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RECETOX and Czech PRESIDENCY

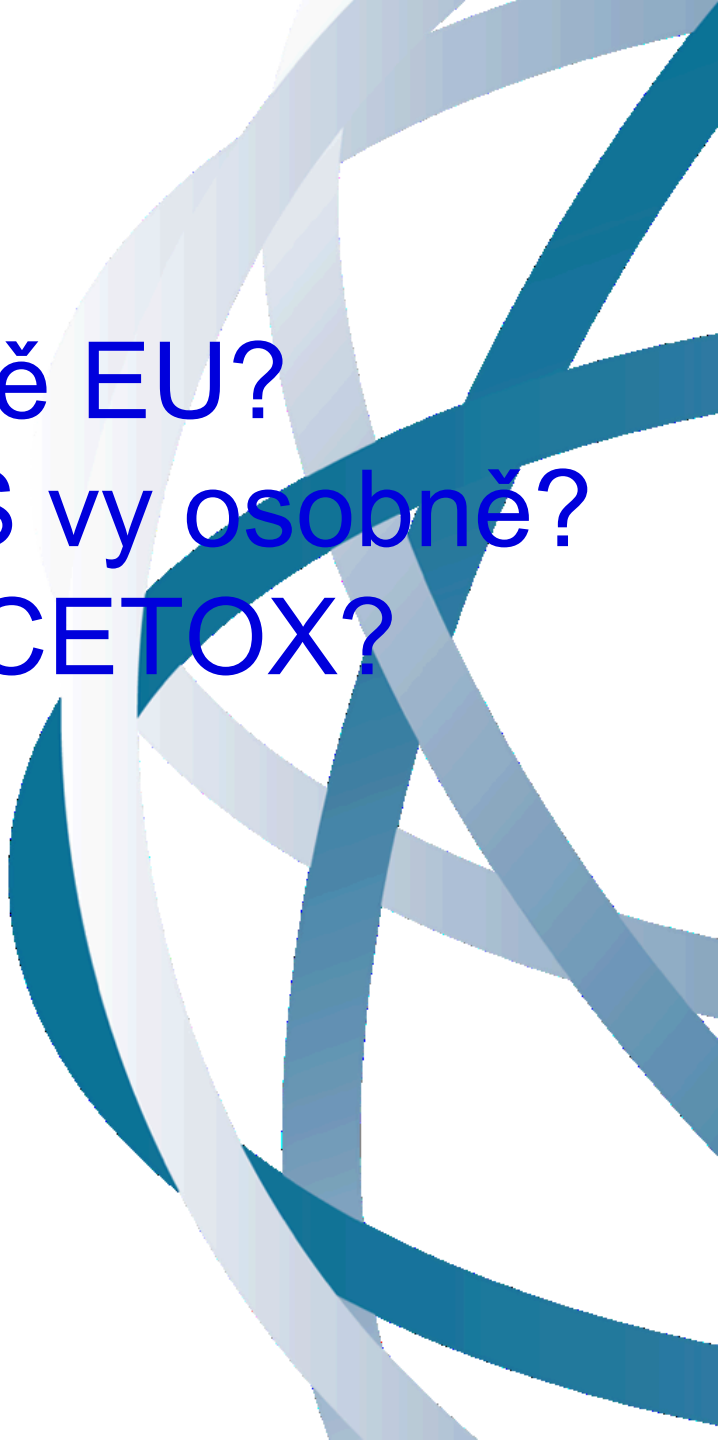
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Co víte o předsednictví v Radě EU?
Zachytli jste nějaký výstup CZ PRES vy osobně?
Kde si myslíte, že se zapojil RECETOX?



Content

Presidency of the EU...

Presidency in the EU history

CZ PRES in 2009

CZ PRES in 2022 and RECETOX

- chemicals
- global issues
- regional issues



PRESIDENCY of the EU...

