

Security Strategy of the Czech Republic

Introduction by the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

Dear fellow citizens,

The Government of the Czech Republic hereby presents the third version of the Security Strategy since the establishment of the independent Czech Republic. The Security Strategy is a fundamental policy document defining security threats and ways and means of countering them. The Government has decided to update the Security Strategy in the light of significant changes in the security environment and the Czech Republic's position on the international scene, in particular its upcoming full membership of the European Union.

The Czech Republic is a country in the centre of an increasingly stable Europe. We have very good relations with all neighbours, we are members of the North Atlantic Alliance, and we are currently acceding to the European Union. However, dangers still exist. In recent years, it has become increasingly obvious that in the present closely interconnected world, distance is no longer a limiting factor. We are threatened by dangers that emerge far from the Czech Republic but still have a direct bearing on our country. The terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001 have been followed by other similar acts in different parts of the world. There can be no doubt that international terrorism, together with the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are the most serious threats of our times. Rapid technological development is improving our everyday life in many respects, but it is also making our society more vulnerable. Therefore, in the updated Security Strategy, the Government places an emphasis on the effective protection of electronic, communication, and information networks. The Government also takes into account the security threat posed by organized crime and corruption.

As the security environment evolves, the Government is also developing policies for the security of the Czech Republic and its citizens. We must be ready to act more flexibly and quickly than in the past. The best response to present-day threats is to deal actively with problems before they develop, focusing on the prevention of attacks, catastrophes, crises, and conflicts. The new types of threat require close cooperation with our allies in the North Atlantic Alliance and partners in the European Union.

However, our security would be inconceivable without good communication between representatives of the State, local government, and the general public. The Government is committed to facilitating this communication in every respect. This Security Strategy should serve as the basis for this relationship.

Vladimír Špidla
Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

I. Introduction

1. The Security Strategy of the Czech Republic ('Security Strategy') is a fundamental document in the framework of the Czech Republic's security policy. It forms the basis for other strategies and concepts dealing with security – for example, the relevant parts of the Military Strategy of the Czech Republic or the Concept of the Foreign Policy of the Czech Republic.

2. The Security Strategy is a government document drafted in consultation with the Office of the President of the Republic and the Parliament of the Czech Republic on a non-partisan basis. The Czech Republic's security community, including representatives of public administration and the non-governmental sector, also took part in the drafting process.

3. The basic framework for formulating and implementing the Security Strategy is provided by the Constitution of the Czech Republic and Constitutional Act No. 110/1998 concerning the security of the Czech Republic as amended. An integral part of the framework are the international commitments arising from the Czech Republic's membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the European Union (EU), the United Nations (UN), and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

4. The Security Strategy is divided into five chapters, defining the Czech Republic's basic values, interests, attitudes, and ambitions as it seeks to safeguard its security:

- The chapter 'Principles of the Security Policy of the Czech Republic' sets out the principles on which the Czech Republic's security policy is based.
- The chapter 'Security Interests of the Czech Republic' defines the Czech Republic's vital, strategic, and other important interests.
- The chapter 'Security Environment' identifies trends, threats and the risks arising from them, that determine the environment in which the Czech Republic protects and promotes its interests.
- The crucial chapter 'Strategy for Promoting the Security Interests of the Czech Republic' outlines approaches to the protection of the Czech Republic's security interests in the fields of foreign, defence, and economic policy, as well as in the fields of internal security and public information policy.
- The chapter 'Security System of the Czech Republic' defines the elements and structure of the Czech Republic's security system, as well as the duties, competences, and responsibilities of each element.

II. Principles of the Security Policy of the Czech Republic

5. In the Security Strategy, the term 'security' means a desirable state of affairs where all risks are reduced to a minimum. These risks may arise from threats to the population, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the democratic establishment and the principles of the rule of law, internal order, property, the environment, the fulfilment of international security commitments, and other stated interests.

6. The security policy is a set of measures and steps aimed at preventing and eliminating threats and the risks arising from these threats in order to ensure internal and external security, defence, and the protection of the population and the State. The security policy is implemented by means of foreign, defence, economic, internal security and public information policies. These policies are equal, cohesive, and interlinked. In the safeguarding of security, it is important to maintain an active and preventive approach across the whole spectrum of the security policy. To this end, it is necessary, in particular, to deepen international cooperation, the Czech Republic's participation in alliances, and the involvement of civil society in specific security-related activities, and to foster security-conscious conduct among the population. Terrorist attacks and the fight against terrorism have shown that in today's open and interlinked world, the safeguarding of internal and external security requires a comprehensive approach.

7. The capacity of the Czech economy and the extent of international cooperation are two major factors determining the resources available for national security. Ensuring the security of the population, the democratic establishment, principles of the rule of law, and the principles of a market economy in the Czech Republic is a crucial precondition for the effective economic development of the country. No less important for the development of the Czech Republic's economy (long-term and balanced GDP growth) are economic security and global economic stability.

8. The task of the Government of the Czech Republic ('Government') and local government at regional and municipal levels is to safeguard, within their respective areas of competence, the security of the country's population, sovereignty, the democratic establishment, and the principles of the rule of law. The fundamental principles of the Czech Republic's security are the security of the individual, the protection of life, health and property, and the protection of institutions of the State, including their operational capability. Although the safeguarding of security is primarily the responsibility of the Government, an active contribution from the general public and public administration authorities in reducing the risks would also be welcome. Therefore, the Government intends to continue its policy of encouraging the active involvement of the general public in the field of national security. To this end, the legislative, executive, and judicial branches will provide more detailed and systematic public information on the security situation in the country.

