



**LIGHTHOUSE  
EUROPE** —  
**Your voice in the EU**



# Engaging with the Czech presidency of the Council of the European Union

Commercial offer

## Why act with Lighthouse Europe during the Czech Presidency?

After France, the Czech Republic will hold the rotating presidency of the Council of the EU for the second half of 2022.

### Why should you seek to influence the Czech Republic at EU level?

- ▲ The Czech Republic has the **lowest unemployment rate in the EU**, at just 2.3% in Q4 of 2021, and a **higher economic growth projection** for 2022 than the EU average.
- ▲ The Czech Republic is part of the **Visegrad Group**, commonly referred to as the V4, alongside **Slovakia, Poland, and Hungary**, which collectively account for 14% of the EU's population and 108 MEPs in the European Parliament.
- ▲ The Czech Republic is **2nd in this rotating Council Presidency Trio**, following France in the first half of 2022, and ahead of Sweden in 2023.



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## "Europe as a task: rethink, rebuild, repower."

- inspired by the words of Václav Havel,  
First President of the Czech Republic

On **1 July 2022**, the Czech Republic will take over the **6-month rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union**. The Czech Republic will be responsible for **coordinating and prioritising the different political inclinations** of EU Member States.

Given the current geopolitical context, some of the priorities defined by the trio (France, Czechia, and Sweden) have been postponed, whilst new challenges have emerged to which the EU must respond.

Following the crisis brought on by the **COVID-19 pandemic**, the **situation in Ukraine** has highlighted the need to ensure the **European Union's sovereignty** in various policies such as energy independence, food security, digital and technology standards, as well as defence capacity. Regarding the updated priorities of the EU, it is very likely that some of the proposed policies by the Czech Republic will overlap with and impact your business interests.

**Continue reading to learn how Lighthouse Europe can help your business prepare for the Czech Presidency, and to find out why you should act now to take advantage of this exceptional opportunity for the next six months.**

## What are the timeline and priorities?

### A reminder of the Trio priorities

- Protecting citizens and freedoms
- Building economic foundations: European model for the future
- Building a climate-neutral, green, equitable, and social Europe
- Promoting European interests and values in the world

- Managing the refugee crisis and the renewal of post-war Ukraine
- Energy security
- Strengthening Europe's defense capabilities and cybersecurity
- Strategic resilience of the European economy
- Resilience of democratic institutions

### Czech priorities

## Key dates of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU

July

August

September

October

November

December

▲ **End of June:** The Czech Republic presents its priorities for the Council Presidency

▲ **End of June:** The work programme and events calendar of the Presidency are published

**July to December:** Key sectoral EU Council sessions take place by policy area

▲ **23-24 September:** Czech Senate elections and municipal elections

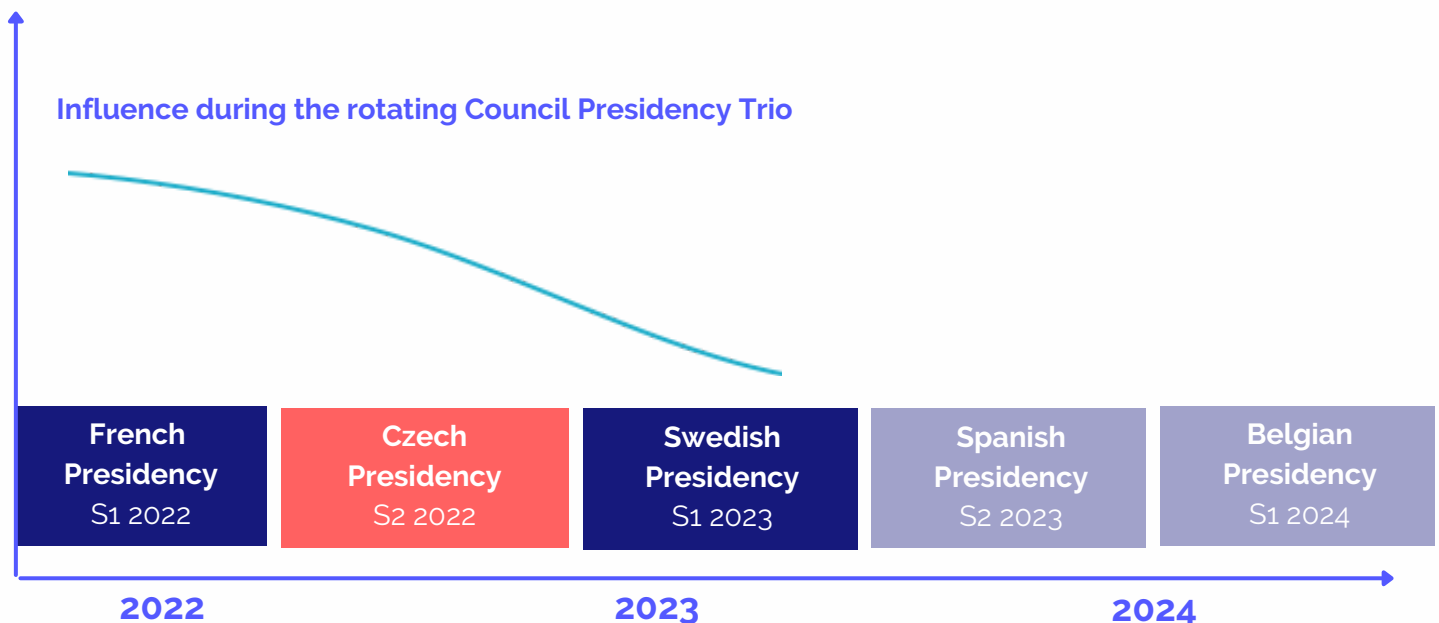
**End of December:** Work programme of Presidency is concluded ▲

