

**Joint statement by the Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jan Kavan, and Federal
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and
Water Management, Wilhelm Molterer, on issues
concerning the implementation of the Melk Protocol
(12.Mai 2001)**

With regard to the efforts to further develop good-neighbourly relations to which both the Czech Republic and Austria are greatly committed, the Ministers stressed the importance of a successful completion of the Melk process.

I.

In this context the Ministers stated:

- that the significant progress achieved in implementing Article V of the Melk Protocol will be completed and further deepened. The Czech Republic will consider the variant of not putting the Temelín nuclear power plant into operation and of its shutdown and preservation and improve public access to information on serious accidents and their implications for the neighbouring countries as well as the drafting of relevant emergency measures;
- that the public will be given the opportunity to express their opinion - in writing or in person - on all presented documents, inter alia, also within a public hearing in Austria.

II.

Both sides have agreed on the procedure of working out further reference documents on the following ranges of issues, in order of importance as stressed by Austria:

- a) Also recalling the declaration of PM ZEMAN at Melk that the NPP Temelín will not be put into operation if it does not meet state-of-the-art safety criteria prevailing in the Member States of the European Union an evaluation of the variant of not putting the Temelín NPP into operation and its shutdown and preservation will be provided.
- b) information on serious accidents with a view of their possible implications for the neighbouring countries as well as the preparation of relevant emergency measures under Article I. The Czech side is aware of the concerns of the citizens of the Republic of Austria and therefore it expresses its willingness to provide the information mentioned above;

III.

The Czech side understands the need to provide information on the non-nuclear part of the Temelín NPP in the interest of addressing the concerns of the public and is therefore prepared to work out, outside the framework of the Melk Protocol, comprehensive information on problems that arose in connection with turbine in the 1st unit and their causes.

IV.

Based on the Declaration of Prime Minister ZEMAN and Chancellor SCHÜSSEL both sides expressed their sincere hope that with the agreements above a basis will be created to successfully complete the implementation of the Melk Protocol. Both sides agree that the enlargement of the European Union is of crucial importance to European integration. Both sides have again taken note of the timing laid down in the "road map" on the accession negotiations. Austria expresses its support for the efforts of the Czech Republic to become a full-fledged member state of the European Union.

V.

Both sides will agree during the next week on a bilateral basis the concrete contents of information pursuant to items II. and III. The final documentation will be presented by 20 May 2001 so as to create prerequisites for public hearing in Austria.