CZECH SENATE
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Meeting of National Lisbon Coordinators
for the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs

Organized by the Czech Presidency in cooperation with the European Commission

Wednesday, 22nd April 2009

Wallenstein Palace, Prague

Programme

9.30 - 12.00	**Meeting of National Lisbon Coordinators chaired by José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission:**

(1)   Progress in economic recovery and structural reforms;

(2)   The Lisbon Strategy beyond 2010 – How ownership and awareness can be reinforced? Is there a need to adapt the Lisbon Strategy's instruments?

(3)   Any other business

12.00 - 12.10	**Family Photo**
12.10 - 12.40	**Press Conference** (Deputy Prime Minister Alexandr Vondra, Vice-President Günter Verheugen)
12.10 - 12.40	**Aperitif**
12.40 - 14.00	**Buffet Lunch** offered by the Czech Presidency

14.00 – 16.30	*Meeting of National Lisbon Coordinators with stakeholders on the "Keys for a successful delivery of the Lisbon Strategy"*

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Round table discussion on "Keys for a successful delivery of the Lisbon Strategy"

As shown by Commission's annual progress reports on the Lisbon Strategy, the pace and depth of reforms varies widely across the Union. Successfully delivering structural reforms depends on many factors. Clearly, the extent and depth of public and political support behind an ambitious reform agenda is a key factor.

Raising ownership and better communicating around reforms have been identified by National Lisbon Coordinators as areas where progress needs to be achieved within the Lisbon Strategy after 2010 to improve results. This includes active involvement of national legislative bodies, early involvement of social partners and other stakeholders in the reform process; and the active participation of regional and local actors (e.g. by using the Structural funds instruments in support of Lisbon reforms). Another success-factor concerns the effective progress-monitoring of reforms' implementation.

A panel of policy-makers, stakeholders and national coordinators will have a debate on which are the keys to a successful delivery of reforms notably by sharing views and experiences in the light of the economic recovery. Thus, short presentations of concrete experiences or examples of good practice will be followed by an interactive debate.

Programme

14.00 – 14.05   **Moderator – Marek Mora**, State Secretary for European Affairs, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

14.05 – 14.10   **Welcome Address – Přemysl Sobotka**, President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

14.10 – 14.20   **Keynote Address** – **Alexandr Vondra**, Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs (Success factors for delivering reforms incl. the role of regional partners - the presentation will focus on how the governance process at the national and regional level could be improved through better communication leading to better implementation of structural measures at the regional level)

14.20 – 14.30   **Lessons from the first 10 years - Günter Verheugen**, Vice-President of the European Commission

14.30 – 14.40   **Delivering reforms in the regions and municipalities – Lotta Finstorp,** Regional governor Sörmland, Sweden (the presentation will review how the Lisbon objectives can be applied to the regional level to increase the attractiveness of the local economy for potential investments creating new jobs)

14.40 – 15.10   **Good practices**

■   **Investing in people – Denmark**, **Jan Hendeliowitz,** Director, Employment Region Copenhagen & Zealand (the presentation will focus on the Danish creative reskilling system providing motivation to the regional authorities to take concrete steps in response to the present economic downturn and an increasing unemployment rate)

■   **Business Environment – Germany, Franz Dullinger,** Regional Manager of XperRegio, Lower Bavaria (the presentation will demonstrate a good example of entrepreneurial support, e.g. through providing individual assistance to start-ups from all fields and mobilising region's innovative potential)

■   **Knowledge and innovation – Czech Republic, Milan Venclík,** Councellor for the regional strategy and development programmes, South

Moravian Region (the presentation will show how the regional development project can stimulate and strengthen co-operation between universities, research organizations and business)

The presentations will be based on the following questions:

A)   How has the Lisbon Strategy inspired you to implement specific measures at regional level?

B)   Do you dispose of relevant instruments in order to foster the Lisbon Strategy?

C)   Have the measures taken within the framework of Lisbon Strategy helped you in facing the current economic downturn?

D)   How would you improve the connection/communication between the National Reform Programmes and regional strategies in order to promote the key Lisbon principles more effectively and what is being perceived by you as major obstacles that should be addressed within the envisaged Post 2010 Strategy in order to promote the key Lisbon principles more efficiently?

15.10 – 16.00   Open floor for discussion amongst panelists and with audience

16.00 – 16.30   Conclusions and next steps

- ■   **Marek Mora**, State Secretary for European Affairs, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic
- ■   **Günter Verheugen**, Vice-President of the European Commission
- ■   **Maria Åsenius**, State Secretary to the Minister for EU Affairs, Sweden

16.00 – 18.00   Czech Beerfest – Tasting of 16 Czech beer brands – organised by the Senate of the Czech Republic and the Czech Beer and Malt Association (incl. welcome notes by Přemysl Sobotka, President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, and Jan Veselý, CEO of Czech Beer and Malt Association, Wallenstein Garden)