

## V. RESPONSE

Environmental improvement was a high public priority in Czechoslovakia after the fall of Communism. Disastrous environmental pollution was regarded as one of the most significant evils of the totalitarian regime, with deep concern over its health and other impacts. Indeed, pressure from environmentally concerned citizens played a significant role in bringing down the communist system.

After the establishment of democratic government, there was wide public support for radical measures to achieve fast environmental improvement. According to one of the very first public opinion polls conducted in January 1990, more than 80 percent of Czech citizens considered environmental cleanup the top priority for the new government, ahead even of economic and other problems. The development of a functioning system of environmental protection was high on the priority list of the new government. The basic objective was to reverse the worrying trends of continuing deterioration in all environmental media, especially in relation to its human health impacts. The new democratic establishment, Parliament, government and its institutions, with support from emerging civil society, immediately started an ambitious programme of comprehensive environmental cleanup.

Despite the initial enthusiasm and commitment, however, no rapid results emerged during the first year or two of transition, for at least three reasons. First, the scale of the environmental damage was indeed extensive, deeper in fact than environmental experts originally thought. The causes of the damage were firmly rooted in communist industrial and economic structures, which it was not possible to change overnight. Second, there was insufficient experience and knowledge among both environmentalists and policy-makers to identify the most efficient pollution abatement mechanisms. Third, capital for financing the necessary investment-intensive measures was scarce.

Since there were no immediately visible results, a feeling of public frustration and disappointment emerged and that is why, after a year or two, the first enthusiastic phase of environmental policy making came to an end. However, the initial public awareness and extremely strong involvement in environmental issues helped to create sufficient momentum for the substantial environmental improvements experienced today and which - it is

hoped - this publication documents. It must be stressed that the broad public support for environmental measures, even if not on the scale witnessed in 1990 or 1991, never ceased to exist and to play an important role, and that it is continuing to create a favourable climate for further improvement.

We have already stressed that the commitment to halt the deteriorating trends in environmental quality was taken very seriously by the new regime after November 1989 and that the cleanup started without any delay. It was based on a number of pillars:

- a comprehensive analysis of the environmental situation and development of an explicit strategy underlying environmental policy;
- a rational system of institutions of environmental protection and strong environmental laws that were implemented and enforced in practice;
- economic and other instruments, specific programmes, the allocation of financial resources;
- gathering and dissemination of information, education, academic studies and scientific research;
- integration of environmental concerns into some sectoral policies;
- evolution of civil society including the role of regional and local governments and their support;
- international co-operation;
- the process of accession to the European Union.

### Analysis and strategy

The newly created Ministry of Environment (MoE) of the Czech Republic started its work in January 1990<sup>4</sup> and was able quickly to put together a comprehensive analysis of the environmental situation in the Czech Republic. The so-called "Blue Book" was published in April 1990. The Blue Book was the first ever comprehensive assessment of the state of the environment based on full information including time series data, international comparisons, and an evaluation of pressures and impacts.

The Blue Book initiated several regular series of analytical materials. Most important are the yearly publication of the detailed *Environmental Yearbook* and the more policy-oriented yearly *State of the Environment Report* (both published in Czech and English).

<sup>4</sup> At that time Czechoslovakia had a federal structure with three governments: Czech, Slovak and Federal. Essentially all competencies in environmental issues were with the Czech and Slovak governments

Following the analysis the MoE developed an environmental strategy known as the *Rainbow Programme: an Environmental Recovery Programme for the Czech Republic*. The document was publicly discussed and finally approved by the government and published in January 1991. It set basic objectives together with some quantitative targets. It is now possible to state that essentially all the objectives of the Programme were reached within the time-period indicated, and in a number of cases the results were much better than envisaged.

In co-operation with the World Bank an important document was published in 1991, the *Joint Environmental Study for the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic*, where priorities for investments and eventually international aid were identified. This detailed document was used for several years as a benchmark for evaluating priority actions and served as a pilot project for other countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

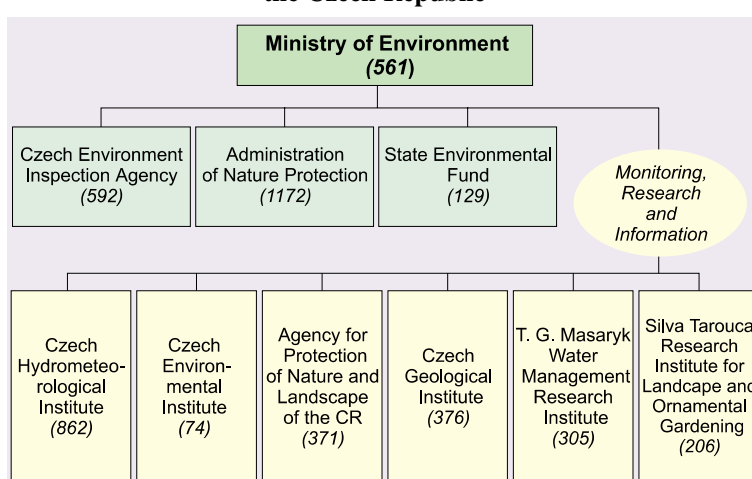
The government did not consider it necessary to develop a new programmatic policy document until 1995, when the *State Environmental Policy* was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers. This material is a relatively brief text that complies with internationally accepted principles of environmental protection and as such was linked to the efforts to join the OECD and the European Union. Priority measures will continue to be developed to resolve particularly difficult local and regional

problems and to meet commitments associated with international agreements and conventions to which the Czech Republic has either acceded or intends to accede.