= one of 27 Member states leads and speaks for the EU for 6 months

- Test of administrative capacities and staff (expertise, endurance)
 - Visibility, PR – 6 months of GLORY
 - Test of cooperation: 3 PRES = Troika
- Rotation and impartiality principles: all equal
 - Internal and external EU issues



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- „European Ritual“ – cooperation with other institutions – unity and cooperation
- Chance to shine, all wants to talk to you: "stardom"
- ...also exhaustion, 100 h of negotiations per week

Ted' píšeme
budoucnost
Evropy



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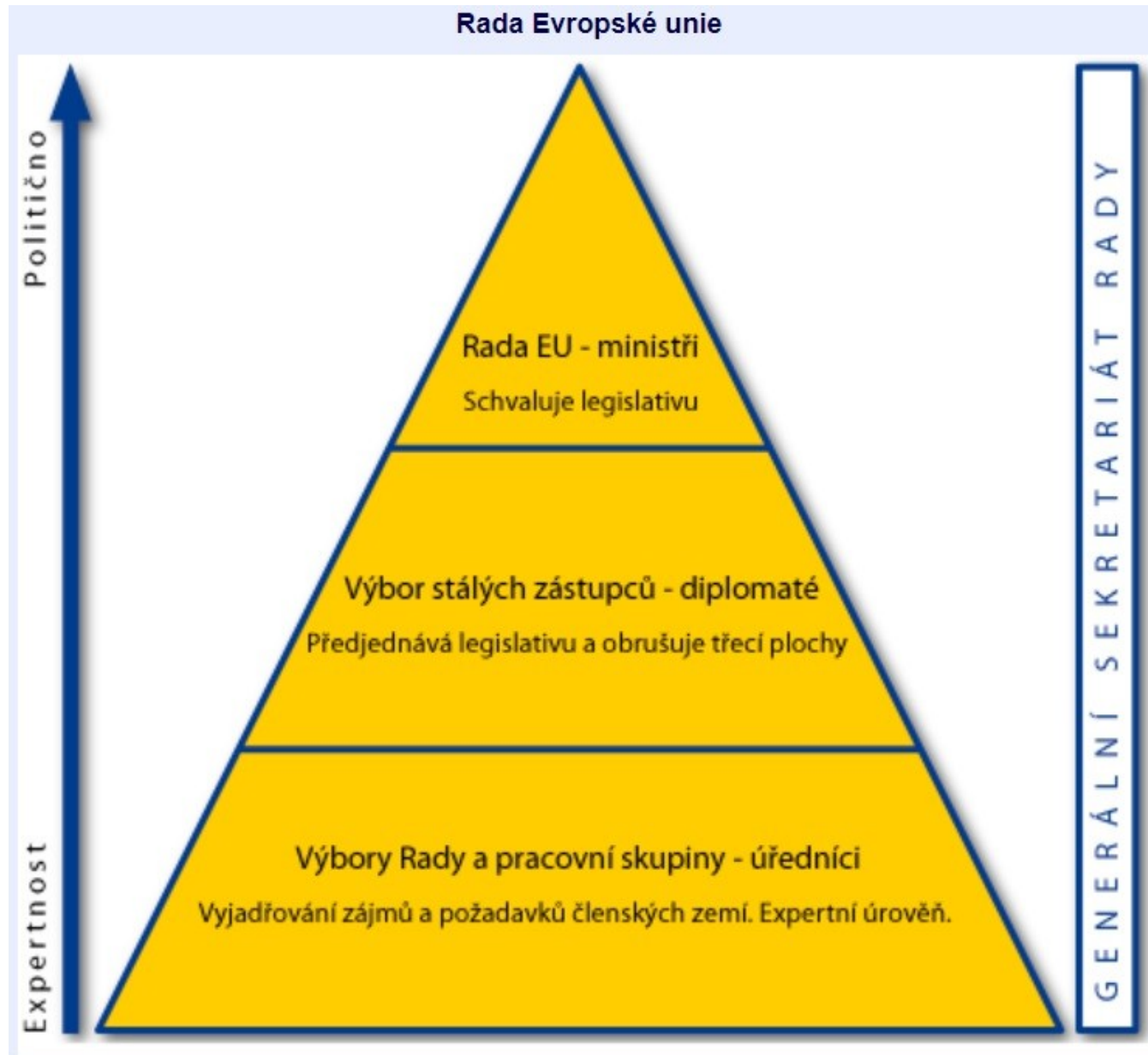






GERMAN

Co je předsednictví - kde se děje (úrovně)



PRESIDENCY of the EU... - úrovně

Council

- Independent European Council (1974)
- Ministerial Councils (10 formations: e.g. Environment, Agriculture, Industry, Education, Defense, Health...)
- Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER)
- Committees and working groups („Party“): WPE and WP IEI

PRESIDENCY of the EU... technická úroveň/vnitřní a vnější otázky

WP on Environment (WPE)

