



CONFEDERATION OF INDUSTRY
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

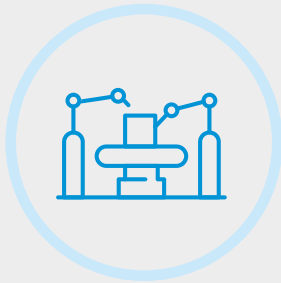
CZ PRES 2022

CONFEDERATION OF INDUSTRY
DURING THE CZECH EU COUNCIL PRESIDENCY



INDUSTRY

– OUR TRADITION, OUR FUTURE



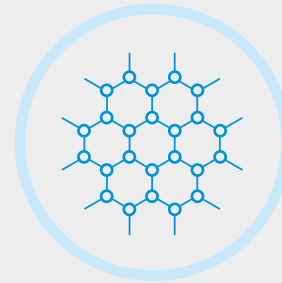
ROBOT

The international word 'robot' was coined more than 100 years ago for the 1921 sci-fi play, Rossum's Universal Robots (R.U.R.), written by the Czech sibling duo of authors, Karel and Josef Čapek. Even back then, they imagined robots were beings created by biochemistry and not simply creatures made of sheet metal and full of gears. Although the first industrial robots did not start operating until many decades later, they already had a name.



CONTACT LENSES

Contact lenses were created thanks to the world-famous Czech scientist and inventor, Otto Wichterle. In the 1960's he laid down the foundation for today's soft lenses, which are used by over 100 million people around world. Because of the then Communist regime's stance, he had to make the equipment for the first prototype from a children's building kit and a dynamo from his sons' bicycle.



NANOFIBER

Czech scientist, Oldřich Jirsák, invented a technology that, since 2003, has enabled faster and cheaper production of non-woven nanofiber textiles, thus starting their industrial production. Thanks to this, nanofibers are used in fields such as medicine, where they help in the development of artificial blood vessels and bandages. Additionally, they are used in the garment industry and for water purification.



CONFEDERATION OF INDUSTRY
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC



Dear friends,

At the beginning of July, 2022, the Czech Republic will take over the EU Council Presidency for the second time, 13 years after its premiere. Both the Czech Republic as well as its largest organization of entrepreneurs and employers are deeply honoured to have the opportunity to become the voice of European member states and its business, respectively, towards EU institutions for the upcoming six months.

The Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic has been a BusinessEurope member for almost three decades during which we have

always made our best efforts to help promote and further develop the active European way of life and its freedoms, and advocate for growth and competitiveness. We have managed to overcome numerous crises and hurdles together, always keeping in mind that it is the long-term predictability and the rule of law that create the best conditions for both society and business development.

Nevertheless, the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and more recently by the persisting and unlawful Russian military

aggression against a direct neighbour of the EU are causing a high level of uncertainty these days. Despite given the EU's starting point, its strong labour market, and despite the easing headwinds related to the COVID-19 restrictions and supply chain bottlenecks, risks of inflation, price pressure and negative confidence impacts remain very high. December 2021 outlooks for GDP growth in 2022 and even in 2023 have had to be revised down due to this year's state of affairs in Europe, which many regard as the most demanding in decades.

These are the circumstances in which the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic has been preparing for the Czech EU Presidency. As you will see in our set of priorities, we find it essential not to allow the current adverse situation to rewind the tape of what we have achieved in the EU. However, it seems more than necessary to rethink our goals and strategies in terms of their clarity, feasibility and loyalty to European grassroots and founding principles. Thus, in Czech business priorities for the second half of 2022 you will find emphasis on competitiveness, pro-growth and resilience measures, openness, cooperation and increased flexibility of the labour market. Together with peace, legal certainty and protection of fundamental human rights as basic prerequisites of life in Europe, the Confederation

of Industry of the Czech Republic regards all of these to be crucial for successful economic and social recovery of Europe, and for becoming even stronger for the future.

The Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic and I are deeply convinced that our mutual collaboration within BusinessEurope and within the EU in the upcoming months will represent an important and successful stepping stone to reviving Europe's stability and prosperity.

Dear friends, I look forward to all of our business and industry-related discussions and cooperation during the Czech EU Council Presidency and onwards and wish us success.

Jaroslav Hanák

President, Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic

Dear colleagues,

Let me first of all express my thanks for the constructive cooperation with the Confederation of Industry, which has always been on a professional level and I look forward to its continuation not only during the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU.