9. The Czech Republic's security policy is based on the principle of the indivisibility of security. The Czech Republic's security is inseparable from security in the Euro-Atlantic area and from global security. Therefore, one of the country's long-term interests is to maintain the effective role of the UN and to promote unity in the Euro-Atlantic area. The Czech Republic cannot be indifferent to the fate of other nations, countries, and regions; it is ready to contribute, within its capacities, to the international community's efforts to address security problems and mitigate their consequences.

10. The Czech Republic prefers active prevention of armed conflicts and preventive diplomacy. If a crisis or armed conflict arises, it strives to reach a solution by diplomatic means. If peaceful means fail, the Czech Republic may – in accordance with its Constitution, laws, and the principles of the UN Charter, and within the framework of its commitments to and solidarity with its allies – use force to protect its vital and, if necessary, also some of its strategic interests.

11. The Czech Republic has undertaken to improve its individual defence capabilities as part of the Alliance's commitment to enhance and develop its military capabilities. To this end, the Czech Republic is gradually building a fully professional, highly mobile, and flexible army with modern equipment, capable of participating in a broad range of Alliance missions and other international operations, including operations conducted outside the Czech Republic's territory. This approach is based on the unquestionable value of collective defence and cooperative security provided by international organizations and multilateral arrangements. For the Czech Republic, the pillar of collective defence is NATO. Thanks to its NATO membership, the Czech Republic enjoys benefits from the security safeguards enshrined in the North Atlantic Treaty (Washington Treaty). The Czech Republic also takes an active part in the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and, in the scope of the CFSP, the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

12. The Czech Republic assumes that in the near future a massive direct armed attack against its territory or against the territories of its allies is unlikely. The democratization and integration processes in the Euro-Atlantic area are progressing, but at global level, especially outside the Euro-Atlantic area, the security environment has worsened over the past two years. There is a growing risk that asymmetric threats will materialize – especially in the form of terrorist attacks.

III. The Security Interests of the Czech Republic

13. The Czech Republic categorizes its security interests ('interests') according to their importance. For the purposes of the Security Strategy, they are divided into three categories: vital, strategic, and other important interests.

14. Vital interests. One vital interest is to safeguard the existence of the Czech Republic, its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence; another vital interest is to defend democracy and the rule of law, and to protect fundamental human rights and freedoms of the population. The Government's main duty is to protect the vital interests of the State and its citizens. To this end, the Czech Republic is ready to exploit all possible approaches and all available means.

15. Strategic interests. The promotion of strategic interests is necessary in order to safeguard vital interests. It is also necessary for the Czech Republic's social development and prosperity. The approaches and means chosen for their promotion must be commensurate to the situation.

The Czech Republic's strategic interests include (but are not restricted to):

- Security and stability – especially in the Euro-Atlantic area;
- Maintaining the UN's global stabilizing role and making the organization more effective;
- Firm transatlantic link within NATO and the building a strategic partnership between NATO and the EU;
- Complementary development of the defence capabilities of NATO and the EU;
- Developing the OSCE's role in the prevention of armed conflicts, stabilization, and democratization;
- Suppressing international terrorism;
- Reducing the risk of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery;
- Eliminating organized crime and illegal migration;
- Reducing the risk of a WMD attack (using missiles or other weapons) against the territory of the Czech Republic;
- Supporting regional cooperation;
- Ensuring the Czech Republic's economic security; to this end, promoting global economic stability, the diversification of sources of strategic raw materials, products, services, sources and forms of capital flows, and the protection of strategic infrastructures;
- Making the domestic defence industry more competitive, ensuring adequate strategic reserves;
- Supporting the spreading of freedom, democracy, and the principles of the rule of law.

16. Other important interests. The purpose of promoting other important interests is to help safeguard vital and strategic interests, to improve the quality of life in the Czech Republic, and to make public administration more effective.

Other important interests include (but are not restricted to):

- Reducing the economic and social imbalance between the North and South;
- Protecting the environment and promoting the principles of sustainable development;
- Suppressing crime, in particular eliminating corruption, trafficking, and tax evasion;
- Suppressing extremism, eliminating its causes, and fostering a multicultural, tolerant, and civil society;
- Making State institutions and the judiciary more efficient and more professional; to this end, improving interaction between administrative authorities, local government, and the general public;
- Supporting scientific and technological development, with an emphasis on new technologies with a high added value of innovation;
- Developing technical and technological capacities for the protection and transmission of classified information;
- Preventing and preparing for unforeseeable natural and environmental disasters and industrial accidents;
- Preventing and preparing for unforeseeable emergencies and the spreading of lethal infectious diseases.

IV. The Security Environment

1. The role of States and international organizations, and the position of the Czech Republic
17. States remain the main actors in international politics, but their position is evolving rapidly. It can be ascribed to globalization and integration processes, as well as to the increasingly important role of non-governmental actors and the general public, with the State giving up some of its sovereignty in favour of the protection of rights and freedoms of its citizens. However, the results of these processes are sometimes abused; certain non-governmental actors – especially terrorist organizations, extremist groups, and the organized crime sponsored by certain States - currently pose the primary threat to States and their citizens.

18. On an international scale, security issues can be addressed efficiently only if the greatest possible number of States endorses the chosen solution. In this respect, a crucial role is played by international organizations set up to maintain and promote stability and peace in the world. However, if they are incapable of taking action, there is a danger that they will lose some of their relevance and States will opt for alternative solutions. This is a risk facing the United Nations, an organization not yet fully prepared to meet present-day challenges. The UN must be reformed and international law must be developed to reflect the global threat of terrorism and the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery.

19. The Czech Republic's geopolitical position has changed considerably as a result of the democratization and integration processes in the Euro-Atlantic area. The Czech Republic is a NATO member and takes part in EU activities. As NATO and the EU enlarge, the Czech Republic is gradually being surrounded by fellow members of these organizations. As a result, its security situation is improving considerably.

