

## **Abstract of this Study**

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### **Enlargement of the European Union towards the East Energy and Environment Policy of the Czech Republic**

This study offers background information on the Czech Republic with a focus on environment and energy policy. After 2002, with the projected Eastern enlargement of the European Union, the EU will experience its fifth enlargement since 1973 (1<sup>st</sup> 1973: UK, Ireland, Denmark; 2<sup>nd</sup> 1981: Greece; 3<sup>rd</sup> 1986: Spain, Portugal; 4<sup>th</sup> 1995: Austria, Sweden, Finland). The ten EU candidates from Central and Eastern Europe (CEEC) have experienced a dual transformation process: a) of the *economic system*: from a socialist planning to a liberal market economy; and b) of the *political system*: from democratic centralism towards parliamentary democracy.

This study pursues three aims: a) an assessment of the political process of Eastern enlargement of the EU until 31 December 1999 and of the present financial and support programmes in the energy and environment areas; b) an analysis of the legal achievement of the EU (*acquis communautaire*) in these two policy areas; and c) considerations and conclusions for the necessary adaptation process in order to overcome the gap between the present situation in the Czech Republic and the goals to be negotiated in the membership treaty with the EU by political measures. This study focuses at the process of EU enlargement for the Czech Republic (part I) for the two policy areas: energy (part II) and environment (part III).

The first part addresses the activities of the EU organs: of the *European Council*, of the Council of the *Energy and Environment* ministers, of the Directorate General for foreign relations (*DG IB*), of the Directorate General for Environment (*DG XI*), of the Directorate General for Energy (*DG XVII*), and of the Directorate General for Research and Development (*DG XII*), and of the *European Parliament* represented by three committees for: a) foreign affairs, security and defence; b) for environment, public health and protection of the consumers, and c) for research, technological development and energy.

In the second and third part these issues will be reviewed: i) the policy areas and the international financial and support measures (chapters 3, 6); ii) the so-called *acquis* (chapters 4, 7); and iii) the adaptation with respect to the EU legal standards that has already been achieved and that is still required (chapters 5, 8). The fourth part offers several conclusions and recommendations within the framework of the bilateral German and Czech political, economic and environment relations.

This study is based on an analysis of the available statistical data of international organisations (OECD, IEA, EU, EEA, WB, EBRD) and of the Czech Environment Institute, of legal acts of the EU (*acquis*), on secondary literature on both policy areas and on an intensive analysis of sources available on the internet by national authorities, international organisations, non-governmental organisations and research institutions in Europe (specifically in the Czech Republic and in Germany) and in North America.

#### **Contact for this Study:**

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