The Czech Republic will take over the presidency of the Council of the European Union at a particularly difficult times. We had endured two years of pandemic and we all wished that we could move forward while working on our economic and social recovery. However, this situation has abruptly shifted due to Russian military aggression against Ukraine and has presented the EU with new and unprecedented economic and security challenges not only for its Member States, but also for the EU as a whole, requiring decisive and comprehensive action.

During our presidency we will work to strengthen Europe's ability to act globally in order to defend European interests and to live up to its responsibility in the world. We will strengthen it from within and protect it against outside threats to protect and nurture our model of peaceful democratic governance, and its central tenets of dialogue and diplomacy. Past and pre-crisis policies, past and pre-crisis formats, past reflexes,



the return to nationalism or the dissolution of our identities will not be the answers to the world that is emerging.

Crises have always been an opportunity for the EU to call things that are considered a given into question and to be even better prepared to face the challenges of the future. I am confident that during our presidency we will have the strength and capacity to turn these challenges into opportunities and I am honored to be part of it.

Mikuláš Bek

Minister for European Affairs

OUR PRIORITIES DURING CZ PRES



The Czech Republic takes over the Presidency of the Council of the EU at a time when Europe must overcome not only the COVID-19 pandemic, but also the consequences of the recent Russian military aggression against Ukraine. For the international community the situation in Ukraine represents a crisis of the rule of law and democracy. Given its global economic impacts, it is also a society-wide crisis, which citizens and companies have to face and whose total effects are not yet possible to be fully quantified.

Thus the European Union must re-think its strategies and initiatives now and rationally reflect the current situation. Once the urgent humanitarian crisis is successfully handled, measures of mid-term and long-term effects must follow, aiming at reassuring stability and Europe's economic prosperity.

Bearing all of this in mind, the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic formulates its three fundamental priorities for the upcoming six months. The most representative Czech confederation of entrepreneurs and employers puts emphasis on strengthening European resilience while keeping its openness, ensuring its competitiveness and sustainable development, and on further development of the dynamic EU labour market.

We in the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic are convinced that coordinated efforts of all social partners and Member States can assist the European Union and the entire international community to overcome this demanding period together and to find a successful way of coming out of it stronger.

OUR ACTIVITIES DURING THE CZ PRES PERIOD ARE SUPPORTED BY:



PHILIP MORRIS ČR



OUR PARTNER:



SKUPINA ČEZ

FIRST PILLAR



A RESILIENT AND OPEN EUROPE

STRENGTHEN THE OPEN STRATEGIC AUTONOMY OF EUROPEAN INDUSTRY, ITS RESILIENCY, AND DIVERSIFICATION

- › Reduce unilateral dependencies, ensure the diversification of value chains and strengthen European security via effective international cooperation and the expansion of trade agreements network.
- › While strengthening common defence and security policies pay attention to effective co-operation and search for synergies between the public and private sector and support for the European defence industry and cybersecurity.
- › When establishing regulations, pay heed to balancing the EU's level playing field and openness, i.e., prevent protectionism.
- › Translate the updated industrial strategy into specific steps contributing to the growth of competitiveness of European industry and

strengthen its own production in strategic areas.

- › Realise green and digital transformation in a way that is consistent with implementing the European industrial strategy as well as with the EU's global competitiveness.

AMBITIOUS EU TRADE POLICY AND EFFECTIVE MULTILATERALISM

- › Strengthen the synergy and coherence between EU trade policy and other EU policies, in the interest of implementing the EU's priorities regarding external relations and supporting the competitiveness of European companies and digital transformation (ambitious digital chapters in trade agreements).
- › Actively promote solutions based on a broader international consensus (e.g. finding solutions in the area of taxation within the OECD), and in specific cases respect the possibilities of using the individual countries' economic policy support instruments.
- › Encourage the ratification of trade agreements by realistically setting their scope and emphasising their economic objectives, including a balanced approach towards negotiations and better communication regarding their positive impact on job creation, among other things.
- › Promote strategic partnerships with an emphasis on transatlantic cooperation. It is necessary to focus on securing safe international data transmission and cooperation in the area of modern technology.

- › In the interest of preserving the multilateral trade system, in cooperation with the USA and other key countries, promote the fully functioning World Trade Organization and its modernisation.

- › Support the candidate status for Ukraine, promote Eastern Partnership and the European perspective of the Western Balkans.