In 1999, a new version of the *State Environmental Policy* was published, which also sets out objectives for the integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies. It is directly linked to the *National Programme for the Preparation of the Czech Republic for Membership in the EU*.

## Institutions and laws

**Box 5.1. Structure of environmental institutions in the Czech Republic**



Source: Ministry of Environment

**Box 5.2. Activities of the Czech Environmental Inspectorate**

Competencies of the CEI		Air	Water	Waste	Nature	Forest
Supervision	checks, revisions, audits, investigation etc.					
Sanctions	finances levied on legal persons					
	finances levied on natural persons					
	restriction or closing down activities or operations					
	seizing illegally owned items					
Measures	measures to make remedies					
	old environmental damages					
	accidents (emergencies)					
Fees	fees (air pollution, waste-water discharge)					
Permitting and authorisation	emission limits assessment					
	construction					
	authorisation to take measurements of emissions and ground-level concentrations					
	emergency plans					
Opinions	opinions, references for other bodies					
Complaints	complaints, notification					

Source: Ministry of Environment

The backbone of the system of environmental protection is the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic. This body was established immediately after November 1989 as the first ever such institution in Czechoslovakia. The system of public bodies governed by the Ministry consists of the Ministry itself in Prague with 9 regional offices, the Environmental Inspectorate, the State Environmental Fund, nature protection institutions (national park administrations, protected landscape area administrations), specialised institutes and other information institutions.

The Czech Environmental Inspectorate (CEI) was established by Act No. 282/1991 Coll. The CEI is a key enforcement agency in five areas: protection of ambient air quality, water protection, waste management, nature protection and forest protection. The CEI has its headquarters in Prague, and is divided into ten Regional Inspectorates. The Director of the CEI is appointed by the Minister of Environment directly. The CEI currently employs approximately 600 staff; of whom around 450 are inspectors.

The activities of the State Environmental Fund (SEF) of the Czech Republic are the subject of Czech National Council Act No. 388/1991 Coll., on the State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic and related regulations - the Statute of the State Environmental Fund and Directive of the Ministry of the Environment.

**Box 5.3. Priorities of the State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic**

In accordance with the SEF's Environmental Policy and taking into account its overall financial means, the expenditure of the Fund is governed by the following order of priorities:

1. water pollution abatement (especially from medium-sized pollution sources)
2. air pollution abatement (especially from medium-sized pollution sources, i.e. 0.2 - 5 MW);
3. minimisation of waste creation, especially hazardous waste;
4. support for "clean" technologies (low waste, low emission and low energy intensity), especially for small and medium-sized enterprises;
5. protection of nature and the landscape (with emphasis on increasing the retention ability of the landscape and on the flood prevention effect of measures).

*Source: Ministry of Environment*

The incomes of the Fund consist of:

- charges for the discharge of waste water into surface waters;
- fees for emissions of harmful substances into the air, the Air Recovery Programme;
- fees pursuant to the Law on Waste;
- payments for permanent and temporary withdrawal of agricultural land from agricultural production;
- fees for production and import of ozone-depleting substances;
- fines imposed by the administrative bodies of SEF and the Czech Environmental Inspectorate; and
- repayment of loans.

Standard types of expenditures from the Fund consist of:

- subsidies (only to non-commercial entities or municipalities);
- support through loans with an interest rate of three percent (only to non-commercial entities or municipalities);
- support through loans with an interest rate of 7-10 percent (to businesses and other entities);
- guarantees for credit, up to an amount of 50 mil. CZK, with a guarantee period of 10 years; and
- contributions for partial payment of interest on credit.

Some broadly environmental competencies and responsibilities are held by other ministries and institutions:

- Ministry of Agriculture: management of water resources;
- Ministry of Regional Development: spatial planning, regional policy;
- Ministry of Health: extensive network of public health authorities, food and drinking water quality;

- State Office for Nuclear Safety: nuclear safety and radiation;
- Ministry of the Interior: emergencies;
- universities, Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports: education, research;
- regional, district, local governments and administrations: broad set of responsibilities in environmental issues;

- Parliament: both the Lower Chamber (Chamber of Deputies) and the Upper Chamber (Senate) have their Committees for Public Administration, Regional Development and Environment;
- courts of justice: only a limited role to date.

Immediately after the establishment of the Ministry of Environment, intense legislative activity began, since virtually no legislation from the Communist period was applicable in the new democratic situation (the only partial exception being the water law). In a very short period of time all important aspects of the environment were covered by new legislation and the legal basis for environmental protection was essentially completed. The key laws passed in this time were:

- 238/1991 - waste management;
- 309/1991 - air pollution;
- 388/1991 - State Environmental Fund;
- 17/1992 - umbrella law on environmental protection;
- 114/1992 - protection of nature;
- 244/1992 - environmental impact assessment;
- 282/1992 - environmental inspectorate;
- 334/1992 - protection of agricultural soil.

