

Plan of Action between the Italian Republic and the Czech Republic for strategic bilateral and EU cooperation 2026–2030

Relations between the Italian Republic and the Czech Republic are rooted in a long and distinguished history and founded on principles and values shared by our two nations, enshrined in their membership in the European Union and in the Atlantic Alliance. The following Plan of Action aims to further intensify and deepen a close bilateral cooperation and to expand our partnership by translating our convergences into operational and concrete initiatives in strategic areas as competitiveness, defence and security and migration. This Plan of Action covers the period 2026 – 2030 and envisages a regular review of concrete initiatives and activities by representatives of both Governments.

I. Bilateral Cooperation Framework

Objectives

1. Maintaining a structured **political and institutional dialogue** and regular contacts between the two Governments and administrations.
2. **Coordinating positions** and exchanges in the EU, NATO and other multilateral fora on shared priorities, including European security, enlargement and the Western Balkans, migration, environment, trade and transatlantic cooperation and 2028-34 MFF negotiations.

Instruments

1. **Regular consultations** at the level of Heads of Government, Ministers and senior officials, building on the 31 May 2022 Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs.
2. **Regular coordination** between the respective Permanent Representations to the EU and NATO, including exchanges on priority dossiers and possible joint initiatives.
3. Coordination within the **Friends of the Western Balkans** and cooperation through Twinning and TAIEX to support the EU accession process of Western Balkan partners.
4. Support for bilateral **parliamentary and regional/municipal exchanges**, supporting city and regional partnerships and people-to-people contacts.

II. Economic Cooperation, Trade and Infrastructures

Objectives

1. Promoting **trade and productive investment in strategic sectors**, including automotive, transport, aviation, space, energy, including nuclear energy (Small modular Reactors), critical raw materials, agri-food and advanced technologies such as quantum and laser technologies, and artificial intelligence.
2. **Updating of the bilateral double taxation treaty** in line with the latest OECD standards.
3. Deepening cooperation on **digital innovation**, including artificial intelligence, cloud and high-performance computing, digital infrastructure and support for start-ups.
4. Strengthening **transport connectivity, mobility and cooperation on infrastructure of common interest. Notably by promoting cooperation on the TEN-T**, notably the Baltic Sea–Adriatic Sea corridor, **and on other connectivity initiatives of common interest**, including IMEC where relevant to Italian and Czech interests, with a view to consider Trieste as key gateway.
5. Fostering **partnership among companies** in Italy, the Czech Republic and third markets, **particularly in transport, energy and space sector.**

Instruments

1. **Organization of Italy–Czech Business Forums and targeted B2B matchmaking, with the involvement of CAMIC and the Club of Czech Investors in Italy**, focused on concrete projects and investment opportunities.
2. **Regular consultations between competent ministries on transport, energy, smart mobility and joint projects**, including in third countries under the EU Global Gateway.
3. **Joint initiatives** among universities, research centres and companies, including thematic meetings and cooperation on **intelligent transport systems, autonomous mobility, data sharing and alternative fuels** (electromobility, hydrogen).
4. Exchanges of best practices to facilitate business activity in each other's markets, including the consideration of a **specific agreement on mutual recognition of legal acts and public instruments**.
5. Exchanges of business models and best practices on **investment attraction and investor aftercare**, including through the Club of the Czech Investors in Italy.
6. Periodic **consultations at senior-official level on trade relations and EU trade policy**, including cooperation in support of a rules-based multilateral trading system.

