

THE CZECH AND SLOVAK ECONOMIES: 17 YEARS AFTER

SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, DG ECFIN

19 NOVEMBER 2010, BRUSSELS

BERLAYMONT BUILDING, RUE DE LA LOI 200, ROOM ROBERT SCHUMAN

PROGRAMME

8.30 – 9.00 Registration

9.00 – 9.15 Opening remarks by MARCO BUTI, Director General, DG ECFIN

SESSION I:

**Competitiveness of the Czech and Slovak economies in the post-crisis world:
current situation and future challenges**

Topics for discussion:

- Euro versus Czech crown – implications on competitiveness
- Specialisation versus diversification in a small open economy
- Future competitiveness model for the Czech and Slovak economies

9.15 – 11.00 Chair:

MARCO BUTI, Director General, or MATTHIAS MORS, Director, DG ECFIN

Key speakers: (15 min each)

MICHAL MEJSTRŮK – Chairman of the Institute of Economic Studies,
Charles University in Prague

*Competitiveness of the Czech and Slovak economy: What difference does
the euro-zone membership make?*

ZUZANA MURGAŠOVÁ – Mission Chief for the Czech Republic, IMF
Main competitiveness challenges for the Czech Republic

MARK DE BROECK – Mission Chief for Slovakia, IMF
Main competitiveness challenges for Slovakia

Panellists: (5-10 min each)

JURAJ KOTIAN – Head of Macro/Fixed Income Research, Erste Group

PETR ZAHRADNÍK – Project Manager, EU Office Česká spořitelna

11.00-11.15 Coffee break

SESSION II:

Fiscal adjustment from the Czech and Slovak perspective

Topics for discussion:

- Current fiscal stance and consolidation strategies
- Fiscal rules and budgetary frameworks
- Long-term sustainability of public finances
- Tackling inefficiencies in the public sector

11.15-13.00 Chair:
MARTIN LARCH, Advisor, DG ECFIN

Key Speakers: (15 min each)
ELENA REITANO – acting Head of Unit, DG ECFIN
The fiscal position and challenges in both countries

JAN GREGOR, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance, Czech Republic
Key fiscal challenges from the Czech perspective

JAN TÓTH, Chief Economist, Ministry of Finance, Slovakia
Key fiscal challenges from the Slovak perspective

Panellists: (5-10 min each)
JURAJ VALACHY – Senior Analyst, Tatrabanka, Slovakia
TOMÁŠ HOLUB – Executive Director, Czech National Bank
PHILIPP ROTHER – Head of Section, European Central Bank

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

SESSION III:

Structural policies for growth: what reforms are needed to improve the growth potential of the Czech and Slovak economies?

Topics for discussion:

- Differences in labour market performance
- Framework conditions for entrepreneurship and innovation
- Quality of human capital and strategies for its enhancement
- Key structural reforms to increase growth potential

14.00 – 15.45 Chair:
MARY MCCARTHY – Adviser, DG ECFIN

Key speakers: (15 min each)
ROBERT FORD - Deputy Director, Country Studies Branch, OECD
Comparative analysis of key structural challenges in both countries

MARTIN KAHANEC – Assistant Professor, Department of Public Policy, Central European University
Labour market in Slovakia – a persisting structural challenge

LUDEK NIEDERMAYER – Director for Consulting Services, Deloitte Czech Republic
Business environment in the Czech Republic and how to make it more business- and innovation-friendly

Panellists: (5-10 min each)
MARTIN ŠUSTER – Director of Research Department, Slovak National Bank
HELENA HORSKÁ – Chief Analyst, Raiffeisen Bank, Czech Republic

15.45 – 16.00 Concluding remarks by MATTHIAS MORS, Director, DG ECFIN