This legislation was drafted along the lines of similar legislation in the most advanced European countries.

In 1993, the Czech Republic signed an agreement on association with the European Union. Since then, the country's highest priority has been to harmonise its environmental legislation with that of the EU. It has become obvious that many modifications of existing legislation are needed, and this imperative is driving the intense legislative process currently underway.

## Economic instruments, programmes, financial resources

### Box 5.4. Existing economic instruments in the Czech Republic

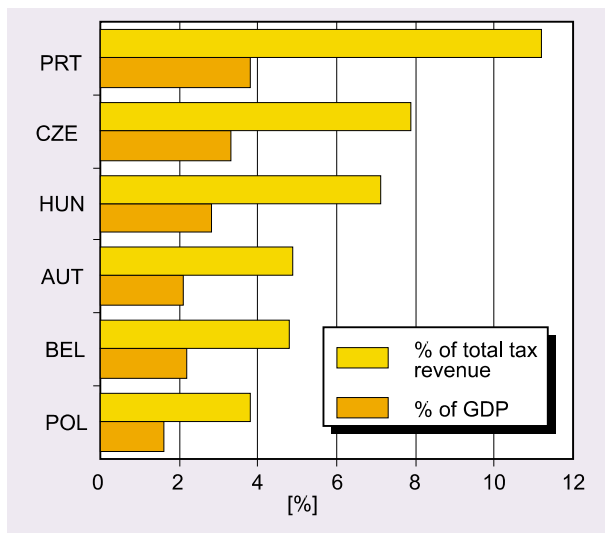
Pollution Charges	
1. Air pollution charges	Yes
2. Waste-water charges	Yes
3. Solid waste disposal charges	Yes
4. Waste incineration charges	No
5. Noise charges	No
6. Administrative or local charges	Yes
Charges for the exploitation of natural resources	
7. Charges for the withdrawal of groundwater	Yes

8. Charges for the withdrawal of water from water courses	Yes
9. Levies for transformation of farm land to other uses	Yes
10. Levies for transformation of forest land to other purposes	Yes
11. Charges for the exploitation of raw material deposits (for mining districts and selected mined minerals)	Yes
12. Charges for tree felling	Yes
User charges	
13. Charges for the consumption of ozone-depleting substances	Yes
14. Charges for the consumption of other environmentally damaging products (selected synthetic fertilisers, pesticides, etc.)	No
Taxes	
15. Environmental taxes	No
16. Local (municipal) taxes	No
Fines	
17. Penalties	Yes
18. Additional charges	Yes
Tax reliefs	
19. Within VAT	Yes
20. Within consumption taxes	Yes
21. Tax differentiation of leaded and lead-free petrol	No
22. Within income tax	Yes
23. Within road tax	Yes
24. Within real estate tax	Yes
25. Within estate, gift and inheritance tax	Yes
Grants, subsidies, donations	
26. from the state budget	Yes
27. from the SEF	Yes
28. burden sharing	No
Soft loans, guarantees	
29. from the state budget	Yes
30. from the SEF	Yes
31. from investment companies	No
Allowances	
32. Relief in payment of charges	Yes
33. Tax relief to promote investments	No
Deposit refund systems	
34. Deposits on bottles	Yes
35. Deposits on other products/packages (batteries, soft drink cans, etc.)	No
36. Extra charges for recycling	No
Market-oriented instruments	
37. Environmental insurance	No
38. Tradeable emission permits	No
39. "Green" investment funds	No

Source: Ministry of Environment

Environmental legislation, the backbone of effective environmental protection, is complemented by several other types of instruments. First are economic instruments. The Czech Republic has developed a comprehensive system of environmental fees and charges, and there are more such instruments in place than in any other OECD country.

**Box 5.5. Revenues from environmentally-related charges and taxes, international comparison, 1995**



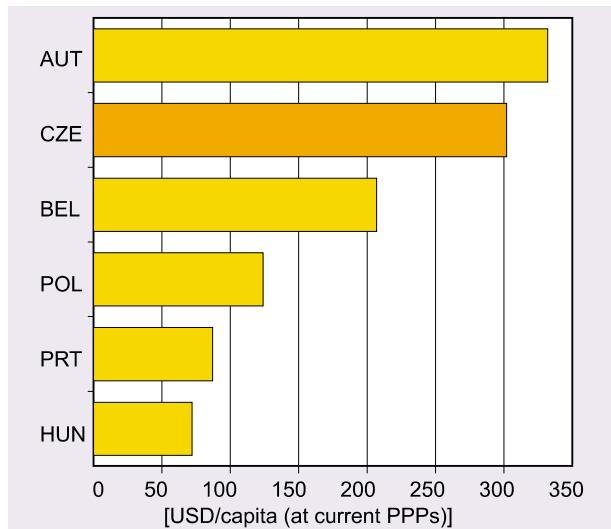
Source: OECD

Note: Environmentally-related taxes are defined as any compulsory, unrequited payment to general government levied on tax bases deemed to be of particular environmental relevance

These are primarily designed to influence the behaviour of firms, but their main effect is as a source of revenue that is almost entirely used for environmental purposes, much of it passing through the State Environmental Fund. In the case of fees for landfilling of waste, fees for the extraction of mineral reserves and charges for the removal of agricultural land, the basic component of the payment becomes income for the municipality where the particular site is located.