III. Competitiveness, Single Market and Economic Security

Objectives

1. Strengthening **EU competitiveness and growth** by creating a more supportive environment for businesses, with particular attention to start-ups, scale-ups, SMEs and micro-enterprises.
2. Supporting the **integration of the Single Market** and coordinating positions on the **removal of barriers** (so called Terrible Ten) and implementation of the Single Market strategy.
3. Cooperating on the **Regulation on the 28th regime corporate legal framework, 'EU Inc.'** to reduce fragmentation, cross-border costs and uncertainty for start-ups, scale-ups and SMEs.
4. **Preserving a strong Cohesion Policy** in the 2028–2034 MFF negotiations, in line with our cooperation in the Friends of Cohesion informal group.
5. Converging positions on the **Omnibus proposals**, in particular on measures supporting start-ups SMEs and the newly established category of small mid-caps (SMCs), devoting specific attention to micro enterprises.
6. Achieving **regulatory simplification and administrative burdens reduction**, while ensuring predictable, proportionate and SME-friendly framework conditions that enable companies to invest, innovate and grow across the Single Market.
7. Ensuring **technological neutrality in the automotive sector**, including through the recognition of eligible fuel-based vehicles (VEES) as zero-emission vehicles, accelerating the green transition by leveraging internal combustion engine technologies and sustainable fuels.
8. Coordinating positions for **ensuring a cost-effective decarbonisation**, while safeguarding energy affordability and industrial viability, notably through the review of the EU ETS framework.
9. **Reducing strategic dependencies** through diversification of suppliers and partners, particularly for critical raw materials, energy, technologies and infrastructure.

Instruments

1. **Regular policy consultations on Competitiveness and Single Market priorities** between competent Ministries and Permanent Representations, **including key EU legislative files** and

ongoing negotiations on the review of EU CO₂ emission performance standards, the ETS and the Carbon Border Adjustment Management (CBAM) as well as other issues of mutual interest.

2. **Best practice exchanges and information sharing on sustainable supply chains, on joint investments** in the EU and third countries, on the **recycling and upcycling of electronic waste**, on **mines and landfills**, and on the **advanced materials** which are less dependent on imports or with lower import-dependence.
3. Structured exchanges on **EU geographical indications for craft and industrial products**, best practices on regulatory simplification and elimination of gold-plating.
4. Best practice exchanges between competent authorities on the **protection of strategic assets and on foreign direct investment screening frameworks**, in a spirit of allied convergence and full respect of the free movement of capital within the Single Market.
5. Joint advocacy and common positions regarding **increased flexibility and reduced bureaucracy in EU Funds management**, including the exchange of expertise on revolving financial instruments for strategic infrastructure.

IV. Security and Defence

Objectives

1. Strengthening the **European pillar of NATO**, enhancing a 360-degree deterrence and defence approach, resilience against hybrid threats, and NATO–EU cooperation.
2. Deepening defence-industrial cooperation and capability development, including **co-development, co-production, technology transfer and R&D** in strategic and dual-use areas such as ammunition, air defence, C-UAS, electronic warfare and space, paying due attention to opportunities in third markets.
3. Improving **interoperability** through common standards and **harmonised operational requirements**, including for emerging technologies.
4. Strengthening **critical infrastructure resilience and military mobility**, including dual-use transport, energy, digital and space-related assets.

Instruments

1. **Mechanism for joint consultations** between Defence Ministers and Armed Forces, including General Staff talks, to identify priorities for operational cooperation, capability development and training. This will be supported by the **establishment of a Defence Attaché Office at the Czech Embassy in Rome**.
2. Enhanced cooperation between the respective **intelligence services** on shared security priorities.
3. **Organisation of a Czech–Italian Defence Industrial Day in 2027**, combining B2G dialogue with B2B matchmaking.
4. **Joint training activities and exercises** within NATO and EU frameworks, including high-intensity operations, logistics, military mobility, cyber and hybrid threats – taking advantage of the Italian Cyber Range – and F-35 pilot training.
5. **Joint or coordinated industrial and R&D projects**, including ammunition production, advanced air defence and other military or dual-use technologies, through appropriate agreements involving administrations, industry and research centres.
6. Cooperation on the **South-Central Corridor and EU military mobility**, focusing on cross-border procedures, dual-use infrastructure and transport interoperability.

7. **Organisation of a Czech defence-industry business mission to Italy in 2027**, coordinated by the Czech Embassy in Rome.
8. Cooperation on advancing **reductions in EU administrative burden and increasing flexibility of procedures**, particularly for common procurement of defence products.
9. Conclusion of an **Agreement on War Graves**.

