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1.4. Protection of human rights

ĚSSD seeks to form a society of freedom and togetherness based on mutual tolerance and respect, freedom of religion and political plurality. We will insist on the establishment of a monitoring mechanism guarding the enforcement of human rights and related to the legislative process. We will ensure that the state authorities monitor violations of human rights and provide protection against attacks on basic human rights and freedoms. We will propose a bill on the establishment of a national council for the protection of human rights consisting of prominent personalities in public life.

We will review the act concerning Czech citizenship. We will propose its amendment in order to allow all the former Czech citizens who at the time of the split-up of the Czech-Slovak Federal Republic (ĚSFR) lived and still live in the Czech Republic to acquire Czech citizenship. In accordance with the existing legal regulations we believe that the Czech citizenship of a few tens of thousand Czechs who after the split-up of Czechoslovakia acquired by choice also Slovak citizenship is in doubt. We are in favour of a legal change allowing in justified cases double citizenship. This is to help the Czech citizens having permanent residence as foreigners in Slovakia after the split-up of ĚSFR, since they have, not by their own fault, fewer rights than other citizens in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

The present membership of the Czech Republic in the Council of Europe and our future integration in the EU will help the Czech society overcome negative attitudes towards people speaking, looking and living differently which are a by-product of any isolated society. We will do everything to make the Czech society open towards Europe and the world in as reasonable manner as possible and to change it gradually into a multicultural society. We will finalise the new legislative amendment concerning refugees which will conform the current legislation with the international standards. Our aim is to achieve a level where the respect of humanitarian attitudes is in equilibrium with the need to limit the negative effects of migration flows.

We will insist on full implementation of the rights of members of national and ethnic minorities. We will ensure that the commitments and obligations emanating from the Charter of basic rights and freedoms and also the Frame agreement on the protection of national minorities are strictly followed and enforced. We will focus our attention on all minorities living in the Czech Republic and we see as the most serious and undoubtedly most complex problem in this context the co-existence of the majority part of the society with the Roman minority. We consider the Roman community a natural element of Czech society. The civil principle as a basis for solving this problem will be supported by specific programs designed for the Roman minority in those cases where the existing handicaps cannot be overcome by approaches used for the society as whole. We will prepare programs to increase the awareness of the Czech majority on Romans and to upgrade the education of the Romans. We will adjust the social benefits system so that it motivates them to achieve more education, higher qualification and to try to get employment. Addressing these issues we want to work with as large a part of the Roman community as possible.

ĚSSD considers the right to life, property and health and protection against criminals an integral part of basic human rights and therefore intends to resolutely face all the forms of criminality regardless of the position or origins of the offender. As a part of the enforcement of legal and factual protection against race discrimination and other race-motivated acts we will insist on enforcing penalties for especially violent attacks according to the already valid provisions of the criminal act as well as administrative means of protection in cases of discrimination. We are determined to consistently fulfil all the commitments related to the International agreement on the elimination of all forms of race discrimination and to enforce their observance. We prefer prevention and will employ various social and cultural programs designed not only for the Romans, but also for other ethnic groups of inhabitants. We will stand against xenophobia, cultural and social intolerance and any kind of racist expressions very decisively and consistently. We will ensure that state authorities act decisively in dealing with offenders committing criminal acts with racial motives.

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