SECOND PILLAR



A COMPETITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE EUROPE

THE GRADUAL PATH TOWARDS A CLIMATE- NEUTRAL EU, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ITS EFFECTS ON THE COMPETITIVENESS OF INDUSTRY

- › Primarily ensure European energy security and stability of energy supplies.
- › Provide for co-ordination of common purchases and projects related to key energy and raw material inputs, as well as a balanced approach to individual EU Member States.
- › Respect technological neutrality, transitional technology, and investment cycles.
- › Stipulate contributions to the EU's climate and energy goals by the Member States, according to their national specifications and economic capabilities.
- › Maintain and strengthen measures against carbon leakage.

- › Utilise digital technology for ecological transformation.
- › Set the “Fit for 55” package realistically, and not at the expense of the competitiveness of some Member States.

DEEPENING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE EU’S INTERNAL MARKET

- › In compliance with the EU’s long-term Action Plan for better implementation and enforcement of the single market rules, increase the effectiveness of the EU’s internal market by eliminating persisting obstacles and preventing the new ones.
- › To support the further development of the internal market in services, set the limits for further disproportionate and burdensome regulations at the national level, and continue the discussion on notifications and adequacy tests for regulated professions.
- › While completing the digital single market, prioritise non-legislative tools and eliminate the “one-size-fits-all” approach.
- › Thoroughly fulfil the goals of the European initiative of Fair and Simple Taxation, e.g. the modernisation and improvement of cooperation between tax administrations, the simplification of VAT registration, and the cultivation of the already-in-place VAT One-Stop-Shop.
- › To insist that all European legislative proposals are always based on high-quality impact assessments, e.g. in the areas of green and digital transition.

INCREASING COMPETITIVENESS AND STRENGTHENING THE EU GROWTH

- › Under the updated industrial strategy, seek to create an environment that supports the competitiveness of European industry. Also to ensure strategic technologies and products, not only through supportive policies but also by establishing the conditions for cooperation between the public and private sectors. While establishing these measures, it is necessary to ensure a level playing field, fair competition, and to encourage cooperation among companies of all sizes.
- › Strive to harmonise the requirements imposed on the companies in reporting of financial and non-financial areas.
- › Pay special attention to the proposals of the European Commission regarding sustainable corporate governance and due diligence in supply chains. Ensure that regulations do not put European companies at a competitive disadvantage in a global environment and do not impose further administrative burdens.
- › Provide for an effective and flexible use of European financial tools for the post-war recovery of Ukraine.

THIRD PILLAR



EUROPE WITH A DYNAMIC LABOUR MARKET

AN INCLUSIVE AND FLEXIBLE LABOUR MARKET IN A TIME OF RECOVERY AND THE ERA OF DIGITALISATION AND GREEN TRANSFORMATION

- › Ensure coordinated support for the national adaptation of qualifications towards digital, advanced, and green skills in response to new labour market demands, and promote the EU Action Plan for digital skills 2021-2027 and the Council Recommendation on Education for Environmental Sustainability.
- › Promote the inclusivity of lifelong learning via individualised guidance and assistance for persons with difficult access to the labour market.
- › Promote the new Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in the area of Vocational Education and Training, the Osnabrück Declaration, and the development of blended education at every level.

- › Strengthen the EU competitiveness and jobs creation, and increase labour market flexibility, including the development of new forms of jobs, while strictly respecting and distinguishing between employment status and self-employment.

PROMOTE THE EMPLOYMENT RATE BY INCREASING THE PREDICTABILITY OF THE LEGAL ENVIRONMENT, RESPECTING DIVERSITY, AND RESTRICTING THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTY OF THE EUROPEAN LABOUR MARKET

- › Promote the widest possible digitalisation of administrative processes on the European labour market, in order to facilitate the application of internal market rules.
- › Respect the competence of the Member States and the autonomy of social partners in the field of wage and social protective systems. Strive to create a transparent and predictable framework for minimum wage adjustments in the Member States.
- › Promote the assurance of timely access for employers and companies to complete and current information affecting their obligation to apply the European regulations, especially in terms of cross-border activities related to providing services and the posting of workers.
- › Strengthen the uniform application of European legislation in the individual Member States so as not to violate the free movement of people, the integrity of the internal market as a whole, and to ensure a level playing field.

- › Promote diversity, participation of women in the labour market, especially by revising the Barcelona objectives, and people with disabilities in light of the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030.
- › In accordance with the new EU Occupational Safety and Health Strategy 2021-2027, ensure that the initiatives and scheduled revisions of the legislation respect companies' reality, respond to the new trends, and do not impose additional administrative and financial costs to businesses.
- › Ensure an effective use of EU tools to support swift integration and retraining of refugees from war areas and their preparedness for entering the labour market.
- › Promote the European Commission initiatives that are directed towards supporting legal migration and attracting skills and talents from the third countries (blue card, talent pool), complementarily with national preferential regimes.
- › Respect the role of social partners as actors in the labour market and prioritise solutions at company level while making maximum use of self-regulation.