In the Czech Republic there is an extensive system of state subsidies in many fields of the environment, financed from various types of public funds.

**Box 5.7. Pollution abatement and control expenditures per capita, international comparison, 1997**



Source: OECD

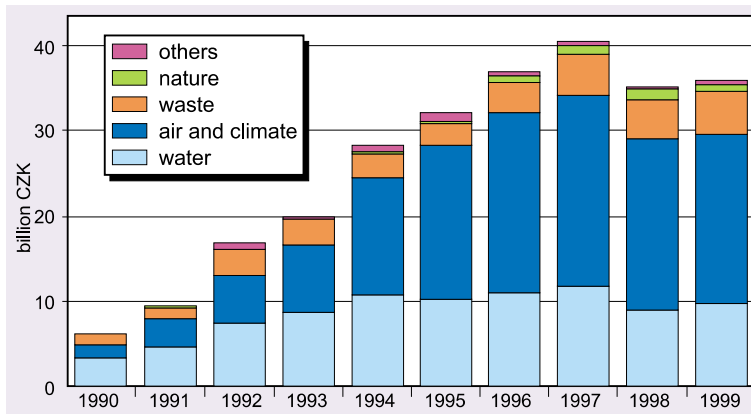
**Box 5.6. Main environmental programmes in the Czech Republic (funded from the state budget), 1999**

Programme	Approximate yearly total millions of	
	CZK	EUR (as of 15 Sept.2000)
Energy efficiency and renewable sources	400	11.3
Revitalisation of river systems	230	6.5
Care for the landscape	140	3.9
Small water-management programmes	90	2.5
Cleanup of former Soviet army bases	120	3.4
Research and development programme of the MoE	450	12.7
Landscape recovery after 1997 flood	3,000	84.5
Forest subsidies	1,000	28.2
Municipal water systems (drinking water supply, servers, waste water treatment)	8,000	225.4
Uranium mine recovery and radon programme	1,400	39.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,830</b>	<b>418.2</b>

Source: Ministry of Environment

The overall level of expenditures for environmental protection in the Czech Republic is high both in the relative and absolute terms. The majority of expenditures are from the private sector (about 75 percent) and this share is rising.

**Box 5.8. Investments for environmental protection (by environmental issue) in the Czech Republic, 1990-99**



Source: Ministry of Environment

## Information, education, research

**Box 5.9. The Czech Republic's participation in the testing of indicators of sustainable development**

The Czech Republic has finished the testing of indicators of sustainable development developed by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD). The 5-year Work Programme on Indicators of Sustainable Development (ISD) was adopted by the CSD at its third session in 1995. The goal of the Work Programme is to make available to the ninth session of the CSD in 2001 a core set of indicators for sustainable development and related methodologies as a supporting tool for national decision-making. The Czech Republic participated in the testing process together with other 21 countries: Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Kenya, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, The Philippines, South Africa, The United Kingdom, Ukraine, Venezuela.

In order to assess the appropriateness and validity of a working list of proposed 134 indicators and related methodologies, countries from all regions of the world volunteered to test the indicators over a three-year period beginning in November 1996. The indicators are being tested according to countries own priorities and goals for sustainable development, and implemented on the basis of common guidelines for national testing as developed by the Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) in consultation with its indicator expert group.

Since the launching of the testing at the International Workshop in Ghent, Belgium, 1996, three regional meetings were convened for Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Africa in order to promote and train government planners in the CSD indicator approach and use. In January 1998, an International Workshop was convened in Prague, the Czech Republic, in order to evaluate the progress in national testing and discuss challenges, experiences and interim results.

The Czech Republic has used the CSD indicator testing as impetus for its own work on national set of indicators of sustainable development. The complete list of CSD indicators was tested for the national level. Besides that, the work on indicators of sustainable development at local level to gauge effectiveness of local Agenda 21 programs was launched in several municipalities.

Source: Ministry of Environment

An extensive network of monitoring institutions operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Ministry of Health (MoH) in relation to all aspects of the environment. The results are available in numerous regular publications, such as the MoE's *Environmental Yearbook* and *State of the Environment Report*, the MoH's *Monitoring Environmental Impacts on Public Health*, and the MoA's *Monitoring of the Food Chain*.

