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Security strategy of the Czech Republic - 2001

A. Introduction

The first "Security Strategy of the Czech Republic" was approved by the government of the Czech Republic as the basic conceptual document of the state's security policy on February 17, 1999. This happened before the entry of the Czech Republic (CR) into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The government approved the document with the understanding that it will be amended within two years at the latest. The revised security strategy is already based on the position of the Czech Republic as a member state of NATO and at the same time a candidate for membership in the European Union (EU). In the first part of the revised security strategy, the basic starting points of the security policy of the Czech Republic are presented. It characterizes the security environment, defines the country's security interests, intentions and measures aimed at ensuring or strengthening the security of the state and its inhabitants.

B. Basic starting points of the security policy of the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic was established on January 1, 1993. It continues the democratic tradition of pre-war Czechoslovakia. In security policy, it takes into account knowledge and experience with the problems of geopolitical anchoring and ensuring external security, which Czechoslovakia has faced since its creation in 1918, and which twice culminated in military occupation (1939, 1968). External interventions and the subsequent loss of independence, economic, cultural and moral devastation led to the undermining of confidence in the meaningfulness of defending democratic values, including the military defense of the state.
The aforementioned experiences influenced the population's relationship to the armed forces and Czechoslovakia's behavior on the international scene.

The totalitarian past had a negative impact on the Czech economy, citizens' trust in state power, law, international obligations and affected interpersonal relationships and work habits.
Coping with these consequences is the task of the whole society. The Czech Republic is aware of the need to strengthen democratic and civil mechanisms and improve all aspects of the rule of law. The collapse of the Soviet bloc and the restoration of freedom and democracy in 1989 created the conditions for the newly formed Czech Republic to independently define security interests and security policy.

On March 12, 1999, the Czech Republic joined NATO. It thereby obtained security guarantees of collective defense in accordance with Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty. At the same time, it undertook to strengthen individual defense capabilities and participate in the defense of allies. Membership in NATO and preparation for joining the EU decisively co-determine the security policy of the Czech Republic. Participation in the creation of decisions that affect the security situation in the entire Euro-Atlantic region is associated with the obligation to bear full responsibility for them and to be ready to participate in their implementation.

The policy of the Czech Republic is based on the assumption of the indivisibility of security and the universality of basic human rights and freedoms. The Czech Republic is therefore not indifferent to the fate of other nations and regions. It connects its security with the global security situation and is ready to actively participate in preventing and solving these problems together with the international community. The Czech Republic primarily strives to resolve the crises by peaceful means, but in accordance with the laws and the constitutional order, it may also decide to use force if it is necessary from the point of view of protecting the vital interests of allied commitments or respecting ethical principles.

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C. Security Environment

a) International situation

The main actors of international politics remain nation states, whose role is dynamically developing. The position of the state in international relations is changing due to globalization processes, also as a result of social changes. These include, in particular, strengthening the position of citizens and the activities of non-governmental organizations. The media and public opinion also significantly influence the politics of states. The approach to the understanding of state sovereignty is changing, which is no longer unconditionally superior to the protection of citizens' rights.

After the end of the Cold War, there is a strengthening of democratic trends. This is particularly evident in the Euro-Atlantic area. The Czech Republic is based on the conviction that the spread of freedom and democracy creates favorable conditions for its security. That is why he advocates for the constant strengthening of this process, especially in Europe. This is significantly facilitated by the further expansion of NATO and the EU as the main allied and integrating groupings of democratic countries in the region.

Even after the end of the Cold War, NATO remains the basic security organization in Europe. The new strategic concept approved by the Washington NATO summit in April 1999 confirmed the validity of the Alliance's original mission. This remains the ability to deter a potential aggressor and common defense in accordance with Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

Among NATO's basic tasks, the strategic concept has newly included participation in crisis resolution in the entire Euro-Atlantic region and the development of partnership and cooperation with other states in the area. The Czech Republic is aware of the importance of other international organizations for ensuring peace and security. It strives for these organizations to adapt to the changing security environment and to be able, in mutual cooperation, to effectively contribute to the strengthening of global and regional security.

The United Nations (UN) plays an important role as a fundamental global intergovernmental institution. The UN Security Council (UNSC) has primary responsibility for maintaining peace and security. Since 1945, the international environment has changed significantly. The number of UN member states has more than tripled. The Czech Republic supports an open discussion about the reform of the UN and the development of the system of international law.

Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam, the EU decided to further strengthen the common foreign and security policy. Within its framework, the so-called Common European Security and Defense Policy (CESDP) is being created. The European Council in December 1999 in Helsinki decided that after 2003 the EU should have the autonomous ability to decide on the deployment of a military force the size of an army rapid reaction corps, including air and naval forces.
At the same time, the European Council decided to build the non-military capacities of the EU, especially police forces.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) creates a broad space for dialogue on security issues between all states of the Euro-Atlantic region. The OSCE plays an important role especially in the field of strengthening cooperative security, preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction. The OSCE's strengthening activities are also important

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democracy and the protection of human and minority rights. OSCE missions play an important stabilizing role in many cases.

b) Risks and threats

The security strategy of the Czech Republic uses the term security threat for dangerous phenomena and processes resulting from free action. As security risks, he understands phenomena and processes whose direct or indirect negative impact on society, functions of the state or citizens is not a manifestation of free action. However, the boundary of the use of both concepts is not sharply defined. In addition to the term security threat and security risk, the text also uses the terms danger and threat in their natural meaning.

The end of the Cold War brought a significant reduction in overall tension and a decrease in the risk of global confrontation. At the same time, however, new threats are emerging and some long-standing problems persist. The threat is represented by states, non-governmental groups and organizations that do not respect the international order and for whom war, violence and the suppression of basic human rights and freedoms are a means of promoting interests.

Ethnic and religious disputes, economic and social problems or violations of human rights within states create a significant potential for the emergence of regional crises. These threats may affect NATO's security interests and occur in areas immediately adjacent to the Euro-Atlantic area.

The threat of using nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction has not been completely ruled out. The fact that the circle of entities that possess these weapons or seek to acquire them is still expanding is particularly worrying. These are often states with undemocratic and unstable regimes.

Possession of even a small number of weapons of mass destruction by individuals or non-state entities is particularly dangerous. In many regions, terrorism is a frequent and extremely dangerous phenomenon. A real threat is the possibility of using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons for blackmail.

The most serious current threat to European security is the development in South-Eastern Europe. The situation here is not yet completely stabilized. The international community seeks to restore peace, protect human rights and freedoms, convict and punish war criminals, create democratic institutions, and economically restore and develop the region.

The states of the Commonwealth of Independent States, including Russia, which form an important part of the European security system, are going through complex developments. Since 1991, there have been positive political developments throughout the region, which have enabled the development of democracy and a market economy in most of the CIS countries. However, inconsistently implemented political and economic reforms have caused a number of new problems, including a decrease in living standards, a weakening of the legal means of the state, and the rise of organized crime and corruption.

In the regions of Transcaucasia and Central Asia, there is a strengthening of religious and ethnic tension, which also affects some regions of Russia. Instability in the Middle East and North Africa, the spread of individual or group violence and demographic trends in these areas can also have a significant, albeit indirect, impact on European security.

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Regional conflicts and differences in living standards are the cause of significant political and economic migration. It is a sensitive issue in the European cultural and historical environment.
The negative reaction of some groups of the population relegates immigrants to the margins of society, where they can become involved in individual and organized crime. This activity subsequently worsens the attitude of the domestic population to accepting other foreigners.

New risks bring unprecedented communication possibilities, which on the one hand contribute to the enrichment of contacts between cultures, but on the other hand open up space for organized crime, narcotics trade and terrorism. Despite international coordination, these risks are only partially managed. They are approached by the dangers of subversive activity based on the penetration and paralyzing of electronic and information systems.

A non-negligible security risk is the possibility of leakage or disclosure of classified information, especially classified information shared with the Czech Republic's allies in NATO, which could seriously damage the credibility of the Czech Republic. In proportion to the growing interconnectedness of national economies, the importance of risks and threats associated with the economy and trade increases.
Unbalanced external economic relations can cause serious economic problems in a number of countries and threaten the stability of states and entire regions.

The risk is uneven development widening the gap between the standard of living of the countries of the Euro-Atlantic region and a limited group of other highly developed countries and the states of the southern hemisphere.

The economic, social and demographic imbalance between these groups of countries continues to grow.
On the one hand, the share of the population of developed countries is shrinking globally, the population is aging and is made up of an ever-lower percentage of the population of working age. On the other hand, many poor areas are facing the problem of overpopulation.

Constant attention must be paid to the risks of industrial or military-technical accidents and natural events, issues of epidemics and ecological dangers, such as climate change, the depletion of drinking water and other threats of global reach.