- Negotiations of legislative proposals (CLP, REACH etc.)
- Leads/experts: capital with Permanent Representation's attachés
- CZ PRES 2022: without RECETOX

WP on International Environmental Issues – J2 (WP IEI J2)

- Main topic: coordination of EU's positions for international meetings
- **CZ PRES 2022 and RECETOX** – WP IEI Chemicals, WP IEI UNECE – Efe, WP IEI UNECE – CTEIA, WP IEI Global

Role of the EU Presidency (presiding country)

- Administration and steering of the Council of the EU
- Setting priorities and agenda of the Presidency based on a balance between national interests and the EU agenda as a whole
- Negotiations, mediation
- Representation of the Council of the EU (external and internal)
- Organizational, logistical, financial and personnel provisions, PR and media activities
- **ČR** (7 – 12/2022) - **SE** (1 – 6/2023) - **ES** (7 – 12/2023) /// **BE** (1 – 6/2024) /// **HU** (7 – 12/2024) /// **PL** (1 – 6/2024) etc.

ROLE: PRES nastavuje kalendář jednání

European Councils



Council meetings (different formations)



Coreper II and I meetings, PSC meetings



Šipka =
počty
jednání

meetings of different committees (SCA, CATS...)



Working Party meetings (WPE, WP IEI...)

ROLE: ale i další jednání

- ▶ Meetings of various bodies of the Council of the EU in Brussels
- ▶ Informal meetings of the Council in the Czech Republic
- ▶ Ministerial meetings, conferences, expert and other political level meetings in the Czech Republic (regional aspect)
- ▶ EU summits
- ▶ International organizations meetings



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Questions?

A bit of history: the beginnings (1950s)

- **Gradual shaping of EU PRES** – minimally elaborated upon in the the EC (ESUO) treaties
- **First references:**
 - **1951** – Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community – 3-months (!) / rotation in alphabetical order = weak and formal
 - **March 1957** – Treaty of Rome – 6 months, main task: convening Council Meetings

1960s

Gradual decline of supranationalism and dawn of intergovernmental paradigm + outward representation = demand for policy-making

- **Turning point: Luxembourg compromise - 1966**

- Charles de Gaulle: against qualified majority voting in Council and transfer of a part of budget decisions to EP = conflict (FR withdrew from Brussels and leaves „empty chair“ in Council)
 - Outcome: when „vital national interests“ affected, negotiations MUST end with a compromise
- = Council strengthened (MS)

1970s

- European Communities enlargement (UK, DK, Ireland) + **European Council establishment** (1974) + foreign affairs agenda
- ... several proposals for reform: a **Three wise men report** (initiative of Valéry Giscard d'Estaing – French President



- **1980's** –Stuttgart Summit (1983) = „**Solemn Declaration on EU**“ – requested making PRES more effective + first specific requests (informing the EP after each Council meeting vs. only 1 per year in the past)

(picture: first European Council meeting – 11 March 1975, Dublin)

1980s: Single European Act and Maastricht Treaty

- **Single Act (1987)** – formal introduction of the Council into the Treaties (Art. 2)
 - Introduction of cooperation procedure with the EP
 - **Qualified majority voting re-introduction** = more pressure on PRES in terms of negotiating competencies
- **Treaty on EU (1991)** – co-decision procedure introduced officialy = yet more complex negotiations and new challenges for PRES

1990s and EU Constitution

- **Amsterdam Treaty (1997)**
- **High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy** = a new „player“ that competes with the PRES in representing the EU
- **1990's** – a lot of reform endeavours (5-year stint / collective PRES of 4 MS)
- **A special „chapter“: Council Rules of Procedure** – main tool for Council operations – the most solid and important document
- Most significant attempt at modifying Council proceedings – EU Constitution (failed)

Post 2000: Lisbon Treaty

- Lisbon Treaty (2009)
- Introduction of a permanent Council President (art. 15)
- Confirmation of qualified majority voting – double majority
- Citizens' initiative
- National Parliaments' role strengthening

New „player“ – Permanent President of the Council



RECETOX and CZ PRES

What did we do in 2009?



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What did we do in 2009?