Access to information is facilitated by Act No 123/1998 Coll. on the right to access to environmental information. Implementation of this Act is an important step towards the ratification of the Aarhus Convention. The MoE has prepared a *Strategy for Environmental Education, Public Awareness and Training* that is being implemented by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

A whole set of expert, monitoring and research institutes operates under the auspices of the MoE. Together with the National Institute of Public Health (Ministry of Health), the institutes of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and universities, they provide the information necessary for policy-making and other expert services. At present, the develop-

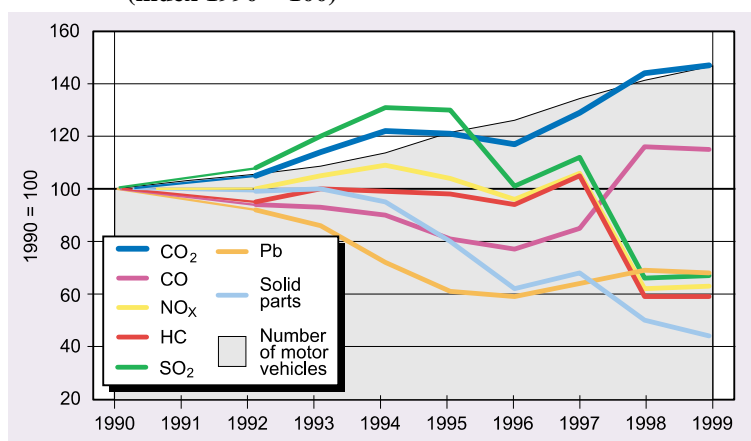
ment of indicators of environment and sustainable development that are policy-oriented and easy to understand is underway. Indicators are gradually becoming a basis for regular reporting.

## Integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies

Preliminary results indicate that the integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies has not been sufficiently effective so far. On the other hand it must not be forgotten that some requirements for integration have been met at a time of unprecedented reform and restructuring of the whole national economy.

Statistics on traffic intensity, number of vehicles (except for Prague, which exhibits the highest number of cars per capita), road density and emissions show that the **transport** sector in the Czech Republic is not yet as developed as in many other EU or OECD countries. However, it is obvious that transport is becoming a dominant environmental problem. Inadequate transport policy has not been able to combat the decline in public transport and design efficient regulatory measures and pricing mechanisms. Under the influence of both technical and human factors, the fastest-rising negative indicator is the traffic accident rate.

**Box 5.10. Trends in specific emissions from transport in the Czech Republic, 1990-99 (index 1990 = 100)**



Source: Transport Research Centre

Trends in **agricultural management** after 1989 brought mostly beneficial changes in relation to the environment. But despite the fact that the use of agricultural chemicals has decreased dramati-

cally over the past ten years, agriculture still negatively affects water quality. On the other hand, the favourable trends of rising interest in organic agriculture and government support for the non-productive functions of agricultural land continue.

The **energy sector** has made major investments in emission reduction measures (especially desulphurisation installations). New technologies such as fluidised bed combustion boilers, cogeneration, etc. have also reduced environmental impacts relative to their traditional counterparts. But despite the fastest improvement of air quality on record, energy intensity is still high in comparison with other EU countries. The large potential for energy efficiency measures and renewable energy sources has not been utilised yet.

The Czech Republic has a long **industrial** tradition, in metallurgy, chemicals, food processing, mining, manufacturing, the pulp and paper industry, and other areas. Following the privatisation process only a handful of companies remain in state ownership. Environmental protection is receiving greater attention in most enterprises: positive trends can be observed in the number of companies certified with eco-management schemes, applying for eco-labelling, implementing cleaner production approaches, etc. Great emphasis has been placed on implementation of environmental management systems under the ISO 14000 series of standards and the EU's Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). In 1998-99 the National Cleaner Production Programme was developed with the aim of decreasing the environmental impacts of production whilst improving competitiveness. A new policy instrument is emerging in the form of voluntary agreements between the government and various industrial sectors: some of these have already been concluded (e.g. with the chemical industry). Fundamental changes in industrial development and restructuring will result from the implementation of Directive 96/61/EC on integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC). The resource intensity of Czech industry has however remained high compared with that of EU countries.

**Tourism** has become a major sector in terms of revenues generated (9-11 percent of GDP) and employment (9-10 percent). The number of foreign visitors has tripled since 1990. The main positive developments in this area are government support for environmentally acceptable forms of tourism and the promotion of a 'green code' by hotel managers.

The integration of environmental concerns into various policies is supported by the work of the academic community and by a broad range of activities by numerous NGOs and other parts of civil society. Industry itself plays an important role in this respect.

**Box 5.11. *Towards Sustainability in the Czech Republic - Building National Capacities for Sustainable Development, a project initiated by the Czech government (1998-2000)***

This 3-year project funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) aims at strengthening the national capacity of the Czech Republic to implement and actively pursue the objectives of sustainable development. The executing agency of the project is Charles University. Immediate objectives of the project include 1) Establishing a firm and broad institutional and professional platform for sustainable development; 2) Development of a comprehensive framework for a National Strategy for Sustainable Development; 3) Integration of the principles of sustainable development into selected sectoral policies and programmes; 4) Enhancing awareness of sustainable development and promotion of education for sustainable development; and 5) Strengthening the capacity of the Czech Republic for active involvement in international and global co-operation in the area of environmental protection and sustainable development.

In the Czech Republic, as in many other countries, the concept of sustainable development is receiving increased attention. One of the main problems however is that the concept is often not fully understood and as a rule tends to be interpreted too narrowly as concerning just "environmental" or even "ecological" matters. This misunderstanding, apart from other, more objective barriers, places severe limitations on the Czech Republic's capacity to make more progress towards sustainability.

The Government's strategy is to enhance the understanding and promote the concept of sustainable development as a unifying principle and as the "backbone" of policy co-ordination and integration both in the national and international context. The Government is in the process of developing a "National Strategy for Sustainable Development" - and this UNDP project, in which more than a hundred experts and institutions have been participating, will provide a solid information base for it.