V. Migration policy

Objectives

1. Strengthening the protection of the EU's external borders and combating and preventing **irregular migration**, including by tackling **organized crime groups** involved in **human trafficking and migrant smuggling**.
2. Cooperating on **migration and asylum** to strengthen EU preparedness and resilience in potential crisis situations while reinforcing prevention and enhancing effective returns.
3. Strengthening **relations with African countries**, in line with the **Mattei Plan** and the Rome Process, also to address the root causes of irregular migration.

Instruments

1. Enhanced coordination on EU migration policies, in line with the new objectives put forward by the European Council, by promoting the **conclusion of comprehensive and mutually beneficial partnerships with countries of origin and transit** and by implementing **innovative solutions involving third countries, such as return hubs**.
2. Development of **joint initiatives with African partners**, focusing on sectors such as digital, energy, transport, health, culture; building on the "Mattei Plan" (involving interested Italian and Czech companies) and through the Czech Republic accession to the Rome Process, following a Team Europe approach, in synergy with the EU Global Gateway Strategy.
3. **Regular joint consultations between respective Ministries of Interior** on technical, strategic and political levels.

VI. Science, Culture, Education, Social Policies and Tourism

Objectives

1. Strengthening **scientific, space, cultural and academic cooperation**, building on existing collaboration in research infrastructure, gravitational waves, laser research and Small Modular Reactors.
2. Promoting **mobility** of students, researchers, academic staff, artists, young professionals and trainees of vocational and technical education systems, including through exchanges, internships and links with enterprises.
3. Supporting **people-to-people contacts**, including through cultural, educational and language-related initiatives involving Italian and Czech communities.
4. Developing **sports diplomacy** as a tool to strengthen bilateral relations, promote youth engagement and foster cooperation across sport-related sectors.
5. Supporting **reciprocal tourism** and mutual knowledge of touristic destinations.
6. Supporting responsible and human-centred applications of **artificial intelligence across all sectors, including in cultural heritage**.

7. Supporting policies for a **full inclusion of persons with disabilities**, in line with the relevant United Nations Convention (UNCPRD) and the European Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities.

Instruments

1. Organisation of the **Year of Italian-Czech Culture 2027/28**, with exhibitions, performing arts, film, literature and academic initiatives, involving national and local institutions and encouraging youth participation and co-productions.
2. Negotiation on a **departmental agreement between the Italian Ministry of University and Research and the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports**, based on the assessment of areas of mutual interest.
3. Enhancement of cooperation in research infrastructures, starting with the **Einstein Telescope, EIRENE, ELI ERIC (ELI Beamlines) and EuPRAXIA**, as well as other relevant initiatives.
4. Conclusion of a **Memorandum of Understanding** on bilateral cooperation **in outer space activities** for peaceful purposes.
5. Definition of a **new implementing programme** under the 2011 cultural, education, science and technology Agreement, focusing on **opera, cinema, restoration and preservation of cultural heritage** – also through the use of artificial intelligence and digital tools – and the **fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property**.
6. Development of **institutional partnerships, exchanges and mobility**, including through Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe, with a focus on university cooperation in areas such as bioeconomy, health, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and advanced technologies.
7. Joint **cultural and community initiatives**, including artist residencies and cooperation among museums and cultural institutions, with attention to conservation, restoration and digitalisation.
8. Exchanges of best practices and experience in **sustainable and data-driven tourism management**, including on management of museum systems.
9. Implementation of joint **sport initiatives and exchanges** as a means of promoting sports diplomacy, youth engagement and cooperation across sport-related sectors.
10. **Mutual recognition of medical prescriptions** during travel in both countries.
11. Sharing of experiences and good practices regarding inclusion, accessibility and the empowerment of **persons with disabilities**.

This Plan does not constitute an international agreement which may lead to rights and obligations under international law. No provision of this Plan is to be understood and performed as a legal obligation or commitment of the Participants.