

"SPACE SECURITY THROUGH THE TRANSATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP" 12 – 14 JUNE 2011, PRAGUE

An **international conference** that will address global space security issues will be convened in Prague on 12 – 14 June 2011. "Space technologies are indispensable for monitoring and managing key security issues with global implications, including international terrorism, development and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, crisis management and the drug trade. The purpose of the conference is to initiate a broader dialogue on space security among Europe, the United States and Japan with the participation of NGO, industry, space scholars and media representatives, international and intergovernmental organisations, as well as current and former government officials" observed Executive Director of the Prague Security Studies Institute, **Oldřich Černý**.

The conference will be attended by over a hundred experts from various countries, including Adm. **Dennis C. Blair**, former U.S. Director of National Intelligence and Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Command, **Annalisa Giannella**, Director for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament at the European External Action Service (EEAS), **Giuseppe Morsillo**, Director for ESA Policies, Planning and Control, European Space Agency (ESA), **Frank A. Rose**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Space and Defense Policy, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance, U.S. Department of State, and **Alexander Vondra**, Czech Minister of Defence.

"As one of the new members of the European Space Agency (ESA), we are especially delighted to promote the importance of space both in the Czech Republic and Europe, particularly in the fast-developing portfolio of space security," stated Mr. Černý. The conference has attracted the participation of major European institutions dealing with space, including the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Commission, the European Union Satellite Centre (EUSC), and the European Defence Agency (EDA).

The conference will be held in the Czernin Palace, Headquarters of the Czech Foreign Ministry and will involve six panel debates that will discuss, among other topics, developing a common definition of space security, identifying common interests and additional mechanisms enabling near real-time exchanges among Europe, the United States and Japan on urgent space security incidents or disruptions, and ways to advance space governance through strengthened Transatlantic ties.

"I believe that the conference will contribute to moving the Czech Republic to the vanguard of this rapidly developing dimension of space policy, which is one of the indispensible parts of civilian and commercial space programs." stated Oldřich Černý.

The conference is co-organized by the **Prague Security Studies Institute (PSSI)** and the **European Space Policy Institute (ESPI**).

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