ABOUT
THE CONFEDERATION
OF INDUSTRY
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

WE UNITE

THE LEADING COMPANIES AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

WE ADVOCATE

THE COMMON INTERESTS OF OUR MEMBERS

WE INFLUENCE

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICIES OF THE CZECH GOVERNMENT

WE LOBBY

POLICY MAKERS TO MAINTAIN A POSITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

WE PROMOTE

EXPORT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

WE PROVIDE

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND CONSULTATION ON EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR LAW, ECONOMIC POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

WE PRODUCE

ECONOMIC FORECASTS AND ANALYSIS

WE ARE

- › The largest and most influential independent organisation of employers and entrepreneurs in the Czech Republic.
- › The voice of the Czech Republic's leading businesses: e.g. automotive, electrotechnical, chemical, mechanical engineering, metallurgy, glass and ceramics, paper, pharmaceutical, medical equipment, transportation and ICT.
- › A not-for-profit organisation, independent of the government, political parties and trade unions.
- › A respected social partner and a participant in the European social dialogue.

WE REPRESENT

- › 11,000 companies – our members employ over 1.3 million people.
- › Over 30 industry and professional associations from key areas of the Czech economy.
- › Over 150 significant individual member companies.

Industry and professional associations:



Individual member companies:



In 2018, the Confederation celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the founding of its predecessor organisation the Central Union of Czechoslovak Industrialists.

ADVOCATING
BUSINESS INTERESTS

ADVOCATING BUSINESS INTERESTS AT NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

- › We represent employers in the Council for Economic and Social Agreement and advocate their interests vis-à-vis the trade unions and the government.
- › We are an official consultative body for legislation related to business and we influence decision-making in policy.
- › We negotiate with top political representatives and members of the Parliament of the Czech Republic.
- › We maintain constant dialogue with local politicians through our regional offices.
- › We are members of a number of national councils, expert teams and committees.

ADVOCATING BUSINESS INTERESTS AT THE EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- › We are a member of BusinessEurope, through which we influence negotiations about setting conditions for doing business in the EU.
- › We are a member of the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC), in which we have the possibility to shape OECD policies.
- › We are actively involved in the EU legislative process, and we cooperate with the Czech government and Czech representatives in the Council of the EU and with members of the European Parliament.
- › We help to formulate the Czech Republic's negotiation positions on EU strategies, regulations and directives.
- › We participate in a number of advisory bodies of the European Commission, designing and implementing the European Social Partners' Work Programme.
- › We cooperate with the European Commission Representation in the Czech Republic as well as Czech parliamentary committees on European affairs.
- › We are among the founders of the Central and Eastern European Industry Federations Initiative (CEE Initiative).



The Confederation of Industry has a strong presence in Brussels, both through its own office, led by the SP CR permanent delegate to BusinessEurope, and within the joint Czech Business Representation to the EU (CEBRE).

BUSINESSEUROPE



BusinessEurope is the leading advocate for growth and competitiveness across Europe. BusinessEurope defends the interests of small, medium and large enterprises from all sectors of activity in 35 European countries. BusinessEurope participates constructively in debates on EU policies that influence companies' performance and their ability to play their role in society. BusinessEurope is a recognised European social partner. It is actively engaged in the social dialogue at European level, with the aim of ensuring that European social policy is employment friendly.

We are facing particularly challenging times. Europeans need to be united and work hand-in-hand to deal with the immediate economic consequences of the war in Ukraine and the remaining disruptions linked to the COVID crisis while pursuing longer-term strategies to improve the future of all European companies and citizens.

BusinessEurope and its 40 member federations are keen to join forces with the Czech Presidency of the European Union to adapt EU policies to the new challenges facing us.

They support the Czech Presidency efforts to promote an ambitious EU trade policy, digitalise and develop our Single Market and find economically efficient solutions to protect people and the environment. Economic success is crucial to defend peace, preserve our European way of life and stand up for the freedom values of the European Union.

For more information,
visit our website:



The Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic is a member of BusinessEurope.



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OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC



OUR ACTIVITIES DURING THE CZ PRES PERIOD ARE SUPPORTED BY:



ŠKODA



PHILIP MORRIS ČR



OUR PARTNER:



SKUPINA ČEZ



CONFEDERATION OF INDUSTRY
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC



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