20. NATO remains the core security organization in the Euro-Atlantic area. It embodies the transatlantic link that plays an indispensable role in Euro-Atlantic security and stability and is further enhanced by the developing NATO/EU strategic relationship. The 1999 Alliance's Strategic Concept, as well as the decisions adopted at the Prague Summit in November 2002 ('Prague Summit') reaffirm NATO's original mission – collective defence. They are also

milestones in the process of NATO's adaptation to new challenges – terrorism and WMD proliferation – and the development of capabilities for a broader spectrum of Alliance's missions. NATO has decided to create a NATO Response Force and has adopted an initiative to develop defence capabilities (the Prague Capabilities Commitment). An effective way of implementing this initiative is to specialize in specific defence capabilities based on the principle of shared responsibility, costs, and security risks. Individual member countries develop and build, as a matter of priority, specific forces and capabilities to a degree exceeding their national needs. In turn, the capabilities that the individual countries lack are provided under the Alliance's common projects or on a bilateral or multilateral basis. In the present security environment, NATO intends to be engaged in any region that is a source of threat to the security of its members. One such form of engagement will be support provided to other organizations or States.

21. The EU continues to develop its security and defence policy. The priority is to prevent crises and armed conflicts. It has also developed the capability to undertake autonomous missions across the full range of the 'Petersberg Tasks', with an emphasis on the enforcement of peace and security. The EU's headline goal was that by the year 2003 it should be able to deploy a 60,000 strong military force capable of carrying out crisis and conflict management missions. The force was declared fully operational in May 2003 and the remaining shortfalls in certain fields are now being addressed. The EU has also decided to develop non-military capabilities. These capabilities have been in use since January 2003 for the police mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The military capabilities have been deployed since April 2003 in the peacekeeping operation in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In the field of the ESDP and CFSP, interested Member States may enter into enhanced cooperation under set conditions. The EU's ambition is to prevent and manage crises and armed conflicts without geographical limitation. To this end, the EU is developing its own security strategy.

22. An important factor in Euro-Atlantic stability is the relationship between NATO and the EU and their partner countries, focused on the building of a cooperative security system. NATO deepened its relationship with the Russian Federation at the Rome Summit in May 2002 and with Ukraine at the Prague Summit within the framework of developing distinctive partnerships. At the Prague Summit, NATO also strengthened its relations with Partners within the framework of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) with the aim to upgrade their security-related cooperation; it is also developing its relationship with Mediterranean Dialogue countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia). One of the key issues of enhanced cooperation is the fight against terrorism. In 2002, the EU and the Russian Federation created a mechanism for consultations on crisis management. The EU has also developed the 'Wider Europe – New Partnership' project to define its approaches to new neighbours and the Russian Federation after enlargement.

23. The OSCE is an irreplaceable forum for dialogue on Euro-Atlantic security issues and for the building of democracy and freedom. It plays an important role in the prevention of crises and armed conflicts and in post-conflict renewal, promoting stability and a cooperative approach to security issues.

24. The development of the security environment has proved the importance of international treaties on disarmament, arms control and WMD non-proliferation, and the need for their consistent implementation. On the other hand, it has also shown their weaknesses – due to scientific and technological progress, their effect is limited and their verification and enforcement mechanisms inadequate. Accordingly, there is a need to strengthen the

international control regimes focusing on the non-proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery. These regimes complement and reinforce the UN's system of international disarmament treaties. In connection with the fight against terrorism, the export control regimes are being tightened and new additions are appearing on the lists of dual-use items used for the production of WMD.

25. Activities improving the conditions for economic cooperation and trade are unquestionably important for the Czech Republic. Although the debate on the removal of barriers to economic cooperation and free trade is constantly on the agenda of the World Trade Organization and other forums, there still are obstacles hindering the export of Czech goods.

2. Trends in the security environment

26. Two basic terms – ‘threat’ and ‘risk’ – appear in the sections of the Security Strategy concerning the security environment.

For the purposes of the Security Strategy, ‘threat’ means any phenomenon potentially harmful to the Czech Republic's interests. This threat may be a natural phenomenon not directly related to human activity, or it may be caused by an entity having a will and intent – an individual, a group, an organization, or a State. The Security Strategy takes into account threats arising from deliberate actions that can harm the Czech Republic's interests and values.

For the purposes of the Security Strategy, ‘risk’ means a certain likelihood of an event that is deemed undesirable for security reasons. A risk is always derivable and derived from a particular threat. The degree of risk, i.e. the probability of harmful effects resulting from a threat and from the vulnerability of an interest, can be assessed on the basis of a risk analysis, which also takes into account our readiness to face the threat.

27. Threat assessment shows that in the medium term a massive military attack against the Czech Republic is unlikely. However, the global security situation has recently worsened due to many simultaneous, mutually reinforcing negative trends and this development affects also the security in the Euro-Atlantic area. These trends have generated threats that are very difficult to predict. Their emergence and rapid spread have been facilitated by globalization. Increasingly, non-State actors (old and new terrorist organizations, radical religious, sectarian and extremist movements and groups) enter into ad hoc alliances with similar groups or with totalitarian, ideologically intolerant regimes and dictatorships. They deliberately jeopardize our way of life and the democratic system protecting human rights and freedoms.

28. Since threats are difficult to predict and tend to evolve rapidly, there is a need for better, more effective analyses and early warning means and systems. Time and again, State and non-State actors have sought to control, damage, or eliminate these systems, including electronic, communication and information networks. There is a high risk of such attacks. Major leaks of strategic data or intrusions into the information systems of State institutions and enterprises serving the basic functions of the society and the State could jeopardize not only the strategic, but also the vital interests of the Czech Republic.

