České předsednictví
Evropské unie

Czech Presidency
of the European Union

Présidence tchèque
de l'Union européenne
Environmental agenda of the CZ PRES - evaluation

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First half of 2009 – changes and challenges

- necessity to pave a solid way towards a successful agreement in Copenhagen in December 2009

- need to face the global financial and economic crisis and energy security crisis

- elections to the European Parliament and new European Commission

→ pressure to do most of the work in first half of the CZ PRES
CZ PRES environmental priorities

Energy and climate change – one of the three main CZ PRES priorities

Environmental priorities

- Climate change
- Environment and human health (IPPC, mercury, ozone, GMOs etc.)
- Sustainable consumption and production (EMAS, ecolabel)
- Biodiversity (seal products, whales, invasive species, soil)
Legislative achievements of the CZ PRES - First reading agreements:

- Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on substances that deplete the ozone layer
- Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS)
- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Community Ecolabel scheme
- Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning trade in seal products
- Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on Stage II petrol vapour recovery during refuelling of passenger cars at service stations (VOC II)
- Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 98/8/EC concerning the placing of biocidal products on the market as regards the extension of certain time periods
Council meetings during CZ PRES

Environment Council – 2 March 2009

- **Contribution** of the Council (Environment) to the *Spring European Council* (19 and 20 March 2009) + **Further development of the EU position on a comprehensive post-2012 climate agreement** – Council Conclusions


- **GMOs** (MON 810 – Hungary, Austria; T25 – Austria – Adoption)

- Council Decision establishing the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Community with regard to proposals for amendments to the International Convention on the Regulation of **Whaling** - Adoption

- AOB - The fall in demand for recycled materials
Council meetings during CZ PRES

Informal meeting of ENVI ministers

14-15 April 2009 – Prague, Křivoklát

CLIMATE CHANGE:

- Adaptation to climate change
- Financing
- International negotiation
Council meetings during CZ PRES

Environment Council – 25 June 2009

- **Adaptation to climate change** – Council Conclusions
- **Climate change – international negotiations** – Exchange of views
- Green Paper on **Biowaste** – Council Conclusions
- Communication on **Invasive species + Biodiversity Action Plan Review** – Council Conclusions
European Sustainable Development

- **June 2001**: the European Council at Göteborg – “A Sustainable Europe for a better world: A European Strategy for Sustainable Development”

- **In 2005**, the European Council: sustainable development as a key principle governing all the Union’s policies and activities; the “Declaration on the guiding principles for sustainable development”
  - key objectives of the declaration:
    - environmental protection
    - social equity and cohesion
    - economic prosperity
    - meeting our international responsibilities

- **the Lisbon Strategy** relaunched in March 2005

- **June 2006**, The Renewed Sustainable Development Strategy
**Lisbon Strategy**

- = EU development plan by 2010

**The main aims:**
  - competitive knowledge-based economy,
  - sustainable economic growth,
  - more and better jobs,
  - greater social cohesion,
  - respect for the environment.

**EU SDS**

- = single, coherent strategy on sustainable development

**The main aims:**
  - promote sustainable development,
  - change unsustainable consumption and production patterns,
  - better integrated policy-making process,
  - global solidarity with non-EU countries.
Sustainable Europe – Quality through Feedback

- **political will** necessary
- strategy as a **living document** – i.e. even if prepared by academia, it must not be “academic”
- **sound indicators** as a part of implementation mechanisms
- main conditions of conservation of high **quality of life**:
  - without **changing the attitude of individual consumers**, producers and service providers, no sustainable development is possible
  - **positive motivation** for ways of safeguarding the high standard of living enjoyed by human being
Main conclusions

- With six legislative proposals agreed under the CZ PRES, we have achieved most of the priorities that we set up in our programme.

- EU Presidency – excellent experience in international (global) negotiations → crucial for pushing forward the key environmental legislation - above all climate issue.

- Climate change in close connection with other key environmental issues: biodiversity, water scarcity, soil protection etc. – dominant topic of the year and upcoming period.

- Despite all the political changes (both EU and national) the key environmental problems remain the same.

- Innovation within the resource and energy efficiency leading to the low-carbon economy - crucial.
Thank you for attention