

2022 Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union



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Czech Presidency of the Council
of the European Union

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Petr Fiala's vision for Europe

June 2022

– *“Europe is first and foremost a collection of principles and values which we uphold and cherish together. Europe is currently facing many problems and challenges, but if we act with unity and determination, we will emerge stronger and more resilient from these crises.”*

Fiala's vision for Europe is based on improving the competitiveness of the European Economy along with many other improvements and goals. The Czech Republic will focus on five political priorities during its presidency of the European Union from 1 July to 31 December 2022:

1. The War in Ukraine
2. Energy Security
3. Defence and Cyber Security
4. Economic Resilience
5. Democratic Values



Priorities of the Czech Presidency

“Europe as a task: rethink, rebuild, repower.”

War in Ukraine

1. Providing Ukraine with political and military support
2. Hitting Russia with all EU instruments, including economic sanctions
3. Restoring critical infrastructure, ensuring basic services, strengthening resilience and economic recovery and stability in Ukraine
4. Long-term integration of refugees into the societies of the Member States

Energy security

1. Breaking EU dependence on Russian gas, oil and coal
2. Accelerating the REPowerEU Plan to diversify energy sources
3. Working on regulating gas reserves
4. Developing energy infrastructure
5. Implementing instruments to reduce the negative social and economic impact of high energy prices

Defence capabilities and Cybersecurity

1. Reinforcing security and defence capabilities, in partnership with NATO
2. Supporting the implementation of the Strategic Compass
3. Reducing technological dependence and ensuring the resilience of critical value chains
4. Addressing cyber threats and the geopolitical context of new technologies (and space)

Priorities of the Czech Presidency

“Europe as a task: rethink, rebuild, repower.”

European economy Resilience

1. Targeted support for competitiveness on strategic technologies to promote domestic capacity and tighter trade relations with democratic nations such as New Zealand, Australia and Chile
2. Deepening transatlantic cooperation on supply chain resilience in the context of the EU-US Trade and Technology Council
3. Deepening the internal market, while improving the business environment, including support for science, research and innovation

Democratic Institutions

1. Strengthening transparent financing of political parties, independence of mass media and open dialogue with citizens
2. Improving dialogue with young people and promoting their participation in political processes
3. Respecting and strengthening freedoms and European values in both online and offline environments

Instinctif's vision of the Czech presidency

Never let a good crisis go to waste!

It's refreshing to see Prague jettison the usual long list of EU initiatives countries intend to finalise during their six short months at the steering wheel of the EU and instead focus on the sobering reality of the multiple crises at hand, starting with the Ukraine crisis, the energy crisis, and the climate crisis. Other commentators have already suggested that some initiatives previously considered 'urgent', including promotion of organic farming and re-authorisation of thousands of chemicals already on the EU market might not be quite as urgent as some had made them out to be.

Recent elections across Europe have shown that people's patience with spiralling energy prices and inflation is limited, and whether it's fair or not, anyone who is angry will take it out on sitting governments. It's therefore in the interest of all EU capitals to work together as a matter of urgency on the issues that EU citizens have said are their priorities: send Russia packing from Ukraine, put a lid on energy price rises and inflation in general, improve public health care, continue to mitigate and fight climate change and support economic growth. If the Czechs really want to win friends and influence people, they might want to tackle the labour shortages delays that are wreaking havoc with travel within the bloc.



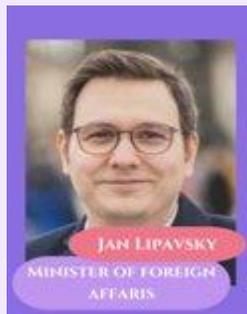
Brandon Mitchener
Managing Partner



Key players in the Czech presidency

The key players

In Prague



- Previously worked in banking IT, including McKinsey & Company
- View of presidency includes backing Ukraine in the war and has a right to be a part of the EU



- Wants to isolate Russia politically and economically as much as possible
- Wants to start preparing for post-war reconstruction of Ukraine
- Wants to discuss and improve current trade, energy, digitalisation, and environmental issues during the Czech presidency

- Oto Novotný — Political Advisor
- Tomáš Pojar — Fiala's adviser
- Lenka Fonioková — EU Affairs Communication Officer

- Marek Havrda — Deputy Minister for European Affairs
- Alice Tétu — EP and institutional advisor
- Štěpán Černý — Director-General European Section

In Brussels



- Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality from 2014-2019.
- She is currently serving as Vice-President for values and transparency
- Her goal is to make the European Union more democratic, more transparent and more resilient against new threats to its democratic societies and to individuals' fundamental rights.
- Strong supporter for equality between women and men

European Commission and European Parliament

- Renate Nikolay — Head of Cabinet
- Simona Constantin — Environment Expert
- Irina Stefuriuc — Member of Cabinet
- Eduard Hulicius - Member of Cabinet
- Dita Charanzová — Vice-President EP, Digital Expert



- She was appointed the Czech's Republic Ambassador to the EU in 2020
- As the Czech Representative in Coreper II, she will be a key voice at the Council's main preparatory body.
- Her team prepared the agenda of the Presidency
- Wants to present Czech culture to the broad EU public

Czech Representation

- Jaroslav Zajíček — Deputy Ambassador
- Jitka Látal Znamenáčková — Ambassador at the PSC
- Eva Hrnčířová — Spokesperson
- Ondřej Kaleta — Relations with the EP

Main events

Key EU political events from the 1st of July until the 31st of December 2022

Main events

05/07 – Political and Security Committee

11/07 - Eurogroup

10-13/10 – European Week of Regions and Cities

25/10 - Youth dialogue on the future of finance

16-17/10 European Business Summit

Environment, energy

22-24/08 – World Conference on climate change and sustainability

07-08/09 – BlueInvest Africa

26-30/09 – European Sustainable Energy week

07-18/11 – UN Climate Change Conference

10-11/11 - European Nuclear Energy Forum

29-01/12 – Sustainable Future Week

Digital

30/06 – EU Digital Summit

7/11 – Conference on digital euro

1-2/12 – CyberSec4Europe Summit Event

Healthcare

08/07 - EU4health Stakeholders' event

28/09 – Workshop EP: Creation of a public EU pharma R&D infrastructure

11-12/10 – Brain Innovation Days

09/12 – Health Council

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Colour Key

-  Environment
-  Government Relations
-  Health
-  Digital
-  Agriculture

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