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## Regional and local government, civil society

**Box 5.12. Municipalities in the Czech Republic by population, 1999**

Population size	Number	%
1 - 499	3,739	60.0
500 - 1999	1,895	30.3
2000 - 4999	348	5.6
5000 - 9999	130	2.1
10000 - 19000	66	1.1
20000 - 49999	44	0.7
50000 - 99999	17	0.3
10000 -	5	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,244</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic

The country has currently two levels of elected government: central government in the capital Prague and more than 6,000 municipal councils. An important role is still played by 77 district administrations that are not elected bodies.

The situation will change dramatically from January 1, 2001, when elected councils will come into being in 14 newly established regions, and in 2002 the current districts will be abolished. It is widely understood that the number of municipali-

ties is too high but it is felt that it should be left to citizens themselves to initiate the process of forming larger municipalities by merging smaller ones.

The enhancement of the role of decentralised government is an expression of the rise of civil society that is an important feature of the transformation process. From the point of view of environmental protection this development is an extremely significant one as the new regional administrations and governments will take over a range of key responsibilities.

The number of non-profit non-governmental organisations has increased dramatically in the Czech Republic over the past ten years: the number of civic associations rose from the 3,879 registered in 1990 to 38,072 in 1999, whilst the number of foundations increased from 1,551 in 1992 to 5,238 in 1997. The latter number fell to 55 in 1998 when a new law on foundations and their funds was



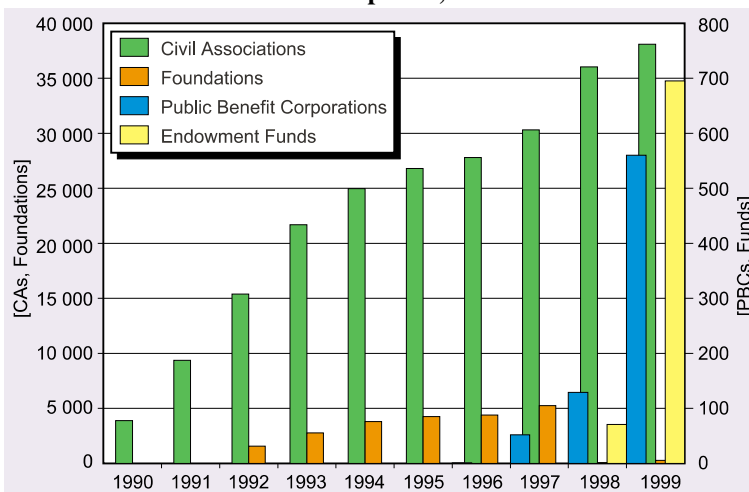
introduced. Legislation in 1996 introduced public benefit corporations; and there were also 695 endowment funds in 1999.

**Box 5.13. Institutional arrangements in the Czech Republic: the 14 newly-established regions**



Source: Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic

**Box 5.14. Number of non-governmental organisations in the Czech Republic, 1990-99**



Source: Czech Statistical Office, Register of organisations  
Albertina, Economic Index

According to the NGO Koniklec there were in total 635 environmental non-governmental organisations in the CR in 1998. According to the Ministry of Interior register, this number increased from 114 in 1993 to 261 in 1996. The largest umbrella organisation is the Czech Union for Nature Conservation that has 345 constituent organisations. Another major umbrella organisation is the Bron-

tosaurus Movement that provides environmental education, offers activities for secondary school and university students in their spare time, and undertakes publication and information work. Other well-known names are Duha (Rainbow), Děti Země (Children of the Earth), Environmental Partnership, and South Bohemian Mothers. Many of them are well known to the public because of high-profile cases of resistance against (for instance) the D5 Motorway or the Temelín nuclear power plant.

According to one of the latest opinion polls (IVVM, 30.6.1999), environmental NGOs are rather popular: 70 per cent of the population regards them as useful, just second after civil rights initiatives (80 per cent).

**International co-operation**

After 1989 the opening up of state borders, the renewal of democracy and freedom, and the end of the state's role as owner and manager of all activities, created new possibilities for increased international co-operation that now flourishes in many fields. The Czech Republic is now a party to most international environmental agreements. In order to be able to ratify several already signed agreements, it is necessary to adopt new national legislation, after which implementation will require substantial administrative efforts. Besides extensive bi- and multi-lateral co-operation the top priority of current international policy is accession to the EU.

The Czech Republic has been progressively changing its status from the beneficiary to a donor country. Assistance is provided by the Czech Republic to countries of Eastern Europe (the former Soviet Union), the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Central America.

