**SHORT MEMO**
of the 3rd Round Table on Coal Regions in Transition
held in Most, CZECH REPUBLIC
**28 November 2018**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**ATTENDANCE LIST**

|  |
| --- |
| Mr Vladimír BÁLEŠ |
| Mr John WALKER |
| Ms Renata EISENVORTOVÁ |
| Mr Dumitru FORNEA |
| Mr Jacques GLORIEUX |
| Mr Przemyslaw RZEPECKI |
| Ms Lucie STUDNIČNÁ |

**CCMI Secretariat**

|  |
| --- |
| Mr Adam PLEZER |
| Ms Magda PELKOVÁ |

\*

\* \*

**Martin Klika** – Making people redundant and phasing out coal mining has become a major challenge in the entire Ústí region and affected several locations where people were living and working. In order to deal with this issue, we needed to cooperate with the government.

**Lucie Studničná** – Our recommendation is to create long-term strategies that would be based on a thorough political, social and civic dialogue. What should be the result of the roundtable is to become better at anticipating the current development, to plan it and seek solutions that would be acceptable from an economic point of view but mainly from a social point of view. Next year we want to have 3 or 4 more roundtables in other countries.

**Aleksandra Tomczak** – We help with the identification and implementation of priority projects and this is what we are working on with the Czech team representatives. We have managed to bring funds of 120 million euros for the implementation of projects in Silesia. We are launching a secretariat for coal regions in transition that will have funding until the end of 2021. We would like to have a bilateral cooperation with at least 25 coal regions for the next 3 years.

**EN**

**Gabriela Nekolová** – The RE:START program was initiated to develop long-term strategic objectives in order to substantially change the industrial sector, the social sector, the education system, and so forth. In two years, the government has approved 92 specific measures to be implemented between 2017 and 2030 and the total value is 60 billion Czech crowns. We have managed to get EU funds of 4 billion crowns for revitalisation of the Krkonoše mountains. Together with colleagues from the European Commission, we managed to prepare a reallocation of about 8 billion crowns that would otherwise be unused within the Czech Republic. This will allow for improvements in the structurally affected regions in the area of school infrastructure, health care, low emission transportation, and support of business real estate.

**Martin Klika** – Young people leave this region to go to other regions where they can find jobs. We cannot make sure that people who are unemployed, including those long-term unemployed registered with the labour office, get a job. This is also related to the indebtedness of these people and our region. We want to simplify the conditions for personal bankruptcy and create better conditions for those who want to run their own business or become self-employed. We have the most socially excluded sites and since 2006 the number of sites has unfortunately increased.

**Josef Janů** – The major issue is people: changing their mind-sets, their approach to life and their behaviour. We must realize that this is a region that was completely exploited and we need to bring the money back. The major problem is the bankruptcy and insolvency. We should change the methodology for calculating the number of unemployed because I think there is a grey zone of unemployed people who are not in the system.

**Jakub Unucka** – In the Moravian-Silesian region, we have district heating system, which supplies energy to households and processed heat to industrial sector. There will be no heat available if we do not have any coal supplying these district heating systems. In 2030, we would like to replace the coal insulation with some different technology and still maintain the affordable price of heat for ordinary people. The major challenge in our region is that we want to adhere to the energy package and not burn coal for district heating.

**Hana Aulická Jírovcová** – What I miss in the government and in the legislators is a long-term planning. Will we become dependent on energy sources outside of the Czech Republic? Right now, we are able to supply what we need from our sources within the country but the price that our citizens pay today will be much higher in the future and we can see in certain regions that the social consequences are really grave. I was very happy when the government, after 15 years, adopted measures to fight poverty with about 6 ministries involved.

**Markéta Stará** – Our major concern in Most, is that we have about 8 socially excluded sites, some of which are moving towards the centre of the town. There is a lack of job opportunities for low or unqualified people so they live on social benefits and live in flats that are owned by people who want to make profit out of these flats, which we refer to as poverty traders. People between 18-29 years old represent 15% of those who are seriously indebted and senior people 65 and above, represent 7%.

**Jaromír Franta** – In the Czech Republic, coal is the major source of power, electricity and heat. With the direction taken by Czech politicians, I'm afraid we will soon get into a situation where we will very much depend on everything that relates to power and energy and get into a situation or position of subordination, as for the European member states are concerned. I think imposing various measures such as emission limits, fees and taxes on European states will not save our planet in a world of 7 million tons of coal mines, whereof only 8% of them are in Europe. It's not about banning the use of coal but monitoring and supervising the pollutants. We should support subsidies but also focus more on smaller pollutants that are present in small villages today. We are grateful for the RE:START program, although it could be improved.

**Josef Středula** – We cannot use energy from the sea, we cannot generate electricity from the tide, we cannot build wind farms in the North Sea: it’s a vicious circle. So, it is the responsibility of the decision-makers to consider, not only that we want a clean environment but other factors such as what happens if electricity becomes much more expensive because this will have far-reaching implications. If we want to make progress, then the EU must not close their eyes to the differences between the east and west and south and north.

**Helena Veverková** – The social and economic council is a coordinating body of ideas on how to restructure this region and the steps needed to be taken in order to stop the growing unemployment. The priorities included the reclamation of the landscape damaged by human activities, the mobility of our citizens, the development of employment and human resources, promoting culture in the region, and the development of the social area and education.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_