategic Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Hungary

13:00 Buffet Luncheon



**Asociace
pro mezinárodní
otázky**
Association
for International
Affairs

CONTACT

- Vít Dostál, project coordinator,
vit.dostal@amo.cz
gsm: + 420 603 104 687

REGISTRATION

- polsko@amo.cz