



Radek Pech
Director

Prague, July 3rd 2015

109423/2015-OSVE

Dear Ms. Kozlovska,

On behalf of Minister Lubomír Zaorálek, I would like to address your questions concerning the implementation of the EU restrictive measures and the involvement and support that is currently being provided to Ukraine and its people by the Czech Republic.

The position of the Czech Republic towards the crisis in Ukraine has been clear and firm since the beginning. We have not recognized the annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation, which we consider illegal and in direct violation of international law, the Budapest Memorandum and a contravention of the Charter of the United Nations. The Czech Republic has called several times on the Russian Federation to immediately withdraw its military forces from Ukraine, stop the supply of weapons to the separatists and help to secure a political solution to the crisis. As we saw no response to our urges, the Czech Republic joined the EU sanctions in all their phases. Let me assure you that the Czech Republic takes its obligations within the framework of the EU restrictive measures very seriously. We also promote very strongly maintaining EU unity on this issue. Most recently we have supported the EU decision to extend the duration of the economic sanctions by 6 months taken by the Foreign Affairs Council in June 2015.

Besides abiding by the EU restrictive measures, the Czech Republic has also decided to help Ukraine financially and with that in mind, I would like to present you some of our contributions that we have already made or are planning for the near future.

During the year 2014, the Czech Republic spent total of 45 million Czech crowns (approx. 1,64 mil. Euro) on supporting Ukraine. Most of this amount (17,5 mil. CZK) financed medical treatment of civilians injured during the Maidan protests. 12 mil. CZK was used on projects supporting civil society, independent media, reforms and European integration of Ukraine. Another 8,5 mil. CZK was spent directly on humanitarian aid and assistance for refugees, which was redistributed by the Red Cross and UNHCR. The Czech Republic contributed more than 4 mil. CZK to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. There were also other contributions, for instance the Czech Republic allocated 2 mil. CZK to fund scholarships for Ukrainian college and university students.

As for the year 2015, the Czech Republic has allocated more than 90 million CZK (approx. 3,3 mil. Euro) for different forms of support for Ukraine, twice more than the previous year. The Czech Republic will provide humanitarian aid amounting to 33 mil. CZK, most of these resources will be used to support the people affected by the conflict in the east of the country. 23 million CZK will be redistributed by the Czech Development Agency on projects, which will focus on reconstruction of public administration buildings and capacity building for Ukrainian public administration. Another 14,5 mil. CZK will be spent on transformational cooperation projects. The goal of this programme is to support human rights as well as democracy in the country via the transfer of Czech experience and know-how with transition. Furthermore, the Czech Republic will continue to contribute to the OSCE SMM. We will also continue our financial support of scholarships for Ukrainian college and university students. There are 2 mil. CZK allocated for this program, the same amount as for the year 2014.

In conclusion, allow me to express our strong encouragement for the activities of your organization in Ukraine. The Czech Republic has always supported the Ukrainian society in their preference for democracy and political and economic reforms and the role of civil society in achieving these goals can hardly be overestimated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of two distinct parts: a cursive 'L' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Lyudmyla Kozlovska
President
Open Dialog Foundation
Al. J. CH. Szucha 11a/21
Warsaw
Poland