

Work Programme of the Czech Presidency

(1 January – 30 June 2009) As of 1 January the Czech Republic has taken over the Presidency of the EU and has announced their “work-plan” for the upcoming months.

In the sphere of employment, the Czech Republic has announced that “worker mobility within the EU” is one of their top priorities. They believe “restrictions on the free movement of workers constitute a major barrier to the development of the internal market, hampering full use of the real potential of the EU member states and the EU as a whole”, thus promoting the “full liberalisation of the movement of workers within the EU and the simplification and increase of professional and geographic mobility of workers in the labour market.” Along the same lines, the Presidency believes that a “practical implementation of the Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs and of the general principles of flexicurity” are needed to improve conditions within the EU in general.

Regarding the health sector, the Presidency has announced its support for the current EU initiatives in crossborder healthcare, quality and safety of organ donations and transplantations, rare diseases, as well as patient safety and the control of nosocomial infections, with a focus on anti microbial resistance. It also articulated great interest in the development of “the definition of financial sustainability and its objectives, and on the analysis of the resources available for healthcare funding”, in an effort to be better prepared for the May 2009 high level conference. This conference is the perfect forum in which “to share experience and exchange information and best practices concerning healthcare systems and their financial sustainability.”

The Presidency has also expressed a great interest in e-health and telemedicine. It has asserted its disposition to increase the quality of healthcare through the aid of telemedicine and strengthening the interoperability of information systems in the healthcare sector. It has also proclaimed that “in February 2009, the topic of e-health will be discussed at a ministerial conference organised in cooperation with the Commission,” with the aim of improving cooperation between EU member states in this sphere.

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