**Box 5.15. The Czech Republic's participation in major international environmental agreements**

Agreement	Date and Place of Meeting	Effective in the CR	Signed by the CR	Comments
<b>Horizontal Agreements:</b>				
<b>UN ECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context</b>				
	25. 2. 1991, Espoo (Finland)		30.8.1991	Signed by the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic on 30.8.1991, expected end of ratification process in the Czech Republic in 2002
<b>UN ECE Convention on the Trans-boundary Effects of Industrial Accidents</b>				
	17. 3. 1992, Helsinki			The Czech Republic party to the Convention from 10.9.2000
<b>UN ECE Convention on Access to Information and Public Participation in Environmental Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters</b>				
	25. 6. 1998, Aarhus (Denmark)		25.6.1998	Expected end of ratification process in the Czech Republic in 2002
<b>Air Quality Agreements:</b>				
<b>UN ECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP)</b>				
	13.11.1979, Geneva	1.1.1993		Czechoslovakia party to the Convention from 22.3.1984
<b>UNEP Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer/Vienna Convention</b>				
	22.3.1985, Vienna	1.1.1993		The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic party to the Convention from 1.1.1991
<b>Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer</b>				
	16.9.1987, Montreal	1.1.1993		The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic party to the Convention from 1.1.1991
<b>UNEP United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</b>				
	9.5.1992, New York	21.3.1994		
<b>Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</b>				
	11.12.1997, Kyoto		25.11.1998	Expected end of ratification process in the Czech Republic in 2002.
<b>Water Quality Agreements:</b>				
<b>UN ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes</b>				
	17.3.1992, Helsinki			The Czech Republic party to the Convention from 10.9.2000
<b>Waste Control Agreements:</b>				
<b>UNEP Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention)</b>				
	22.3.1989, Basel	1.1.1993		The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic party to the Convention from 24.7.1991
<b>Nature Protection Agreements:</b>				
<b>UNESCO Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat</b>				
	2.2.1971, Ramsar	1.1.1993		The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic party to the Convention from 2. 7. 1990
<b>UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage</b>				
	16.11.1972, Paris	1.1.1993		The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic party to the Convention from 15.12.1991

Agreement	Date and Place of Meeting	Effective in the CR	Signed by the CR	Comments
<b>UNEP Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora</b>				
	3.3.1973, Washington	1.1.1993		The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic party to the Convention from 28.5.1992
<b>UNEP Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)</b>				
	23.6.1979, Bonn	1.5.1994		
<b>Council of Europe Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats</b>				
	19.9.1979, Bern	1.6.1998		
<b>UNEP Convention on Biological Diversity</b>				
	5.6.1992, Nairobi	3.3.1994		
<b>Cartagena Protocol on Biological Safety</b>				
	29.1.2000, Montreal		24.5.2000	Expected end of ratification process in the Czech Republic in 2002
<b>UN Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification</b>				
	17.6.1994, Paris	24.4.2000		

Source: Ministry of Environment

## Development assistance

On 15 March 1995 the Government of the Czech Republic adopted the policy document *Principles for Czech Development Assistance*. This, in conjunction with the *Czech Export Policy* of 1997, the *Czech Foreign Policy* of 1999 and other strategic policies including the *State Environmental Policy* of 1995, as revised in 1999, is the foundation for the provision of more comprehensive, substantial and diversified development assistance.

more equal rights for men and women, human rights and civic freedoms, all as part of globally, regionally and nationally sustainable development, including its environmental dimension. From 1996 the Czech Republic has also provided environmentally-oriented development assistance, which from 1997 has been mainly under the auspices of the Ministry of the Environment. The Czech Republic is the only post-communist country that has been systematically providing environmental project development assistance.

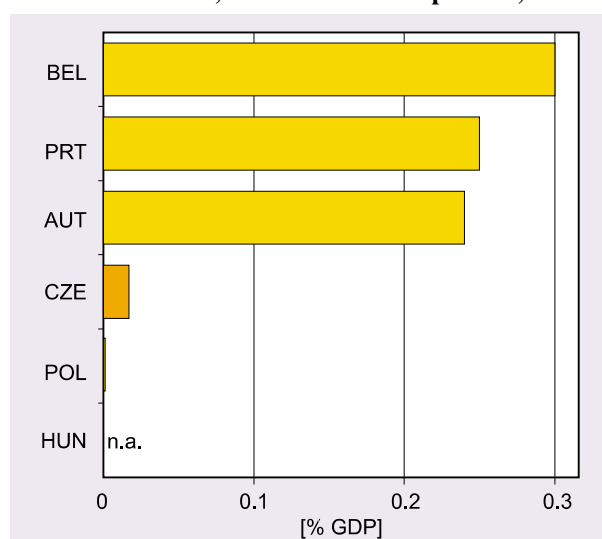
### Box 5.16. Official development assistance from the Czech Republic

Year	ODA (in millions of)		
	CZK	EUR	% of GDP
1996	356.5	10.0	0.025
1997	365.4	10.3	0.022
1998	326.0	9.2	0.017
1999	326.0	9.2	0.017
2000	345.0	9.7	0.017

Source: Ministry of Environment

The aims of official Czech development assistance are in line with the strategies of the United Nations, OECD and the European Union: to eliminate poverty, to contribute to economic and social development in developing countries, to pro-

### Box 5.17. Official development assistance as a share of GDP, international comparison, 1999



Source: OECD

The proportion of official Czech development assistance aimed at promoting environmental protection and sustainable development reached almost 25 percent in the year 2000 (more than 85 million CZK).

## Accession to the European Union

The intention to join the European Union was expressed by the new Czechoslovak Government immediately after November 1989. Membership has mostly been seen as both desirable and inevitable, and, given the long history of the Czech Kingdom and the First Czechoslovak Republic, also as something quite natural. For most of the population it is not question of "whether" or "why" but "when" and recently also more and more "under what conditions".