29. The terrorist attacks committed at the very beginning of the 21st century show that terrorists no longer function locally and in isolated units, but globally and in coordinated groups. Fuelled by extremist ideologies, terrorism combined with WMD proliferation poses a

strategic threat to us and to our allies. Terrorists use an asymmetric strategy: avoiding direct conflict, they attack the territories of their chosen adversaries, choosing mostly civilian targets. They prefer means with great power of destruction and strive to acquire WMD. The risk of terrorist attack in the Czech Republic has increased.

30. WMD proliferation is one of the greatest global threats of the present world. There is evidence that rogue States and non-State actors have stepped up their efforts to acquire WMD. In terms of WMD proliferation, the high-risk regions are the Middle East, and South and East Asia. WMD proliferation is aided by the increasing availability of know-how, technologies and dual use materials, and by the mobility of scientists – especially from the former Soviet Union. The Czech Republic urgently needs to find new ways of safeguarding its security in case of an imminent WMD attack using various means of delivery.

31. On the periphery of the Euro-Atlantic area there still are some less stable regions and States. Whenever their instability leads to a crisis or an armed conflict, often accompanied by large-scale violations of human rights and freedoms, there is the threat of massive migration waves. As a rule, unstable regions also become a breeding ground and safe haven for terrorists, extremists, and members of organized crime rings, including international smugglers and traffickers of weapons and dangerous materials.

32. Organized crime is becoming more aggressive and uses increasingly ingenious methods. It concentrates on drug production and distribution, illegal migration, human trafficking, intellectual property theft, computer piracy, car theft, prostitution and trafficking, including trafficking in arms, and can be expected to try and diversify into other areas. Recently organized crime has tended to enter into ad hoc alliances with terrorist groups. To meet the cost of their activities and to gain private profit, organized crime rings engage in financial crime, including tax evasion, bank fraud, and money laundering. The risk of organized crime activities in the Czech Republic continues to exist.

33. Corruption is a persistent phenomenon in all countries of the world. A factor that plays a major role in its spread is organized crime. Breeding grounds for corrupt behaviour can be found in morally devastated and poor societies, ineffective and non-transparent governments and political institutions, weak rule of law, weak and poorly prepared law enforcement authorities, and ineffective courts. In the Czech Republic, the risk of corruption remains unacceptably high and may grow to proportions capable of causing serious damage to the Czech Republic's interests.

34. Another factor contributing to the emergence of threats is the growing imbalance between the North and South. The fact that the South is lagging behind, economically and socially, is causing discontent among its population. Again, this is a breeding ground for radicalization, extremism, and terrorism. Dissatisfaction with living conditions leads to migration, often illegal, to northern countries. The use of non-environmentally friendly technologies in less developed regions has contributed considerably to the deteriorating environmental situation. Another security risk is posed by the increasing competition for non-renewable or scarce resources, such as water.

35. Human activity is causing global climate change. The environmental impacts are evident in the Czech Republic too, and may generate threats in the form of large-scale natural disasters. Attention must still be paid to the potential risk of an environmental disaster.

36. As a result of globalization, there is an increased danger that lethal infectious diseases will spread. In the case of a pandemic, the threat could be rated as strategic.

37. Despite preventive and protective measures in the form of legislation, principles, control, and strict standards for high-risk production processes, the threat of industrial accidents cannot be ruled out. The risk increases in particular during natural disasters.

V. Strategy for Promoting the Security Interests of the Czech Republic

1. Foreign policy

38. Through its foreign policy, the Czech Republic promotes its interests in external relations, seeking to strengthen its position in the international community. With regard to the nature of the security environment, the Czech Republic promotes its interests by means of active work in bilateral and multilateral relations.

39. As a NATO member, the Czech Republic formulates its security and defence policy on the basis of the Alliance's Strategic Concept and the Prague Summit conclusions. The Czech Republic will help to develop the Alliance's forces and assets and to adapt NATO to the new security environment and challenges. As a country integrating in the CFSP, the Czech Republic also supports the building of capabilities within the ESDP, including the possibility of conducting operations in support of peace and security using NATO assets and capabilities. The Czech Republic supports the idea that a decision to launch a potential operation in support of peace, security, and stability should be made on the basis of consultations in a mechanism agreed between NATO and the EU.

40. The Czech Republic seeks to enhance the transatlantic link; in this context it supports the complementary development of the capabilities of NATO and the EU. It also stresses the need to strengthen the strategic NATO/EU partnership as the backbone of the Euro-Atlantic security architecture. Like its allies and partners, the Czech Republic rejects the nationalization of security policies and, within the framework of transatlantic solidarity, seeks to promote a common perception of security threats.

41. The Czech Republic prefers multilateral solutions of international issues and security problems. It places an emphasis on the prevention of armed conflicts and the resolution of security problems by diplomatic, political, and other non-violent means. The Czech Republic regards development aid and humanitarian assistance as important tools in this respect. Therefore, the Czech Republic will seek to increase them within its capacities.

42. Where preventive measures and efforts to find a peaceful solution to situations endangering or violating international peace and security, especially in connection with the threat of terrorist attacks and WMD proliferation, fail, the Czech Republic will join coercive measures, including the use of force in accordance with its obligations within NATO and the EU, subject to the principles of the UN Charter. In addition, the Czech Republic will, within its capacities, contribute military and non-military capabilities to peace operations consistent with its interests, even if the operation is not based on its treaty obligations or related to a direct threat. The Czech Republic is ready to take part in the international community's potential coercive actions intended to prevent massive human rights violations, especially genocide. Such coercive actions should have the broadest possible international support, including a UN Security Council mandate.

43. With regard to the continuing proliferation of WMD and missile technologies and with regard to the fact that some countries refuse to respect the relevant international commitments, the Government will create conditions to join projects and systems capable of ensuring the protection of the Czech Republic's territory.

