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České předsednictví
Evropské unie

Czech Presidency
of the European Union

Présidence tchèque
de l'Union européenne

2009



Work in the Council - first half of 2009

CZ PRES environmental agenda

Conference Strategic Perspectives for the Future of EU
Environment Policy - Prague, 11 June 2009



First half of 2009 – changes and challenges

- necessity to pave a solid way towards a successful agreement in Copenhagen in December 2009
- need to face the global financial and economic crisis and energy security crisis
- elections to the European Parliament and European Commission → pressure to do most of the work in first half of the CZ PRES

CZ PRES priorities

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

Environmental priorities

- Climate change
- Environment and human health (IPPC, mercury, ozone, GMOs etc.)
- Sustainable consumption and production (EMAS, ecolabel)
- Biodiversity (seal products, whales, invasive species, soil)





First reading agreements (1)

- Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on **substances that deplete the ozone layer**
- Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (**EMAS**)
- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on a **Community Ecolabel scheme**





- Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning **trade in seal products**
- Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on **Stage II petrol vapour recovery during refuelling of passenger cars at service stations (VOC II)**
- Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 98/8/EC concerning the placing of **biocidal products** on the market as regards the extension of certain time periods





- **Contribution** of the Council (Environment) to the **Spring European Council** (19 and 20 March 2009) + **Further development of the EU position on a comprehensive post-2012 climate agreement** – Council Conclusions
- Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on **industrial emissions** – Policy debate
- **GMOs** (MON 810 – Hungary, Austria; T25 – Austria – Adoption)
- Council Decision establishing the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Community with regard to proposals for amendments to the International Convention on the Regulation of **Whaling** - Adoption
- AOB - The fall in demand for recycled materials





14-15 April 2009 – Prague, Křivoklát

- Adaptation to climate change
- Financing
- International negotiation



Council meetings during CZ PRES (3)

Environment Council – 25 June 2009

- Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on **industrial emissions** – Political agreement
- **Adaptation to climate change** – Council Conclusions
- Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the **protection of soil**
- Green Paper on **Biowaste** – Council Conclusions
- Communication on **Invasive species + Biodiversity Action Plan Review** – Council Conclusions



- **25 UNEP GC/10 GMEF**, Nairobi, 16 – 20 February
- **5th World Water Forum**, Istanbul, 16 – 22 March
- **UNFCCC AWG-KP7 and AWG-LCA5, Bonn 29 March-8 April 2009**
- **4th Conference of Parties to Stockholm Convention on POPs**, Geneva, 4 – 8 May,
- **2nd International Conference on Chemical Management**, Geneva, 11 – 15 May
- 17th Session of **UN Commission on Sustainable Development**, 4 – 15 May 2009
- **UNFCCC SBSTA/SBI**, Bonn, 1 – 12 June



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- EU Presidency – excellent experience in **international (global) negotiations** → crucial for pushing forward the key environmental legislation - above all **climate issue**
- Despite all the political changes (both EU and national) the key environmental problems remain the same
- **Climate change** in close connection with other key environmental issues: **biodiversity, water scarcity, soil protection** etc. – dominant topic of the year and upcoming period
- Innovation within the resource and energy efficiency leading to the low-carbon economy - crucial



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