

POSITION PAPER OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

on Chapter 18: Education, Training and Youth

Position of the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic accepts and is ready to implement the Community *acquis* concerning Education, Training and Youth, the year 2003 being taken as the reference date of its accession to the European Union. There will be no problems in the Czech Republic neither with the entry into force of relevant legislation nor with its implementation by the year of accession. Therefore the Czech Republic does not see any reason for requesting any transitory arrangements for this chapter. All necessary institutional infrastructures for implementation and enforcement are in place and operational.

Implementation of the *acquis* in this area is considered in the Czech Republic to be non-problematical, including the Community Directive 486/77. The corresponding legislation is in place. It consists first of all of School Act No. 29/1984 Coll., new Higher Education Act No. 111/1998 Coll., which enters into force from January 1, 1999, the Law on State Administration and Self-Government in Education No. 564/1990 Coll., and following implementing legal acts. There is no conflict between this legislation and the Community laws.

Basic structures are already in place and consist of:

- the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic (MEYS) as a central administrative authority;
- national institutions providing education-related services under the direct responsibility of MEYS, such as: The Educational Research Institute, The Research Institute of Technical and Vocational Education, The Centre for Higher Education Studies, The Institute for Children and Youth, The Institute for Information on Education, The Institute for Educational-Psychological Guidance;
- District School Councils and municipal and local education authorities;
- autonomous School Councils and the Council of Higher Education Institutions.
- national agencies of Community Educational Programmes: Socrates National Agency, National Coordination Unit Leonardo da Vinci, Youth for Europe National Agency.

These structures provide, among others, for participation of the Czech Republic in EU education, vocational training and youth programmes. The Council conclusions and recommendations will be taken up in a Czech White Paper on Education by the end of 1998 and will feature in the new School Act between 2000 and 2001.

In view of the above the Czech republic requests this chapter to be considered as concluded.