A number of risks arise in the poor countries of the third world, which makes it necessary to coordinate the activities of the entire international community. Above all, developed countries must be aware of the risks associated with scientific research, especially in the field of genetics, medicine, informatics, nuclear physics and other fields, and not underestimate the threat of misuse of the results of these activities.

D. Security interests of the Czech Republic

The security strategy distinguishes vital and strategic interests from other interests. The primary task of security policy is to protect the vital interests of the state. To defend them, the Czech Republic is ready to use all available means, including military ones. The vital interest of the Czech Republic is to ensure the existence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and principles of democracy and the rule of law and to create basic conditions for the life of its citizens.

Even if a direct military threat to the territory is unlikely in the medium term, it remains the vital interest of the Czech Republic to ensure the defense of its territory in accordance with Article 51
UN Charters, both through national forces and assets and in cooperation with allies

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within NATO. The task of the security policy is further to promote strategic interests, which will ensure the conditions and international status of the Czech Republic that benefit the security and economic prosperity of the state.

Strategic interests are based on the real possibilities and ambitions of the state, and to satisfy them, means appropriate to the situation and taking into account the interests of life are used. On the basis of Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, the Czech Republic received guarantees of collective and individual assistance in the event of a military attack.

At the same time, the Czech Republic is bound by similar obligations towards its allies. It is therefore a strategic interest and commitment of the Czech Republic to participate with a wide range of national forces and resources in the defense of the Czech Republic's allies. It is in the strategic interest of the state to actively participate in peace operations led by international organizations of which the Czech Republic is a member or seeks membership in them (EU).

It is therefore necessary for it to have the forces and resources that will enable it to participate in peace operations, especially if they are implemented in the European area. At the same time, the Czech Republic should be able to deploy non-military means to solve the civilian aspects of international crises. The Czech Republic considers it desirable that peace operations led by international organizations be equipped with an appropriate mandate from the UN Security Council.

The Czech Republic assumes that its security is linked to the security of the Central European region.
Therefore, it has a strategic interest in strengthening regional cooperation, especially within the Visegrad Group, in the development of bilateral relations with neighboring states and in the membership of Slovakia and other countries in the region in NATO and the EU. The Czech Republic has a strategic interest in continuing the disarmament process and effectively preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction and their carriers.

It is in the strategic interest of the Czech Republic to maintain a significant US presence in Europe and to develop cooperation that will lead to a global strengthening of security in the Euro-Atlantic region.
The creation of the European Union's Common European Security and Defense Policy (CESDP) is a natural part of the European integration process.

It is important that this process is in line with the development of the European Security and Defense Identity (ESDI) within NATO and that it leads to a strengthening of the transatlantic bond. The European Union has created new CESDP mechanisms. The "EU Treaty" was amended in the articles related to security and the permanent bodies of the CESDP were established. The EU also decided to establish a rapid reaction force of 60,000 people by 2003 and to create non-military capacities for crisis management, including police units. Procedures for cooperation between the EU and candidate countries in the field of CESDP were drawn up and mechanisms for cooperation between the EU and NATO were proposed.

The Czech Republic is interested in the successful development of the CESDP. He is a supporter of the closest possible cooperation between the EU and NATO. The Czech Republic supports efforts to strengthen the EU's ability to solve crisis situations and effectively intervene where NATO as a whole will not be involved. The Czech Republic is interested in participating in the creation of the CESDP both politically and with its military and non-military capacities. The Czech Republic defined and offered its contribution to the rapid deployment force to the EU.

The Czech Republic has a strategic interest in economic security. It is highly dependent on the international division of labor. The export of goods contributes to a large extent to the formation of domestic GDP. Global economic stability is therefore an important prerequisite for the development of the domestic economy. The Czech Republic is interested in long-term and balanced GDP growth, a stable and transparent market environment,

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the development of international trade relations and the provision of alternative sources of basic raw materials. The existence and development of specific parts of the defense industry is also in the interest of national security.

Part of the security of the Czech Republic is the protection of life, health and property of the population in the event of natural disasters, ecological and industrial accidents, accidents or other dangers. In order to provide assistance to the affected population in a timely manner, the Czech Republic will improve the quality of crisis management, civil emergency planning, protection of the population and an integrated rescue system.