- Very heavy technical agenda,
- team of a total of 50 different people, experts on Hg, POPs, legislation, monitoring, industrial management, ...
- all meetings in Brussels in person (10 meetings)
- 3 big meetings one week-long each – Nairobi and Geneva
- RECETOX experts involved : Ivan Holoubek, Pavel Čupr, Jana Klánová

- Negotiation of "mercury mandate" [early February 2009](#)
- Stockholm Convention COP4 – [May 2009](#)
 - negotiation of Stockholm Convention Regional Centres
 - Global monitoring plan reports
 - 9 new chemicals to be listed in the Stockholm Convention
- ICCM2 meeting - Geneva [mid May 2009](#)

What about 2022?

RECETOX and Czech Presidency in the EU in 2022

- 2nd time RECETOX is involved (2009, very heavy chemicals agenda)
- support to Ministry of Environment in WP IEI (J2) setting - global/synergies/chemical
- support to other ministries (MoH, MoEYS) - council meetings
- representing/chairing the EU working groups
- organizing meetings/side events



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Selection of events:

Global chemicals management beyond 2020 (IP4 meeting in Bucharest August-September)

Informal WP Global in Prague (September)

Global Science to Policy Panel (Bangkok, Thailand, October 2022)

Environment for Europe process (October)

ICRI (Brno, October 2022)

Symposium on Environmental Health and Transformative research Brussels (November 2022)

Industrial Accidents Convention COP (Geneva, November 2022)...

(J2) WPIEI – Working Party on International Environmental Issues

- chaired by experts from capital (Ministry of Environment), not attended by perm rep from the PRES team /unless specified/
- covers global/international meetings and agreements that EU and MS are Parties to
- EU internal preparation for international meetings - Brussels or virtually
- daily EU coordinations in international meetings (on the spot)
- Topics:
 - climate change (expert subgroups BUDGET, BUNKERS, DCEG, EGFA, HTEC, LEX, LULUCF, atd.)
 - Global issues -sustainable development/UNEP (formations CSD/Agriculture, CSD/Desertification, UNEP/Chemicals, CSD/crosscutting, CSD/Afrika atd.)
 - Biodiversity
 - biosafety
 - international chemicals and or synergies
 - desertification
 - Basel Convention
 - Aarhus Convention
 - CLRTAP and EEC (EHK OSN)
 - Montreal Protocol (ozone depleting substances)
 - *PRTR, Espoo Convention, CITES, regional environmental agreements : no preparation in Brussels, only coordination on the spot*

(J2) WPIEI – what do we do?

The Presidency leads/drafts/coordinates preparation of:

- background papers
- position papers
- comments
- speaking points
- conclusions
- as well as any joint presentation of the EU (documents, brochures, exhibitions)
- ... and chairs the meetings



International meetings - main actors

- **developed countries**

- WEOG (incl. 17 EU countries)

- JUSSCANNZ

- EU

- **intra-regional (CEE)**

- EU (12)

- Russia + Russian speaking non-EU

- non Russian speaking non-EU

- **developing countries**

- G77 + China

- LDC, SIDS, DC and/or CEIT
(vs. OECD DAC list...)

- African group

- Asian group

- LAC group

- Brazil, India, China, Iran...

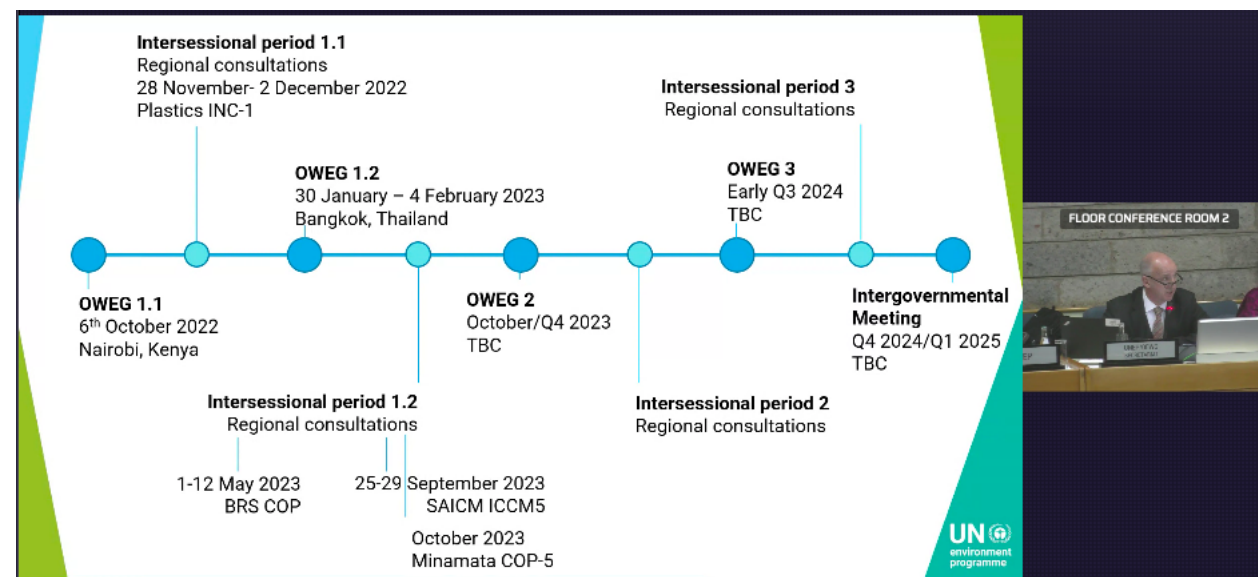
International meetings - beyond 2020 framework

