

press release

POLITICIANS AND SCHOLARS GATHER IN PRAGUE TO ADDRESS KEY EU CHALLENGES

Prague, May 11, 2010 – Following Europe Day, Prague hosted a high level two-day conference of the pan-European network programme organised by the *European Values* and co-financed by the European Commission. Scholars, students, and politicians held an exchange of views on eight different critical challenges the EU is facing today. The topics of the conference “*Towards safer Europe*” included energy dependency, terrorism, competitiveness, climate change and others.

„The conference represents the final stage of an international programme within which fifty young scholars and professionals from 15 EU countries were working on policy papers addressing eight different challenges that are endangering Europe’s freedom, safety and prosperity,” said Radko Hokovsky, the head of the European Values association, which is the founding organization of the European Values Network.

The conference as well as the proposed policy papers dealt with topics such as disengagement and disinterest in democratic politics, demographic decline and its implication for the society, violent radicalisation and terrorism, declining competitiveness of Europe’s economy, growing EU’s energy dependency from unreliable suppliers, climate change, armed conflicts in Europe’s greater neighbourhood and nuclear proliferation.

Mr. Hokovsky added that the eight working groups have met for the first time two months ago in Brussels, where they discussed their topics among themselves and with MEPs, experts from the European Commission, Member State representations and private organizations and think-tanks. In Prague, participants of the European Values Network have discussed their proposals with distinguished experts and with the audience. The final policy papers will be published in June.

A vital part of the conference was also a debate with four political leaders of the current Czech parliamentary parties. Thus, the European Values hosted Mr. Petr Necas (ODS), Mr. Karel Schwarzenberg (TOP09), Mrs. Jana Hybaskova (KDU-CSL) and Mr. Ondrej Liska (The Greens) and talked about the Czech political priorities in the EU after the upcoming general elections in May.

For more information go to www.evropskehodnoty.cz/en or www.europeanvalues.net.

Conference programme to download:

http://www.evropskehodnoty.cz/docs/Konference_EH_10-11.5.pdf

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Evropske hodnoty (European Values), based in Prague, is a non-governmental, non-profit, pro-European think-and-action tank. It was founded in 2005 with the goal to promote freedom, personal responsibility and active civil society. Its main national programmes are regular public debates in the “European Club”, annual international conferences and summer school programs for university students. The Czech European Values association was the founder of the international programme “European Values Network”, which is organized at European level.

Patronage of the EVN 2010: President of the European Parliament, Mr. Jerzy Buzek.

Conference partners: Europe for Citizens programme, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Embassy of France to the Czech Republic, CEZ Group, CERGE-EI, European Movement in the Czech Republic. Media partners: Czech economic daily Mlada fronta E15, Czech Radio 6 and EurActiv.cz.

Organiser: European Values association within the European Values Network