An integral part of ensuring security is the suppression and prevention of negative social phenomena, such as violent and property crime, economic crime, corruption, terrorism and political extremism, organized crime, illegal migration and human trafficking, illegal trade in weapons, explosives and narcotics. , threats to public order, vandalism and street crime and the operation of hostile secret services on the territory of the Czech Republic.

The Czech Republic is interested in increasing the efficiency and professionalism of the judiciary, state administration and self-government, strengthening the national crisis management system, within which it will be possible to solve crisis situations in the Czech Republic and abroad, and in the development of international humanitarian organizations.

It is in the interest of the Czech Republic, in accordance with the relevant laws, to protect selected types of information and to create effective and secure systems of communication between authorities at the national and regional level.
At the same time, it is in the interest of the state to ensure the citizens of the Czech Republic free access to information that is not protected by law, and to support the development of information technologies in the Czech Republic.

The security interests of the Czech Republic include improving the quality of life of citizens, especially by supporting education, science and research, increasing the level of health care, protecting the environment and creating an effective social security system.

E. Means of fulfilling the security policy of the Czech Republic

a) Security system

Ensuring the security of the Czech Republic, maintaining and promoting its vital, strategic and other interests is based on a comprehensive concept of security. The legislative, executive and judicial authorities are responsible for ensuring the security of the Czech Republic. The government is responsible for the functionality of the comprehensive operation of the entire security system.

The security system of the Czech Republic is legally anchored. The main principles of ensuring security are defined by the constitution and a set of related legal regulations. The basic elements of the security system are the constitutional institutions and officials, which are primarily the president of the republic, the parliament, the government, and then the State Security Council and its permanent working bodies. The activities of the individual components are coordinated, but the security system is designed in such a way that its components are able to carry out legally defined tasks independently.

The Government and the Parliament of the Czech Republic ensure the necessary human, material and financial resources for the internal and external security of the Czech Republic and their optimal use. The resources set aside to ensure external and internal security are based on the possibilities of the Czech economy and the state and on individual urgency

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threats and risks. Ensuring the balance and mutual complementarity of the resources spent is the task of defense and civil emergency planning. The State Security Council, as a permanent working body of the government, coordinates the security of the Czech Republic and prepares proposals for the government to ensure it.

The security of the Czech Republic is ensured by the armed forces, armed security forces, rescue teams and emergency services. State authorities, authorities of territorial self-governing units and legal and natural persons are obliged to participate in ensuring the security of the Czech Republic to the extent stipulated by law.

The security strategy of the Czech Republic further contributes to the effective creation and implementation of the security policy as a whole by formulating assignments in the field of foreign, defense, economic policy and internal security policy.

b) Foreign policy

The task of foreign policy is to promote the security interests of the state externally, monitor the development of the international environment, recognize the risks and threats arising from it in time, and formulate relevant recommendations for the security and defense policy of the state. Foreign policy strives for the long-term strengthening of the position of the Czech Republic in the international community. With this aim, it develops relations with individual countries, participates in the activities of international organizations and informs about the intentions and positions of the Czech Republic on international issues through intergovernmental contacts and public diplomacy.

Czech foreign policy promotes security interests by actively acting in bilateral relations and in international organizations of which it is a member, in particular NATO, the United Nations, the OSCE, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA). As a member of NATO, the Czech Republic bases its security and defense policy formulation on the "Strategic Concept of the Alliance" adopted in 1999 at its summit in Washington.

Czech diplomacy strives for the widest possible involvement of the Czech Republic in the creation of a common EU defense and security policy. It emphasizes the maximum expediency of organizing security relations between the EU and NATO, as well as between the EU and those European NATO states that are not EU members.

Together with its allies and partners, the Czech Republic rejects the nationalization of security policy and strives for a common perception of security threats and risks within the framework of European security solidarity.

In its foreign policy, the Czech Republic supports the efforts of the international community to deepen the control and transparency of armaments and to speed up and streamline disarmament processes as integral parts of the realization of the state's security interests. The Czech Republic develops bilateral relations with neighboring states, defines common interests and strengthens regional cooperation in a number of other tasks, especially in the area of economic policy, environmental issues and ensuring internal security. Czech diplomacy is devoted to the systematic support of external economic relations.

Within international organizations and outside them, it promotes the removal of obstacles to international trade exchange, actively supports a favorable environment for the inflow of foreign investments,

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draws attention to existing interstate claims, informs about the possibilities of suitable purchases of strategic raw materials, etc. The Government of the Czech Republic ensures respect for international law and compliance of national legislation with the state's international obligations. Representatives of the Czech Republic actively participate in discussions on the development of international law at international forums and support initiatives aimed at the implementation of expedient changes.