44. The Czech Republic continues to stress the development of good-neighbourly relations, regional arrangements, international organizations, and economic cooperation in Central Europe. The Czech Republic intends to support the development of the CFSP by means of regional cooperation.

45. An important process for the Czech Republic is the deepening of NATO's and the EU's relations with partner countries, encouraging a cooperative approach to the solution of security issues. The Czech Republic attaches great importance to the development of relations with the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the countries of South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and Middle East and North African countries.

46. The Czech Republic will continue to support programmes and activities aimed at spreading and deepening democracy and the rule of law. It will seek to strengthen the institutions that project these values; to this end, it will support the creation of new institutions whenever such a step is deemed useful.

47. The Czech Republic will continue to promote the deepening and greater efficiency of processes and mechanisms for disarmament, arms control, the non-proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery. It will strongly support the adoption of new measures in connection with the fight against terrorism.

48. The Czech Republic contributes to the stability and effectiveness of arms control, the non-proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery by pursuing a consistent licensing policy for trade in military material, radioactive material, dual-use goods and technologies, weapons, ammunition, and non-military explosives in accordance with its commitments.

49. The Czech Republic strives for the deepening of international economic cooperation, removal of barriers to trade, and for the opening and interconnection of markets. It diversifies resources of strategic raw materials in the interests of energy security. In promoting better conditions for international economic cooperation, the Government will advocate multilateralism in the World Trade Organization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank. It will also continue to benefit from bilateral agreements.

50. The Czech Republic seeks a more effective application of the standards of international law in international relations. To this end, it will continue to take an active part in discussions and processes concerning the development of international law, which must reflect the new strategic threat of terrorism and developments in the protection of human rights and freedoms against arbitrary acts of totalitarian and intolerant regimes and dictatorships. The Czech Republic intends to continue promoting a stronger role for international judicial bodies.

2. Defence Policy

51. The defence policy is one of the basic tools for promoting the Czech Republic's security interests. Its chief aim is to safeguard sovereignty, territorial integrity, the principles of democracy, and the rule of law, and to protect the lives and property of the population against

external threat. To this end, the Czech Republic formulates, in accordance with its foreign policy, the basic principles for the building, preparation, and use of the relevant elements of the Czech Republic's security system ('security system').

52. The defence policy reflects the comprehensive character of defence, based on the inseparability of external, internal, military and non-military aspects and the preventive and operational functions of individual elements in the security system.

53. The basic pillar of the Czech Republic's defence is its membership of NATO and the enhancement of the transatlantic link. As a NATO member, the Czech Republic formulates its defence policy in accordance with the Alliance's Strategic Concept. On this basis, it assumes the obligation to take part in safeguarding the security of other member countries, to contribute to Euro-Atlantic stability by sharing defence tasks in times of both peace and crisis, to participate in partnership and cooperation programmes, and to take part in peace operations and humanitarian and rescue operations, including the contribution of armed-force capacities in the process of post-conflict renewal.

54. The main tool of the defence policy is the Czech Republic's armed forces ('armed forces'), with the Army of the Czech Republic as their core element. The armed forces are prepared at all times to defend the Czech Republic's territory. Parts of these forces are assigned and trained to participate in the Alliance's operations under Article 5 of the Washington Treaty. In the event of a substantial deterioration in the security situation, the armed forces have standing contingency plans of measures and projects necessary to increase their capabilities.

55. The Czech Republic contributes to the development of Alliance capabilities and takes part in the shaping of NATO's nuclear policy in accordance with the principles of nuclear consultation and nuclear planning. Its contribution to the process of improving Alliance capabilities includes commitments adopted at the Prague Summit, in particular the preparation of contributions to the NATO Response Force and role specialization. The Czech Republic's armed forces will specialize mainly in developing forces and capabilities in the area of WMD protection, in which they play a leading role within NATO. The Czech Republic recognizes role specialization as an effective method of dealing with defence capability shortfalls and also as an opportunity to develop areas in which it wants to achieve and maintain a top position. Specialization of the Czech Republic's armed forces will also improve their capability to fulfil the planned defence tasks in the country's territory based on the relevant legislation.

56. The Czech Republic supports the development of the EU's military capability and the common approach of NATO and the EU to defence planning and security issues. The defence policy also creates conditions for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in addressing defence issues, especially with NATO countries. The contribution to international security and stability will include the participation of the armed forces in peace and humanitarian operations within the EU and UN framework and possibly in ad hoc coalitions.

57. In the area of fight against terrorism, the armed forces will concentrate on improving specific capabilities and the efficiency of military intelligence. In accordance with the Czech Republic's legislation, they will also be trained to assist the Czech Republic Police and other elements of the security system effectively in the event of a non-military threat. An integral part of the Czech Republic's defence tasks is to educate the population. The scope of these

educational activities will be determined in the defence plans prepared by each body within the security system.

58. The armed forces are integrated in the Alliance's air defence system (NATINEADS) and ready to receive Allied reinforcements in the Czech Republic's territory. The Czech Republic Army also assigns and trains part of its forces for NATO and EU crisis response operations (enforcement, support and maintenance of peace outside the scope of Article 5 of the Washington Treaty). The limits for these contingents are set out under the Military Strategy of the Czech Republic. The contingents' composition, strength and period of deployment will be adjusted according to current operational requirements and the economic capacity of the State.

59. The purpose of the ongoing armed forces reform is to achieve the necessary capability to perform set defence and security tasks and commitments. An integral part of the reform is the transition to fully professional armed forces.

60. The defence-related obligations of the administrative authorities, local government and other elements of the security system are laid down by the Czech Republic's legislation, which also incorporates the principle of civil and democratic control of the armed forces.