- Intersessional Process to prepare new framework on sound chemicals management beyond 2020 (post-**SAICM**)
- IP4 meeting in Bucharest 29/8-2/9 2022
- co-chairs of the process Ms. Kay Williams (UK) and Ms. Judith Torres (Uruguay)
- after 2 years “break”
- restart to prepare final text for ICCM5 consideration/endorsement - September 2022
- one consolidated text
- ... IP 4.1 (adjourned) ... and IP4.2. to be held in Nairobi end February 2023



International meetings - SPP


- Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on a Science-Policy Panel to Contribute Further to the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste and to Prevent Pollution (AH OEWG SPP)
- on the basis of UNEA 5/8 resolution on science-policy panel should be established to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution
- First session: AH-OEWG SPP 1.1. - 6 October 2022, Nairobi + hybrid
- AH-OEWG SPP 1.2 - tentative 30 January - 4 February 2023, Bangkok, in person
- preparation of the EU position
- webinars / questionnaires
- meeting documents are “pending”
- speaking points



International Meetings: Regional Issues

- **WP IEI UNECE – CEP/CTEIA**
- Prepares EU positions for the **UNECE instruments** on environment
- Linked to ministerial/high-level events: **9th Environment for Europe Conference** + Conference of Parties of the **CTEIA** (heavily affected by the RF aggression against Ukraine..)
- **RECETOX**: Lukáš Pokorný and MoE PRES Team – coordination and presentation of EU positions, negotiations with third parties

International Meetings: Global issues

- **WP IEI Global**
- Prepares EU positions for global issues – UNEA, plastics treaty...
- Each PRES organises „informal“ meetings: this year to prepare for the negotiations on the plastic treaty (Uruguay, 11-12/2022)
- **RECETOX:** O. Adamovský key-note presentation on microplastics
 input into Uruguay negotiations



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Symposium o environmentálním zdraví, 9.listopadu 2022 v Bruselu

- akce v rámci CZ PRES, stálá mise CZ v Bruselu, pod záštitou Ministra pro Evropské záležitosti Mikuláše Beka a rektora MU Martina Bareše
- 2 vědecké panely
vztahy mezi globálním znečištěním, klimatickou změnou, biodiverzitou a lidským zdravím.

Martin Scheringer (RECETOX MU a ETH v Zürichu)

Ralf Schulz (Universität Koblenz-Landau),

Anna-Maria Andersson (Kodaň)

Pete Myers (Environmental Health Sciences).

nutnost společenských transformací, bez kterých nebude možné na globální výzvy adekvátně reagovat.

Jytte Gutenland (Švédsko a EP),

David Azoulay Centra mezinárodního environmentálního práva (CIEL)

Veronika Hunt Šafránková (UNEP)

Åke Bergman z Örebro University

- mezioborová spolupráce
- založení think-tank ve spolupráci s Jihomoravským krajem



Czech Presidency - summary

- is a **service**, has to be neutral (impartial)
- experience, expertise and **OPPORTUNITY** for experts and the country to shine
- involvement at national/EU and global levels (ALWAYS)
- Series of planned+non-planned events (no choice)
- held twice so far by CZ - 1.1.-30.6.2009 and 1.7.-31.12. 2022
- great differences among the two rounds - in approach, execution and roles
- and the next Czech presidency? expected in first half of 2036 (if EU 27) - get ready to be involved - **valid career path!**

Thank you!



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