The Czech Republic is ready to participate with its civilian and military means also in those operations that do not result from its immediate threat or from contractual obligations, but are nevertheless in line with its and general human interests, especially when it comes to preventive diplomacy, development aid, peacekeeping operations, humanitarian and rescue, and if technical and economic circumstances allow.

c) Defense policy

The task of defense policy is to ensure sovereignty, territorial integrity, the principles of democracy and the rule of law, and to protect the lives of residents and their property from external attack. The defense policy establishes, in accordance with the military legislation, the principles for the construction of an effective state defense system, the preparation and use of adequate forces and resources, participation in the collective defense system and the preparation of the population for emergency situations.
The obligations of state authorities, territorial self-governing units and legal and natural persons in ensuring the defense of the Czech Republic against external attack are regulated by law.

Defense policy is guided by the principles of democratic civilian control of the armed forces and primarily assumes a political solution to crises. It is based on the fact that the Czech Republic has no territorial requirements towards any state. These principles are consistent with the goals and principles of the UN Charter and at the same time represent shared elements of NATO's collective defense concept.

The North Atlantic Treaty is a fundamental pillar of the Czech Republic's security, as it obliges the member states to respond to aggression against any of them as if it were an attack against all of them using the necessary means, including military ones.

As a NATO member state, the Czech Republic is based on the provisions of the North Atlantic Treaty and the "Strategic Concept of NATO" when formulating its defense objectives. It undertakes to participate with political and military means in ensuring the freedom and security of NATO member states and to contribute to the stability of the Euro-Atlantic area, including the effective prevention and resolution of emerging crises. It does so through shared defense in times of peace and crisis, partnership and cooperation programs, crisis response operations, rescue and humanitarian operations, and post-conflict assistance.

The main subject of the realization of defense objectives is the armed forces of the Czech Republic and their basis - the Army of the Czech Republic (AÿR). In accordance with the strategic principles of NATO, the operational independence and the ability to cooperate with the ground and air forces and other components of the Czech Armed Forces are developed, individually and jointly, through continuous effective preparation.

The military is involved in NATO's integrated military structure, defense, operational and civil emergency planning systems, procedural and organizational aspects of nuclear consultations, and joint exercises and operations. It gradually fulfills the Alliance's requirements for the ability of member countries to carry out a full range of missions within the framework of multinational armed forces, i.e. primarily defensive operations in the interest of collective defense and operations responding to crises outside of Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty. With the aim of contributing to the defense as effectively as possible

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In the medium-term perspective, the Alliance expects the Czech Republic to specialize its defense taking into account its geographical disposition, technical and economic possibilities.

The Czech Army is building ground and air forces and support components in accordance with the accepted commitments resulting from membership in NATO and taking into account future involvement in the defense and security policy of the EU. It is preparing to be able to respond effectively to all security threats of a military and non-military nature, independently or with alliance support, and at the same time, in accordance with strategic interests, to participate in peacekeeping operations of the international community with trained, mobile and logistically self-sufficient forces, in operational deployment in two parallel operations (including rotation), in numbers that allow the economic possibilities of the state.

The army of the Czech Republic is already organized in peacetime in such a way that a part of the forces is predestined to be under allied command. Matters of construction, equipment and training are permanently and fully under national responsibility. The Czech Republic strives to maintain the optimal level of domestic arms production as well as the application of some products of its own defense industry within NATO and the EU.

The realization of defense goals requires a clearly declared and publicly shared political will of the state to build a military potential that will be able to respond in cooperation with allies to any crisis situation of a military or non-military nature, threatening the interests of the Czech Republic and the Alliance on its own, allied, or possibly other territory.

d) Internal security policy

The task of internal security policy is to formulate and implement principles aimed at protecting the democratic foundations of the state, internal security and public order in the Czech Republic.
The Ministry of the Interior (MOI) and the Police of the Czech Republic play an irreplaceable role in the area of public order and ensuring the internal security of the population, which perform tasks in matters of internal order and security to the extent defined by constitutional laws, laws and other generally binding regulations. The Ministry of the Interior together with the Police of the Czech Republic together with the armed forces, intelligence services, rescue teams and emergency services ensures the security of the Czech Republic.
The aim of these components remains to ensure the protection of the lives, health, safety, property and environment of the inhabitants of the Czech Republic against all kinds of security threats.