**End of December:** Sweden presents its priorities and work programme for the Council Presidency ■

## Why should you act now?

- ▶ Czechia presented its political priorities on 15 June 2022.
- ▶ The Czech Republic's progress will impact the following and final presidency of the trio. There is an opportunity to influence the political agenda of the Swedish presidency.
- ▶ The policies proposed by the Czech Republic will have a strong influence on the internal market as well as on strategic partnerships with third countries due to the consequences of the Ukrainian crisis.
- ▶ Actions taken now will impact both the Czech Presidency and national politics.
- ▶ In the current context, the Czech Presidency aims to lead a common reflection on European tasks at hand as quickly as possible, in order to ensure peace and security, reach the long-term goals of the green and digital transitions, and mitigate the current economic and social challenges.

### Engaging early can increase the chances of success



## Who are the Key National Targets?

With established offices in Brussels and Paris, Lighthouse Europe is ideally situated to help you reach **key policymakers at the EU and national levels**. We can help you reach multiple stakeholder networks through our membership in the **Brussels Group**, the **Cercle des Délégués Permanents Français (CDPF)**, and the **CCI France Belgique**.

Our consultancy also works in partnership with **Momentum Avocats** and **Vae Solis Communication** for legal support and public relations.



Some meetings we may help arrange for you include:

- **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic:** coordinates the activities of state bodies in the field of foreign relations, as well as engagement with EU Member States and the European institutions.
- **The Section for European Affairs of the Czech Government:** ensures the coordination and adoption of Czech positions related to EU affairs and is in charge of formulation and implementation of the Czech Republic's policies vis-à-vis the EU.
- **The Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU:** provides intelligence and negotiates the Czech position at the EU level.
- **National coordinators and experts in each Ministry:** provide technical expertise.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Czech Republic



Permanent Representation  
of the Czech Republic  
to the European Union



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## How can Lighthouse Europe support you?

- ▶ **Learn what is at stake and who are the key decision-makers:**
  - Monitoring: providing you with key legislative updates and relevant news, analysed and reported as they happen
  - Mapping: identifying key stakeholders and opportunities for strategic relationships
- ▶ **Bring support to define your issues and messages:**
  - Narrative-building: define and refine key narratives on the issues that matter to you
  - Multi-lingual written support: assistance in drafting position papers, briefings, sign-on letters, and more, with native English, Czech, French, Italian, and Spanish speakers
- ▶ **Engage directly with key stakeholders and build coalitions:**
  - Networking: take advantage of our existing network of decision-makers to foster new relationships
  - Engagement: meeting organisation, coalition-building, and other activities to strengthen your business's presence and influence
- ▶ **Analyse and bring long-term strategic insights**

## Let's meet

Lighthouse Europe is a Brussels and Paris-based public affairs consultancy.

Lighthouse Europe helps you understand and react to the impact of European and national legislation on your businesses, and helps you participate in decision-making processes.

**You are welcome to meet with our team in person or virtually.**

### OUR CZECH PRESIDENCY TASK FORCE

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