61. The civil and democratic control of the armed forces includes a regular and transparent review of their preparedness and the effectiveness of defence spending. The Government will present these reviews to the Czech Republic's Parliament for information.

3. Internal Security Policy

62. The main objective of the internal security policy is to formulate and apply principles concerning the protection of the democratic foundations of the State, the safeguarding of internal security and public order in the Czech Republic. Through institutions authorized by law, the Government continuously analyzes the internal security and public order situation in the territory of the Czech Republic, identifies threats, assesses risks and initiates proposals for their effective elimination and seeks to promote strategies and effective measures of a legislative and non-legislative nature.

63. All elements of the security system actively participate in the safeguarding of internal security. The Government places a great emphasis on professionalism and high performance standards in the competent security structures and law enforcement authorities. Civic responsibility and support play a very important role.

64. The Czech Republic actively fights against all forms of terrorism. In response to the events of September 11th, 2001 in the United States, it prepared a National Action Plan to Combat Terrorism, aimed at minimizing the Czech Republic's vulnerability to terrorist attacks targeting its territory or its interests abroad and to the full range of terrorist acts. The Czech Republic is ready to take systemic preventive measures in the fight against terrorism.

65. An important task of the country's security structures is to combat all forms of organized crime. The Czech Republic seeks to adopt legislative and organizational measures that would impede and, if possible, eliminate the legalization of proceeds from such crime and enable the competent authorities to confiscate them.

66. The Czech Republic seeks to reduce all forms of illegal migration and the related illegal activities by means of both international and internal measures. The Czech Republic

consistently adopts and applies the EU's migration, visa and asylum policies. Full implementation of the Schengen agreements remains a priority task.

67. The Czech Republic's priorities in the field of internal security include the suppression of distribution, trafficking and abuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances as one of the main activities of international organized crime. To this end, the Czech Republic intends to apply balanced preventive and repressive measures and to engage in effective international cooperation.

68. The Government also intensively fights against corruption and serious economic crime, which distort competition, undermine the basic principles of democracy and offer a gateway through which organized crime finds a way into public administration. One of the Czech Republic's priority tasks is to create legislative preconditions for preventing corruption in public administration and for developing an anti-corruption programme focused on the assessment of the risk of corruption associated with the functions of elected representatives of the State. Effective implementation of anti-corruption measures would be impossible without public support.

69. The Czech Republic endeavours to ensure the consistent detection and prosecution of manifestations of xenophobia, racism and political extremism. It uses preventive and repressive measures to minimize visible and latent forms of extremism. Major importance is attached to preventive measures protecting persons belonging to national and ethnic minorities and encouraging conflict-free and tolerant multicultural co-existence. The prevention of xenophobic attitudes among the general public is greatly supported by educational and awareness-raising activities concerning human rights and multicultural education and the systemic approach of State authorities to the integration of foreigners.

70. The Czech Republic suppresses illegal or undesirable transactions involving weapons, military equipment and dual-use materials. It pays great attention to measures against WMD proliferation and transfers of technologies and services that can be used in WMD development, production, storage and other related activities.

71. The Czech Republic adopts and improves measures for the protection and sharing of classified information. In the technically and financially demanding fields of communication and information security, it intends to continue enhancing the protection of important information systems and critical infrastructures and to consistently suppress information crime. Great stress is currently placed on the very sensitive areas of intellectual property protection and personnel security.

72. The Government will continue to consistently monitor and analyze the public order situation, to identify risk factors and initiate proposals for solutions in the area of crime repression and prevention. In the area of public order, the key factor is progress in improving civic safety, inter alia by reducing crime rates, traffic accident rates and their negative impact on the population.

73. The Government will continue promoting prevention and building capacities in the area of public health protection. These measures should prevent the outbreak and spreading of infectious, mainly lethal, diseases and limit their incidence.

74. Individual elements of the Integrated Rescue System or other bodies involved in internal security and civil protection must be capable of a professional response. In cooperation with others, they must take effective action in an emergency or crisis caused by terrorist attacks, natural and environmental disasters, industrial accidents, and other situations endangering lives, health, property, the environment, internal security, or public order in the Czech Republic.

75. The Czech Republic is continuously developing its crisis management and crisis planning methods. It provides the necessary expertise for the planning, preparation, coordination and unification of measures adopted by administrative authorities and local government, as well as companies and businesses in preparation for crisis situations. Increasingly, crisis situations where there is a major risk of disrupted internal security and public order require coordinated international cooperation. The Czech Republic is committed to efficiently assisting in crisis situations outside its territory in accordance with its international commitments and in the spirit of international solidarity.

76. The Czech Republic will continue to take measures intended to improve the work, performance and coordination of the bodies involved in internal security and public order. The Government is ready to use the potential of other security actors, e.g. security, health and social services, the private sector or volunteers. It will also consistently promote the idea that mechanisms for the fight against corruption, racism and extremism should be incorporated in all executive segments in the area of internal security and public order. In the coming period consistent efforts will be made to facilitate effective coordination between authorities, e.g. to improve coordination between higher territorial administrative units and the Czech Republic Police or to strengthen cooperation between the Czech Republic's intelligence services ('intelligence services') and the Czech Republic Police.

77. To put plans in the field of internal security into practice successfully, it is important to have public support and the cooperation of non-governmental organizations and the security community. The Government also supports science, research and education relevant to internal security, in order to achieve the professional standards necessary in addressing policy and strategic tasks.

4. Economic Policy and the Safeguarding of Security

78. Economic policy creates conditions for the safeguarding of national security, eliminates the existing and potential security risks in the country's economy and in external economic relations and fundamentally influences the production of resources necessary for the country's security.