An important task of the security forces is the fight against all manifestations of organized crime, the operation of which represents a serious security risk. The Czech Republic is aware that one of the most effective ways to combat organized crime is to make it more difficult and, if possible, to eliminate the legalization of proceeds from this type of criminal activity and the subsequent confiscation of these profits. The Czech Republic actively works against manifestations of terrorism on its territory.

The prerequisite for an efficient and effective procedure is the development of cooperation with foreign partners, the activities of intelligence units and the corresponding technical and organizational provision of special units designed to fight terrorism. The Czech Republic adopts and improves measures for the protection of classified information, especially in the technically and financially demanding areas of security of communication and information systems and in the very sensitive area of personnel security. The Czech Republic protects the economic interests of the state, especially areas strategically important from the point of view of its functioning as a whole, including the fight against corruption, which represents a serious security risk for a democratic state.

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The Czech Republic is determined to create the conditions for an effective fight against illegal migration, especially linked to the operation of international organized crime, accompanied by increased crime and a possible increase in xenophobic attitudes of the population. In order to effectively counter this risk, the Czech Republic is ready to consistently harmonize and apply visa policy in cooperation with the policy of the countries of the European Union.

The Czech Republic's goal remains the preparation and, after joining the EU, the full implementation of the principles of the Schengen Agreements. The police of the Czech Republic and other security forces are prepared to more and more consistently detect and suppress dangerous manifestations of xenophobia, racism and political extremism, which are propagated by some groups on the fringes of society. Education for tolerance and elimination of latent inter-ethnic tension is of particular importance in this area.

The Czech Republic suppresses the distribution, sale and abuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances, as one of the main activities of international organized crime groups. It does so through balanced preventive and repressive activities of the state and effective international cooperation of interested parties.

In order to ensure the protection of public order and internal security, it is necessary for the security forces to have adequate technical, organizational and human potential, supported by quality legislation, which would enable them to effectively and efficiently secure tasks in their area of competence. The Czech Republic suppresses illegal or undesirable trade
weapons.

Attention is paid to the possible proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their carriers and transfers of technologies and services that can be misused in their development, production, storage and other related activities. The Czech Republic is constantly improving measures to protect the population in the event of extraordinary events, especially in the area of warning, evacuation, shelter and emergency survival of the population and other measures to ensure the protection of its life, health and property.

Individual components of the integrated rescue system must be able to respond to natural disasters, such as floods, and in cooperation with other entities to effectively intervene in the event of an emergency caused by terrorist actions, radiation accidents, accidents caused by selected dangerous chemical substances and chemical preparations and other technical and technological accidents, accidental pollution of water resources, air and natural environment, etc.

The Czech Republic is determined, in accordance with international obligations and in the spirit of international solidarity, to effectively assist in solving crisis situations outside the territory of the state. The Czech Republic is also prepared to intervene in a crisis situation in which the lives and health of its citizens outside the territory of the state are threatened. Within its capabilities, the Czech Republic is building such capacities that will enable it to participate in the liquidation of natural disasters and possibly also major industrial accidents abroad, including the provision of humanitarian and rescue aid in the event that a foreign partner requests it.

To ensure the above-mentioned tasks, the cooperation of all parts of civil society, the support of science and research and education in the field of security policy is necessary. The creation of expert discussion platforms on this issue is also desirable.

e) Economic policy

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The task of economic policy in relation to the internal and external security of the country is primarily to ensure the material prerequisites for the fulfillment of the security functions of the state. In addition, the economic policy is designed and implemented in such a way as to eliminate existing and potential security risks that may appear in the economy of the Czech Republic and in the area of its external economic relations, as well as those risks that could threaten the basic task of the economy in relation to security country, i.e. to produce the necessary resources in the necessary range without failure.

In these respects, the economic policy is based on the fact that the Czech economy is externally very open and market-oriented, macroeconomically stabilized and highly involved in international trade and financial relations. These characteristics create a basic prerequisite for it to be able to respond flexibly to changes in internal and external circumstances, and to be able to ensure rapid, sustainable economic growth. Therefore, and for security reasons, the economic policy will strengthen its macroeconomic stabilization and continue to complete the transformation process in the economy in the area of necessary systemic and structural changes.

