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Analysing national climate strategies in the CEE region

Climate change is clearly a top priority issue among environmental matters today. Considering the size of the threat, the capacities devoted to the issue, as well as the interconnectedness of environmental and development issues, what is happening in the field of climate change is largely decisive for the state of environment.

Unfortunately there are many attempts nowadays to make climate change a separate sector and seek technological solutions for the mitigation and adaptation challenges. However, as experience shows, such approach does not lead to long term solutions, but instead expand the problem and transfer environmental pressure to other fields. There are already signs that climate change actions lead to ecosystem degradation, which in turn further deteriorates also the climate problem.

As being parties of the Kyoto protocol, EU Member States are obliged to develop their national programmes on climate change mitigation and adaptation. CEEweb has compiled a questionnaire about these strategies in order to assess CEE governments' approach to climate change. Our goal with this survey is to draw EU and national decisionmakers' attention to the critical points and deficiencies in current climate change policies and thus prevent adopting further false "solutions". Eventually our aim is to work for a sufficient and holistic climate policy both in national and EU level.

Questions regarding National Climate Strategies

Please list the source documents you used.

A. NATIONAL PROGRAM TO ABATE THE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC (2004)

English version (110 pages):

[http://www.env.cz/www/klima.nsf/defc72941c223d62c12564b30064fdcc/e4d45341c003b8f6c1256e2e00442c70/\\$FILE/D-71-04-reviewed%20NPCC.pdf](http://www.env.cz/www/klima.nsf/defc72941c223d62c12564b30064fdcc/e4d45341c003b8f6c1256e2e00442c70/$FILE/D-71-04-reviewed%20NPCC.pdf)

B. Evaluation of the NATIONAL PROGRAM TO ABATE THE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC (2007) (no english version)

C. Fourth National Communication of the Czech Republic on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Demonstrable Progress Report on Implementation of the Kyoto Protocol (2005)

English version (100 pages):

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/natc/czenc4.pdf#page=85>

1. As a principle, does the Strategy identify the **constant economic growth** in terms of growing energy and material use as a main driver of climate change?

yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.1. If yes, does it propose the decrease of demands, namely, the use of energy and material under a certain carrying capacity?

yes		no	
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1.2. Does it aim to change the drivers for the growing use of energy and material, namely, the structure of production and consumption?

yes	X	no	
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A main problem of CZ is identified as a high CO₂ emissions per capita and per GDP – the Czech CO₂ per GDP is significantly above the European average.

2. Does the strategy focus on the whole scale of **environmental pressures**?

yes	X	no	
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2.1. Emissions

2.1.1. Does it propose that the emission of CO₂ should decrease under a certain limit?

yes	X	no	
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- reduce CO₂ emissions per capita to 2020 by 30 % compared to 2000,
- reduce total aggregate CO₂ emissions to 2020 by 25 % compared to 2000,
- increase the share of renewables in primary energy sources consumption to 6 % by 2010 and to 20 % by 2030
- reduce energy intensity in the area of production, distribution and final consumption of energy to a level of 60 % to 70 % of current primary energy sources consumption of in 2030;
- increase the share of use of biofuels to 5.75 % in 2010 and attain a fraction of 20 % of use of all alternative fuels in transport in 2020

2.1.2. Does it propose that the emission of other greenhouse gases should decrease under a certain limit?

yes		no	x
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If yes, for which greenhouse gases?

2.1.3. Does it propose that the emission of other polluting compounds (e.g. toxic materials) should decrease under a certain limit?

yes		no	X
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2.2. Excessive use of **natural resources**

2.2.1. Does the Strategy estimate a sum of the use of natural resources?

yes		no	X
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If yes, are externalities included?

yes		no	X
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2.2.2. Does the Strategy assign the realistic price of natural resources (e.g. tax or quota on greenhouse gases and natural resources)?

yes	X	no	
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If yes, how?