79. The Czech Republic's economy is an open market economy, stabilized in macroeconomic terms and integrated in international trade and financial relations, and thus capable of sustainable economic growth. The economic policy will continue to strengthen macroeconomic stability and, to this end, foster a favourable economic climate by means of:

- public finance reform seeking to reduce internal and external debt in order to ensure the long-term stabilization of public budgets;
- the State's efforts to maintain price stability, using appropriately designed and applied macroeconomic policies;
- continuing the economic transformation process, taking into account the security interests of the State;
- measures safeguarding the financial and foreign exchange economy of the State.

80. An important task of the economic policy is to minimize the potential sources of threats, as well as the influence of the actors that cause them, in particular:

- to maximize the transparency of financial flows in the country's economy;
- to prevent monopolization of crucial segments of the Czech economy;
- to ensure the continuous provision of human, material and financial resources for activities necessary to preserve national security, within the country's economic capacity;
- to ensure consistent financial control by the revenue authorities and, in the field of imports, exports and transits, financial control carried out in cooperation with the Customs Administration;
- to finalize legislation permitting the blocking of the bank accounts of individuals and entities suspected of sponsoring terrorism;
- to work for the growth of productivity, i.e. to improve the conditions for business, investment protection and exports.

81. Another aim of the economic policy is to minimize the dependence of the Czech Republic's economy on supplies from economically or politically unstable regions, in particular:

- to diversify the sources and transport routes of strategic raw materials;
- to pursue industrial, energy and raw material policies that would reduce energy and raw material consumption in Czech economy and encourage efficient and cost-effective use of domestic primary energy resources;
- to guarantee food safety and food supplies in crisis situations by means of timely preventive measures;
- to minimize the economic impacts of delays in strategic raw material supplies;
- to support the development of the defence industry and the role of industry in meeting the needs of the armed forces, armed security corps, rescue corps, rescue and emergency services, with an emphasis on flexibility and the capability to respond quickly to the changing security environment.

82. The Czech Republic is continuously developing a system of economic emergency measures and maintains the optimum volume of necessary commodities and production capacities. The Czech Republic intends to retain the capabilities that enable it to mobilize the material and financial resources necessary to deal with a crisis.

5. Public Information Policy

83. The Government is aware of the need to actively inform the public about security and developments in the security environment and about measures taken by the Government and other authorities and institutions to safeguard the security of the population and of the Czech Republic. The Government believes that better public information and communication policy will improve the general understanding of security issues and provide the necessary feedback. It will also encourage the general public to take a more active part in preventing and addressing specific security problems.

84. Elements of the legislative, executive and judicial power and the local government bodies that are responsible for the Czech Republic's security must systematically inform and cooperate with the public. Everybody must have sufficient information to deal with these issues responsibly.

85. The general public should be kept informed about the views and concerns that motivate the legislative and executive branches and local government to take measures necessary for

the Czech Republic's security. To this end, the public should always receive advance information about the threats and the risks resulting from them, as well as about the adopted measures and their consequences.

86. In the field of public information, State authorities and local government must:

- increase their cooperation with the media, in order to provide the public with a broader array of topical security-related information;
- support the establishment and operation of the public administration internet portal as the focal point for sharing important information concerning national security with the general public and with other elements of the security system;
- support the system for exchanging, via the public administration portal, security-related information important for decision-making by individual elements of the security system;
- support the building of communication infrastructure to facilitate access to public information;
- use various forms of communication and encourage communication with individual citizens, especially at local level;
- periodically publish risk and threat assessments;
- present periodical reports on measures adopted to safeguard the Czech Republic's security at all levels;
- publish other non-periodical documents and publications;
- support security-related studies at universities (lectures, grants, etc.);
- support security-related education programmes;
- within their areas of competence, present and draw attention to problems related to security;
- continue to present the results of the work of the intelligence services;
- facilitate communication with the security community, especially at local level, with the aim of encouraging its active involvement;
- place a special stress on the education of young people; to this end, make use of government subsidies, grant policies, preventive systems and activities.

These and other forms of public information should help involve the general public in the processes safeguarding the Czech Republic's security and make every citizen aware that his or her cooperation is necessary.

VI. Security System of the Czech Republic

87. The present security system is functional. It is the result of several years' development building on Czech tradition and experience and drawing on the expertise of comparable European democracies. The main principles of the Czech Republic's security are defined in the Constitution and related legislation.

88. The security system is an institutional tool for creating and implementing the Czech Republic's security policy. It is a national system with close links to NATO and the EU and other international institutions (UN, OSCE, World Health Organization) ensuring its compatibility and interoperability with the Alliance and other, especially European, security systems.

89. The purpose of the security system is to safeguard the Czech Republic's security, to protect and promote its vital, strategic and other important interests. Its basic function is to control and coordinate the work of individual elements in safeguarding the Czech Republic's security interests in the case of an imminent threat or in a crisis.

90. The security system provides qualified information necessary for reviewing the security policy and for the decision-making of its elements. Its work at every level is subject to a uniform and coordinated procedure based on operative legislation and on respect for international treaties, political principles and the Czech Republic's commitments. An integral part of the security system is the systematic preparation and preventive activity of each element.

91. Each element of the security system has its competences laid down under operative legislation. The elements are subject to central coordination and control but in some cases they may act autonomously within their areas of competence. They must be able to respond adequately and promptly in a crisis and to formulate coherent long-term policies reflecting the evolving security environment. The readiness of each element of the security system is tested mostly by means of exercises.

92. The elements of the security system form a hierarchical structure. Their functional relationships and competences at every level are regulated by generally applicable rules, principles and specific procedures. The whole structure can quickly pass to the state of alertness and thus can produce a successful and orderly response in the initial stages of a crisis.

