



12. 3. 2014 NEW GALLERY, PRAGUE CASTLE

**15 YEARS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN NATO**  
**– OUR SECURITY IS NOT GIVEN**



## **DECLARATION OF LEADERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES ON ENSURING DEFENCE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

**12 March 2014, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the Czech Republic's accession to NATO**

The Czech Republic joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) fifteen years ago and the European Union (EU) ten years ago. Thanks to those alliances, our country has enjoyed an unprecedented level of security, stability and prosperity. Reliability and efficiency of those organisations are not for granted. Assurances of collective defence require continuous efforts and investments.

The Transatlantic dimension of collective defence in NATO and development of the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) constitute the fundamental pillars of our defence and security. We are a full-fledged and active member of both organizations. In return for the benefits of NATO and EU membership, we commit to contributing to NATO and CSDP activities.

The primary mission of our Armed Forces is to ensure defence of the Czech Republic and contribute to the defence of our Allies. Participation in collective defence and the capability to provide host nation support must be an integral part of efforts in building the Czech Republic's defence capabilities. Solidarity with our Allies is a prerequisite for the functioning of collective defence.

Dispatching the Czech Republic's forces and assets to foreign operations in accordance with our country's security and defence interests and as a part of its commitments to NATO is an important element of the shared responsibility for security of Europe and the Transatlantic community. A strong Transatlantic link has a key importance for defence of the Czech Republic and Europe, but sustaining it requires adequate burden sharing among NATO Allies.

In its assessment of the Czech Republic, NATO welcomes that the dramatic decline in defence spending in recent years has been stopped while at the same time it alerts to potentially grave problems with maintaining our defence capabilities in the years ahead unless the Czech Republic takes adequate measures.

We believe it is essential to have an active dialogue with the Czech public and to increase public awareness of the Armed Forces' role and benefits in ensuring defence and security of the Czech Republic. An effective development of the Armed Forces as an integral component of the Czech Republic's security system requires *inter alia* a sufficient and constant support by the public.

We, the undersigned representatives of Parliamentary political parties, confirm our responsibility for security of the Czech citizens and declare our commitment to proceed jointly to a maximum extent possible in advancing steps necessary for security of our country, development of the Armed Forces and fulfilment of our NATO and EU commitments. In accordance with that, we are willing to seek development of an active dialogue and cooperation between the opposition and the coalition government.

We, the representatives of Parliamentary political parties, affix our signatures in confirmation of our commitment to form a group of experts tasked to draft the "Agreement of the political representation on ensuring defence of the Czech Republic". Our aim is to negotiate and sign the document ahead of the NATO Summit in September 2014.

Chairman of ANO, Mr. Andrej Babiš .....

Chairman of ČSSD, Mr. Bohuslav Sobotka .....

Chairman of KDU – ČSL, Mr. Pavel Bělobrádek .....

Chairman of KSČM, Mr. Vojtěch Filip .....

Chairman of ODS, Mr. Petr Fiala .....

Chairman of TOP 09, Mr. Karel Schwarzenberg .....

Chairman of Úsvit přímé demokracie, Mr. Tomio Okamura .....