



České předsednictví
v Radě EU

Czech Presidency
of the Council of the EU

Présidence tchèque
du Conseil de l'UE

2009

Prague, June, 2009

Dear,

It is my honour to invite you to the next meeting of the European Council in Brussels on 18 and 19 June 2009. This meeting will take place at a very special time – shortly after the European elections, and I am sure you will want to exchange views on their outcome. European countries are still struggling with the impact of the financial and economic crisis. Much valuable work to mitigate the consequences of the crisis has already been carried out; but it is crucial to keep up efforts. Moreover, even in these troubled times, we need to bear in mind all the ambitious goals the EU has agreed on in order to face up to the challenge of climate change.

It has become a tradition to open the European Council with an exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament. This will provide a unique opportunity to reflect on the recent elections and assess the achievements of the past as well as the prospects for the upcoming electoral term. Subsequently, we plan to reach consensus on the Irish guarantees before taking the family photo at the end of this part of the meeting.

The first working session of the European Council will start at 18:00. We will start with climate change with a view to building on recent achievements and maintaining the EU's global leadership role in this area. I will sum up the work carried out by the Czech Presidency and will invite Fredrik Reinfeldt to present the plans of the Swedish Presidency.

The key topic of the first working session will of course be the economic and financial situation, where we foresee the presence of the President of the European Central Bank. In particular, we will focus on the reform of financial supervision within the EU aimed at setting

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up a new system to help avoid financial crises in future. In this context we will also have an opportunity to exchange views on the impact of the crisis on employment. Financial and economic matters need also to be looked at in the global context; this in turn requires the EU to thoroughly prepare the various international meetings which will be grappling with these problems. We need to send a strong message to our citizens that we are doing everything possible to improve the current economic situation.

Afterwards, we will continue with a discussion by Heads of State or Government over dinner, starting at 20:00. We will use this opportunity to reflect on the elections to the European Parliament and, as we agreed in December, we will initiate the process of the designation of the President of the future Commission.

The dinner of Ministers of Foreign Affairs will deal with questions regarding Afghanistan and Pakistan in context of the transatlantic relations and the Future of European security.

On Friday, the working session of the European Council will begin at 10:00. At this session we shall firstly deal, if necessary, with any outstanding issues arising out of the Foreign Ministers' dinner and then devote the rest of the morning to finalizing the conclusions.

Subsequently, the Presidency will inform the accession candidates on the outcome of the discussion.

Yours sincerely,