93. The security system comprises the competent elements of the legislative, executive and judicial branches, local government, as well as legal entities and individuals responsible for the Czech Republic's security. It mainly includes the President of the Republic, the Czech Parliament, the Government, the National Security Council and its working bodies, central administrative authorities, regional and municipal authorities and their executive crisis management bodies, the armed forces, armed security corps, intelligence services, and rescue and emergency services.

94. The powers of the President of the Republic in the field of national security are laid down in the Constitution and related legislation. He is the supreme commander of the armed forces and has special authority in relation to the Government and the National Security Council.

95. The Czech Parliament, beside passing security-related legislation, co-decides on the orientation of national security policy, decides on the declaration of the state of emergency, the state of war, and on the Czech Republic's participation in the defence systems of international organizations of which the Czech Republic is a member. It authorizes the deployment of the armed forces outside the Czech Republic's territory and the presence of foreign armed forces in the Czech Republic's territory.

96. The Government is the supreme executive body implementing the national security policy. It is responsible for the management and operational capability of the entire security system. It has the power to declare the state of emergency in case of a serious crisis that poses considerable danger to life, health, property or to internal order and security. Subject to conditions laid down by law, the Government can decide on the deployment of the armed forces outside the Czech Republic's territory and on the presence of foreign armed forces in the territory of the Czech Republic, provided that the period of such deployment or presence does not exceed 60 days.

97. The National Security Council is a standing Government working body in the field of security. It coordinates and reviews activities in this field and presents proposals to the

Government. In the field of national security the National Security Council can ask all ministers or heads of administrative authorities for information and analyses and charge them with tasks related to national security. The National Security Council considers and presents to the Government regular reports on national security and proposals for further measures. It cooperates with Regional Security Councils. The National Security Council should be able to draft policies and measures in this area, as well as deal with an actual crisis.

98. The National Security Council is supported by the following standing interministerial working bodies:

- Committee for the Coordination of Foreign Security Policy – coordinates the Czech Republic's foreign security policy, under the responsibility of the Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- Defence Planning Committee – coordinates measures in the field of national defence, under the responsibility of the Minister of Defence;
- Civil Emergency Planning Committee – coordinates the planning of measures for the internal security of the State, its population and economy, and the civil resources required for the Czech Republic's security; under the responsibility of the Minister of the Interior;
- Intelligence Committee – coordinates the work of the Czech Republic's intelligence services and plans measures in support of intelligence activities and cooperation between State authorities. The Committee does not carry out independent intelligence activities. It is responsible to the Prime Minister.

99. The National Security Council system also includes the Central Crisis Management Staff, a government working body in the field of crisis management. The Staff is activated in the event of a direct threat or crisis and presents proposals to the National Security Council or, if the circumstances require immediate action, directly to the Government. Depending on the nature of the crisis, the Prime Minister may appoint either the Minister of the Interior or the Minister of Defence to chair the Staff.

100. The security-related tasks of ministries and other central administrative authorities are based on operative legislation and other regulations. Every ministry or other administrative authority has its own crisis management staff, a working body created to address crisis situations.

101. Crisis readiness activities at regional and municipal levels are coordinated by regional or municipal security councils. Each head of regional government or chairperson of a municipal council is assisted by regional or municipal crisis management staff.

102. Flood readiness and response is the task of special bodies created by municipalities and river valley authorities. Their structure is coordinated by the Central Flood Response Commission, under the responsibility of the Minister of the Environment. The bodies control, supervise, coordinate and set tasks in all areas relevant for the protection against floods.

103. The prevention and control of infectious diseases is a task for the Central Commission for Infectious Diseases under the responsibility of the Minister of Agriculture.

104. In the a state of emergency, flood control and infection control commissions integrate into the Crisis Management Staff at the appropriate level and function as one of its elements.

105. Public health protection in the event of imminent or spreading infections is the responsibility of public health bodies, mainly the Ministry of Health and regional public

health officers. In the event of a pandemic, a special working group would be set up at the Ministry of Health.

106. The main executive elements of the security system are the armed forces, armed security corps, and rescue and emergency services. During rescue or salvage operations, they function as an element of the Integrated Rescue System. At local level, some tasks are performed by the municipal police (local police forces established and managed by municipal councils).

107. The intelligence services play an irreplaceable role in gathering and assessing security-related information. They work under Government control. Their work is coordinated and tasks regularly updated to ensure timely threat identification and risk assessment, as well as a continuous exchange of information and analyses between the intelligence services, the Government and the executive elements responsible for the Czech Republic's security.

108. The Czech Republic's foreign service is another important actor in safeguarding the Czech Republic's security interests. An important role is also played by Czech private security agencies and the voluntary work carried out by non-governmental organizations and individuals.

109. To keep pace with developments and changes in the field of security, the security system must be regularly updated and improved. To this end, the Government is developing a streamlined security system that should permit better cooperation and coordination between individual elements and areas. The Government to improve further the interaction between elements at each level, as well as between central, regional and municipal elements. It also seeks to enhance cooperation between the security councils and crisis management staffs at all levels. The Government promotes better coordination in the field of internal security, more precise definition of the executive powers exercised by the National Security Council and the Central Crisis Management Staff in times of crisis, and stronger coordination of the intelligence services, including cooperation with friends and allies. In the light of the experience of the flood disaster in 2002, the Government plans to review the system of flood control commissions, especially at regional level.

VII. Conclusion

110. The Security Strategy of the Czech Republic reflects the Czech Republic's security interests and needs against a background of an evolving security environment. Therefore, it must respond flexibly to any major changes. Every two years, or whenever necessary, the Government will review the state of national security on the basis of the Report on the Security of the Czech Republic. During the review, it will assess the development of risks in the security area. If there are any major changes, the Security Strategy of the Czech Republic will be updated. The initial report on the Security of the Czech Republic will be presented by the National Security Council for Government approval within two years of the approval of this Security Strategy document.