

4.2. Defence

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In order to have an effective defence we propose an amendment to the National Defence Strategy and approval of the military strategy of the Czech Republic not later than in 2000 with a projection for the years 2005-2010.

ÈSSD wants to build the defence and the Army in accordance with the Constitution of the Czech Republic and the National Security Strategy. In this connection ÈSSD undertakes to ensure the protection of national interests in accordance with the principles of citizenship, humanism and non-negotiable values of human dignity and freedom. In accordance with this it will seek to make the Army one of the guarantors of our independence, state sovereignty, territorial integrity and the peaceful development of the country.

The enforcement of the principles of state policy in the area of safety and security in the country and preparedness of the armed units and the Army is impossible without the participation and the fulfilling the rights and obligations of all citizens, state and self-governing authorities and legal entities.

A very important aspect of this process lies in the strategic interest of the Czech Republic to become a member of the Alliance organizations of collective defence of democratic countries, especially NATO, West European Union and to play an active role in the activities of the UN, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other structures of collective and co-operative security. This requires the whole of society, state authorities, political parties and civil associations to devote on-going attention to military issues, defence and the Army.

In spite of the tendency towards the internationalization and denationalization of defence, ÈSSD still considers the development of our own armed forces a primary issue with the stress on forming and training of fast action units for territorial defence. The admission to NATO is a priority of our foreign policy and while stressing the principle of mutual solidarity we see it as a reinforcement of our security and defence capability. For this reason we have to train armed forces and gain the support of citizens.

ÈSSD wants to increase the strike-power and capacity for action of the Army and to improve its preparedness for incorporation into the international security structures. The Army must also be ready to act within the integrated rescue system in case of non-military threats, e.g. acts of God, industrial and ecological catastrophes and accidents.

ÈSSD insists on the effective use of economic resources and it would therefore prefer a military budget adequate for the proposed strategy and Alliance obligations subject to the economic capability of the country. At the same time it will stress the extended and preferential use of our own scientific and technological platform and Czech industry, especially with regard to the modernization of the Army. In accordance with this policy ÈSSD will enforce the accepted strategies of the defence industry as a support of its development and export capacity.

ÈSSD wants to make sure that all the human, financial and material resources are used with the help of the reinforcement of the inner Army control.

We require a greater efficiency of the Command, increasing their motivation, evaluation of their demanding profession and greater social securities. One of the prerequisites is the termination of the army education transformation, recruitment of young, capable people to military professions and trying to ensure that they stay in the Army in order to meet the demands of maintaining the number of professional servicemen recruited.