The environmental Chapter is regarded as one of the most difficult in the accession process. It is both important and demanding from the point of view of the very extensive *acquis communautaire* and relatively high investment requirements in this area. It should be noted, however, that the latter issue should not represent a critical obstacle given the high level of financial and other resources that has been devoted to environmental protection in recent years. There is no reason why this trend should not continue and perhaps even intensify.

On 28 June 1999 the Czech Government accepted the *Strategy for Approximation in the Environment* ('Approximation Strategy'), which proposes a concrete time schedule for the transposition and implementation of the environmental *acquis* in the Czech Republic. This document has been continuously updated to ensure that it is consistent with other policy documents, notably the Government's *Plan of Legislative Work* and the Czech Republic's *Position Paper on Chapter 22: Environment*.

On 22 November 1999 the Czech Government took note of the *Investment Strategy for Financing the Requirements for Implementation of EC Environmental Legislation*. The Government had instructed the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Finance to prepare this strategy as part of its consideration of the Approximation Strategy. The *Investment Strategy* forecasts the allocation of domestic and international financial resources needed to meet the requirements of EC environmental legislation up to the year 2005, by which date the vast majority of EC legislation should have been implemented. The exceptions will be the EC legislation that the Czech Republic intends to request a transitional period for.

Although the European Commission's 1999 Regular Report on the Czech Republic criticised

the pace of transposition of legislation in the environmental area, it is fair to say that a number of the requirements that the European Union imposes on its members have already been implemented in the Czech Republic. Probably the most eloquent testimony to this assertion are the results documented in the area of air pollution control, where new emission limits that are comparable with the limits imposed by EC Directives have been in force since 1 January 1999. Industrial companies anticipated the limits and invested heavily in new technologies in the period leading up to the date when they became binding. The resultant reduction in air emissions in the Czech Republic represents the greatest improvement in the quality of the environment within such a brief period of time anywhere in the world.

Recently, in addition to the adoption of the above-mentioned Approximation and Investment strategies, the following steps have been taken as part of the preparations for EU accession:

- The Ministry of Environment and the Czech Environmental Inspectorate have been provided with further staff and the Department of European Integration has been established at the Ministry, along with other bodies focusing on preparations for EU accession.
- A number of legal documents transposing the requirements of EC law have been adopted. Work has begun on the preparation of framework legislation in all sub-chapters of the Environment Chapter.
- The Information System for Legal Approximation (ISAP) has been completed and updated, and work has progressed on the preparation of official translations of EC environmental legislation.
- A number of initiatives have been launched by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MoE, academics and many NGOs in order to discuss various aspects of the approximation process with industry, municipalities and the public at large.
- The Czech Republic has acceded and/or has been making preparations for accession to several international agreements that are important with regard to EU membership.

On 26 July 2000 the Government approved the whole set of implementation plans for the environmental *acquis*. The plans are very detailed and comprehensive, they include economic aspects and have been developed for each of the Directives and other legal instruments. They were handed over to Commissioner Margot Wallström at a ceremony in Brussels on 5 September 2000.

## REFERENCES

1. Albertina - Company Monitor: (<http://www.albertina.cz/english/index.html>)
2. Czech Statistical Office: Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic. Scientia, Prague 1999
3. Czech Statistical Office, The Czech Environmental Institute, The Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic: Statistical Environmental Yearbook of the Czech Republic. Prague 1999
4. European Environment Agency: Are We Moving in the Right Direction? - Indicators on Transport and Environment Integration in the EU. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg 2000
5. FAO: Strategy of Development of Agriculture and Food until the Year 2010. Rome 2000
6. Freedom House: FH Country Ratings (<http://www.freedomhouse.org/ratings>)
7. Institute on Information in Education: The Development Yearbook of Education in the Czech Republic 1989/90 - 1998/99 (in Czech). Prague 1999
8. Ministry of the Environment: Report on the Environment in the Czech Republic in 1999. Prague 2000
9. Ministry of Industry and Trade, Department of State Management Analyses: Analysis of Development of Economy of the Czech Republic and its Departments at the Ministry of Industry and Trade during the year 1999 (in Czech). Prague 2000
10. National Institute of Public Health: System of Monitoring the Environmental Impact on Population Health of the Czech Republic. Prague 2000
11. OECD: Education at Glance. Paris 2000
12. OECD: Environmental Performance Reviews, Czech Republic. Paris 1999
13. OECD: OECD Environmental Data. Compendium 1999. Paris 1999
14. OECD: OECD in Figures 2000 (<http://www.oecd.org/publications/figures/>)
15. Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs: Human Development Report 1999, Czech Republic. Prague 1999
16. The World Bank: World Development Indicators. Washington, DC, 2000
17. Tilburg University, Faculty of Social Sciences: European Value Study
18. Traffic Research Institute in the Capital of Prague: Traffic Yearbook: Prague 1999 (in Czech). Prague 2000
19. Transparency International: (<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0781359.html>)
20. UNDP: Human Development Report 2000. Oxford University Press, New York, Oxford 2000