Ecological taxation reform – continuously increasing tax on electricity, coal, gas, petrol

2.2.3. Does the Strategy aim to minimize the waste of material and energy through closed cycles in the production and consumption?

yes		no	X
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It is mentioning a new waste legislation, but it is just mainly about implementation of the EU legislation and therefore it can not be counted as domestic policy.

2.3. Taking **land from nature**

2.3.1. Does it aim to stop further degradation of habitats?

yes		no	X
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2.3.2. Does it propose that the cover and coherence of natural or semi-natural habitats should not decrease?

yes		no	X
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2.3.3. Does it propose that rehabilitation or reconstruction of degraded ecosystems is needed?

yes		no	X
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2.3.4. Does it propose, that the structure of landscape as a whole should be diversified, to strengthen natural interactions and ecosystem services including climate regulation?

yes		no	X
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(just promotes reforestation of not used agriculture land)

2.3.5. Which of the following sectoral provisions are included in the Strategy? (please underline)

conservation

- maintaining heterogenic structure of habitats, with different stages of succession
- fighting against invasive species
- ensuring permeability of the landscape to allow connectivity of the habitats and to enable species migration
- establishing green corridors
- reconsidering and, if needed, enlarging the area of protected land and Natura 2000 in the light of climate change

forestry

- increasing the forested area
- close to nature forest management

agriculture

- supporting traditional agriculture (meadows, pastures)
- enhancing heterogeneity of agricultural landscape (small parcel size, balks, hedges, alleys) to increase connectivity of habitats
- taking steps against expansion of intensive agriculture and large monocultures which cause the isolation of habitats
- supporting environment-friendly methods
- supporting soil- and water-friendly technologies adjusted to the attributes of the site
- supporting extensive and ecological farming
- using locally adapted breeds

2.4 Does the Strategy recognize that beside direct ones, there are many **by-pass (indirect) pressures** leading to climate change, the identifying of which requires a coherent system-thinking (e.g. excessive use of fertilizers, through the formation of nitrogen oxides)?

yes	X	no	
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2.5 Does the Strategy count with **virtual pressure**? (pressure brought on the environment by imported products or natural resources)

yes		no	X
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3. Does the Strategy aim to **raise public awareness** about the climate change, pressures, drivers and responses in a holistic manner?

yes		no	X
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4. Does the Strategy aim to satisfy the future needs of energy with **renewable energy sources**?

yes	X	no	
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4.1. Does it prefer sources which are not depletable (solar and wind energy)?

yes		no	X
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4.2. Does it prefer biomass including biofuels?

yes	X	no	
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4.3. Does it aim to protect forests and other natural or semi-natural ecosystems from the land use change due to the growing need for biomass?

yes		no	X
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4.4. Does the Strategy determine the possible locations and maximum areas of biomass plantations?

yes		no	X
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5. Is the Strategy part of a **coherent environmental policy** with holistic approach? Does the Strategy propose to integrate the policy of climate change in the following policies? (if yes, please underline)

- agri-environmental and forest-environmental programmes
- Water Framework Directive activities
- rural development
- regional development plans
- authority permissions
- energy policy

5.1. Has a permanent consultation body on climate policy been proposed, for the synthesis of knowledge, development of adaptation strategies, and sectoral integration?

yes		no	X
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(it exists, was not proposed by the National scheme, NGO has one representative there, but the body meets just 2 times a year for 2 hours)

5.2. Does the Strategy aim to support scientific research on the ecological aspects of climate change?

yes		no	X
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6. Does the strategy propose a **monitoring system** to detect ecological changes due to climate change?

yes		no	X
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Ecological changes are being monitored by Czech Hydrometeorological Institute

6.1. Does it aim to integrate this monitoring system into existing national and international monitoring networks?

yes		no	X
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6.2. What are the indicators?

CEEweb for Biodiversity is a network of non-governmental organizations in the Central and Eastern European region. Our mission is the conservation of biodiversity through the promotion of sustainable development.