

Czech Republic

You represent the Czech government at the negotiations on the Treaty of Lisbon. On the agenda for today are the discussions on the implementation of the Qualified Majority Voting and the extension of a combined foreign and security policy. Your overall standpoint: You are overall not in favour of the Treaty. In your opinion, it undermines the national sovereignty of the Czech Republic. Although you are certain that your Parliament will ratify the Treaty your President does not plan on signing it. You are looking for other countries who might share your point of view or who might have issues with getting the treaty ratified.

Qualified Majority Voting

A system of voting based on the qualified majority, which is the number of votes required in the Council. The Lisbon Treaty introduced a new system known as “double majority”. This abolishes the weighting of votes. Qualified majority is now achieved if it covers at least 55% of the member states representing at least 65% of the population. Blocking minority: At least four member states representing at least 35% of the population.

Your position

As one of the smaller countries, with only about 2% of the population of Europe you are concerned that QMV will lessen your input in policy decisions. However, you welcome the new concept of a blocking minority. But apart from that your vote also lost some weight so you would have to cooperate with other small countries for finding a better solution.

CFSP – Common Defense and Security Policy

The Lisbon Treaty outlines many opportunities that allow for closer cooperation in Foreign and Security Policy. These measures reach from mechanisms for easier decision-making processes, over rapid access to appropriations in the budget to the possibility of a European Army.

Your position

It is in the interest of the Czech Republic that the EU should be able to respond and act independently. You, therefore, support the development of a complex, effective and operational CSDP which would be complementary to NATO. Other priorities of the Czech Republic include systematic support of partner countries and regional organizations in their capability-building processes. This kind of cooperation can help the countries (or regional organizations) to solve crises and newly-emerged conflicts independently. You have no understanding for countries, who want to remain neutral.

Background

Public Opinion – The Eurobarometer

QA16.7 Trust in the European Union.

“I tend to trust it.”

Czech Republic: 65% vs. EU27: 57%

QA15.2 Trust in the European Commission.

"I tend to trust it."

Czech Republic: 56% vs. EU27: 52%

QA22a Information level in the own Country.

"The people in my country are well informed about European political affairs."

Czech Republic: 29% vs. EU27: 22%

QA19 To which extent do you agree with the statement: "Every European decision is the subject of negotiations in which the opinions of the national government of all member states are taken into account."?

"I agree."

Czech Republic: 67% vs. EU27: 63%

QA27.3: Opinion on a common defence policy among the EU Member States.

"I am for it."

Czech Republic: 87% vs. EU27: 77%

The Czech Parliament

The Czech Parliament: President Vacláv Klaus

The Government: Head of Government Mirek Topolánek

ODS (Civic Democratic Party): 35.38%

KDU-ČSL (Christian and Democratic Union Czechoslovak People's Party): 7.23%

SZ (Green Party): 6.29%.

The Opposition:

KSČM (Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia): 12.81%

ČSSD (Czech Social Democratic Party): 32.32%