Economic policy is also based on the fact that the Czech Republic is a member of top international economic organizations, such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the OECD, the WTO and others. This, in addition to the relevant obligations, also results in significant demands for international solidarity and cooperation or assistance in possible crisis situations.
The Czech Republic's dense network of international bilateral economic, trade and financial agreements with other states or its membership in regional economic groupings are of similar importance. In this respect, the Czech Republic's association with the European Union and the real perspective of the Czech Republic's early membership in the EU are of particular importance.

Czech politics continues to strengthen this network of international ties and to use it for Czech economic and security interests. The Czech Republic also considers strengthening and expedient expansion of these international ties to be one of the ways to minimize security risks on a global and regional scale.

Under certain conditions, systemic defects and non-transparency in the economy, long-lasting macroeconomic imbalances, structural and regional inequalities could become a significant source of security risks for the country.

Economic policy considers it an important task to minimize these potential sources of security risks through legislative measures, attention to their application and their enforcement. In particular, it minimizes the space for economic crime, organized crime, money laundering, illegal trade and financial transactions, space for tax evasion, illegal health-threatening production, illegal asset transfers and corruption.

It also minimizes the scope for damaging and endangering the environment through economic activity and material interests, crime against the environment and prevents the possibility of a public threat of this nature. With the relevant instruments, economic policy also pursues the goals of not allowing an unnecessary narrowing of its own maneuvering possibilities, by causing the economy to end up in an external imbalance, in an unacceptable external debt, and in the public finances getting into long-term unacceptable deficits.

The economic policy of the state, together with the monetary policy of the Czech National Bank, considers it important to have the appropriate influence on maintaining low inflation and on the purposeful movement

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exchange rate of the crown. The economic policy also aims to minimize the economy's ineffective one-sided dependencies on suppliers of strategic raw materials, strategic products and services, and sources and forms of capital flows. It also supports market-compliant diversification of foreign outlets for Czech exports of goods and services, as well as their market-compliant commodity diversification. It also monitors that the speed, quality and focus of the construction of the technical infrastructure of the economy, as well as the preparation of human capital, take into account their direct and indirect effects on the internal and external security of the country.

In order to ensure the security of the Czech Republic, a system of economic measures for crisis situations is also necessary, the aim of which is to ensure the provision of necessary material resources and services to ensure the basic necessities of life for the population, and for the functioning of the armed forces, armed forces, rescue teams and emergency services in crisis situations . The same goal is also served by the creation and maintenance of sufficient capacities of strategic stocks according to relevant international obligations and customary international standards.

The priority in this area is the involvement of the Czech Republic in the system of collective oil security within the framework of the International Energy Agency OECD.

F. Conclusion

The Security Strategy of the Czech Republic provides a basic political assignment and starting points for achieving goals in individual areas of the Czech Republic's security policy, and its theses are further elaborated in subsequent conceptual documents. The current period can be characterized as a transition to the full integration of the Czech Republic into Western security structures.

Membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization provides an unprecedented level of security assurance in itself. With its deterrent effect and guarantees of allied aid, the Czech Republic ensures, especially against military aggression.

Joining the EU will significantly deepen the already existing guarantees in the field of external security. The close integration of the state with the democratic community will undoubtedly contribute to the strengthening of internal political and economic stability and will open up new opportunities for cooperation in the fight against organized crime, as well as natural and ecological disasters.

The security strategy is based on the permanent interests of the state as well as on the state of the current security environment. The government will review this document for compliance with the security situation every two years and amend it as necessary. It can also decide to change this interval at the same time. The relevant professional and research workplaces are entrusted with the ongoing review of the validity of theses contained in the "Security Strategy of the Czech Republic" and the preparation of proposals for their modification.

Ensuring security depends not only on the amount and efficiency of the use of the funds spent, but also on the involvement and attitude of citizens and their willingness to contribute to the security of the state. Family and school have an irreplaceable role here.

(Security strategy of the Czech Republic - previous, valid until January 21, 2001)

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Some abbreviations used in the document:

- **CEFTA (Central European Free Trade Agreement)** - Central European Free Trade Agreement, signed in 1992. • **CESDP (Common European Security and Defense Policy)** - common European security and defense policy of the European Union.
- **ESDI (European Security and Defense Identity)** - a European security and defense identity built within NATO, as part of the adaptation of the Alliance; it is intended to allow European allies to act independently, as needed. • **OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development)** - Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, contractually established in 1960. • **WTO (World Trade Organization)** - World Trade Organization, established in 1995 as the successor to GATT.