

## **Joint Declaration on the Establishment of the Strategic Partnership between the Czech Republic and the Republic of Korea**

The Czech Republic and the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as "the Sides")

Welcoming the official visit of H.E. Mr. Bohuslav Sobotka, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, to the Republic of Korea from 23 to 27 February 2015, marking the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic ties of the two countries in 1990;

Noting with great satisfaction the substantial political, economic and cultural ties which have been developed;

Recognizing, in particular, the importance of continued support for deepening bilateral trade and investment as well as developing and promoting the potential of sectorial cooperation in various fields of mutual interest;

Noting with appreciation an increase in the people-to-people exchanges, following in particular the opening of direct flights between Seoul and Prague;

Recalling the Korea-EU Framework Agreement and the cooperation of the Visegrad Group countries and the Republic of Korea;

Reaffirming the strong commitment to democratic principles and human rights;

Conscious of their role and responsibility in contributing to international peace, prosperity and sustainable development;

Determined to further expand and strengthen cooperation in fields of mutual interest, both Sides agreed to upgrade their bilateral relations to the level of a Strategic Partnership;

In order to develop this Strategic Partnership in respective fields of cooperation,

The sides have declared as follows:

### **Political and Security Cooperation**

1. The two Sides intensify their political dialogue aiming at implementing the Strategic Partnership.
2. Both Sides employ to the full extent all opportunities to expand high-level bilateral exchanges in order to meet the growing need to deal with the increasing convergence of political and economic agenda between them.
3. Both Sides make efforts to hold more regular bilateral exchanges and consultations on issues of mutual interest at senior levels based on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea.

4. The two Sides support regular meetings and cooperation in the V4+Republic of Korea format. In this regard, the Czech Republic appreciates the Republic of Korea's cooperation with the International Visegrad Fund.
5. Both Sides encourage the broadening of the scope of the parliamentary exchanges.
6. The two Sides further advance cooperation in the area of defense, on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defense of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Korea concerning cooperation in the field of defense.
7. The two Sides strengthen their cooperation on cyber security and combating cyber-crime, and share the knowledge, best practices and expertise from technological, strategic, social, international and legal perspectives.

### **Economic Cooperation**

8. The two Sides cooperate in promoting the sustainable increase and development of trade and investment to their mutual advantage.
9. Both Sides promote a dialogue between their authorities on trade and investment, related areas of mutual interest, business cooperation and macroeconomic policies and trends.
10. Both Sides contribute to promoting contacts and mutually beneficial cooperation between relevant ministries.
11. Both Sides encourage and facilitate investment in each other's territories, including in the area of infrastructure.
12. Both Sides promote industrial policy cooperation by encouraging and facilitating joint ventures and increasing contact between entrepreneurs in various fields including information and communications technology (ICT), energy and transportation, cultural and creative industries with a special focus on Small and Medium Enterprises.
13. Both Sides encourage, develop and facilitate cooperative activities in the areas of science, innovation and modern technology with a primary focus on new materials, biotechnology, nanotechnology, and cyber security – primarily in the framework of the Korea-Czech Science and Technology Joint Committee established in June 2005, but also in the areas of applied research and experimental development.
14. Both Sides support the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies.
15. The two Sides strengthen cooperation in the area of nuclear power, including through the reinforcement of channels such as bilateral Nuclear Forum, which was launched in Prague in June 2014, as well as the Nuclear Energy Cooperation Steering Committee in September 2014, while recognizing the strategic importance of the energy sector for their economic and social development.

16. Both Sides support the ties in the field of chemistry, including through the bilateral Chemistry Forum, which was launched in Prague in May 2014.
17. The two Sides enhance connectivity between them, including in the areas of transport infrastructure networks, direct flight connections, logistics providers and transport operators, and recognize that there is great potential for cooperation, welcoming the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Railway Sector between the Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea.
18. Both Sides further build upon the positive economic effects of the EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which creates favorable conditions also for the development of bilateral economic cooperation.

### **Cultural, Educational and Tourism Cooperation and People-to-People Exchanges**

19. Both Sides promote cultural cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges between them in order to increase mutual understanding of their respective cultures.
20. Both Sides promote the mobility of researchers and students, using the relevant frameworks and instruments established within the context of bilateral, as well as the EU-Republic of Korea cooperation.
21. The two Sides enhance the exchange of experience and expertise on policies aiming at increasing the quality of education, as well as on the main issues featuring in education policies in both countries.
22. Both Sides reinforce the mutual cooperation in the field of tourism and encourage the reciprocal development of the regions and cities especially in establishing their international partnership.
23. The two Sides make joint efforts to promote bilateral cooperation in the cultural and creative industries including film, animation, music and the organization of exhibitions.
24. Both Sides reaffirm their commitment to work towards promoting a Working Holiday Programme.
25. The two Sides express their interests in initiating discussions on possible arrangements for future youth exchanges in view of their contribution to friendly ties between young generations of the two countries.

### **Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia**

26. Both Sides remain deeply concerned about DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. The two Sides reaffirm that the verifiable denuclearization of DPRK is essential for peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and beyond. To this end, the two Sides urge DPRK to return to meaningful negotiations aimed at facilitating substantial progress in denuclearization.

27. The two Sides highly appreciate each other's initiatives and endeavors to achieve sustainable peace and stability as well as to lay the foundation for the peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula such as the "Initiative for Peaceful Unification on the Korean Peninsula", while reaffirming their support for the "Trust-Building Process on the Korean Peninsula".
28. The two Sides work together to improve the human rights and humanitarian situation in DPRK based on their shared concern.
29. Both Sides emphasize the significance and role of regional dialogue and cooperation as a means to build trust in Northeast Asia, including the ROK's Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative.

### **Regional and Global Cooperation**

30. Both Sides contribute actively to the Strategic Partnership between the EU and the Republic of Korea.
31. The two Sides strengthen cooperation and exchanges of views in regional and international organizations such as the United Nations, Asia-Europe Meeting, OECD (MCM 2015) and other multilateral mechanisms, including dialogue on the possibilities for mutual support for each other's candidatures for international organizations.
32. The two Sides strengthen their cooperation on global issues such as water management and climate change.

26 February 2014, Seoul