

Czech Presidency Newsletter

2 March 2009

This week's events:

Conference "EU Enlargement - 5 Years After"

The conference is organised by the Czech Presidency in co-operation with the European Commission at the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the biggest EU enlargement.

<http://www.eu2009.cz/event/1/302/>

Minister Schwarzenberg will attend the donors' conference for Gaza

On 2 March President of the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council Karel Schwarzenberg will attend the international conference in support of the Palestinian economy and reconstruction of Gaza.

<http://www.eu2009.cz/en/news-and-documents/news/minister-schwarzenberg-will-attend-the-donors-conference-for-gaza-10685/>

Minister Bursík to preside the EU Environment Council

The EU Environment Council will meet in Brussels on 2 March. Martin Bursík, the EU Environment Council President-in-office, will chair the meeting.

<http://www.eu2009.cz/en/news-and-documents/news/minister-bursik-to-preside-the-eu-environment-council--10703/>

Competitiveness Council

<http://www.eu2009.cz/event/1/1437/>

Post your questions for chat with Commissioner Špidla

Vladimír Špidla, Commissioner responsible for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, will answer your questions online in the European chat on Monday at 2 p.m.

<http://www.eu2009.cz/en/news-and-documents/news/post-your-questions-for-chat-with-commissioner-spidla-10769/>

European Summit of Regions and Cities

The European Summit of Regions and Cities will be held in partnership with the Committee of the Regions and the City of Prague in Prague on 5 – 6 March in the Municipal House and the Žofín Palace.

<http://www.eu2009.cz/event/1/317/>

Last week's events:**Mirek Topolánek: "European solidarity is unthinkable without national responsibility"**

Topolánek called on the EU Member States to show clear and unequivocal unity in the fight against the impacts of the financial crisis.

http://www.eu2009.cz/en/news-and-documents/news/mirek-topolanek:-_european-solidarity-is-unthinkable-without-national-responsibility_-10855/

First formal Justice and Home Affairs Council under Czech Presidency

On 27 February, the EU Justice Ministers met in Brussels. The meeting was chaired by Czech Justice Minister Jiří Pospíšil.

<http://www.eu2009.cz/en/news-and-documents/news/first-formal-justice-and-home-affairs-council-under-czech-presidency-10810/>

Minister of Justice Pospíšil responded to your questions

The following issues were among the questions that you posed to the Czech Justice Minister Jiří Pospíšil: the issue of parental responsibility, eJustice and political independence of justice. You can read his responses in this article.

<http://www.eu2009.cz/en/news-and-documents/news/minister-of-justice-pospisl-responded-to-your-questions-10716/>

President of the Senate Sobotka in the European chat

Confidence of the public in the Parliament, efficiency of national Parliaments and their ties to the EP, the Lisbon Treaty – these were some of the topics discussed in the European chat. Read the answers of Senate President Přemysl Sobotka here.

<http://www.eu2009.cz/en/news-and-documents/news/post-your-questions-for-the-chat-with-president-of-the-senate-sobotka--10469/>

Czech Presidency calls for coordinated support for car industry

The Czech Presidency welcomes today's Commission Communication, intended to help the EU address the impact of the current economic crisis on the European car industry in a coordinated way.

<http://www.eu2009.cz/en/news-and-documents/news/czech-presidency-calls-for-coordinated-support-for-car-industry-10653/>

Representatives of EU Environment and Finance Ministries meet in Prague

They discussed climate protection commitments in view of the current crisis and work to be done ahead of the Spring European Council.

<http://www.eu2009.cz/en/news-and-documents/press-releases/representatives-of-eu-environment-and-finance-ministries-meet-in-prague-10608/>