

Intervention given
by Ms. Emilie Nedvedova
Ministry of the environment of Czech Republic
UN CSD – 16, New York, May 12th, 2008

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to briefly introduced you about the Integrated Water Resource Management in the Czech Republic, which is fully associated with the statement made by Slovenia on behalf of EU.

Climate Change (CC) is expected to influence the baseline of present WS&D issues, with potential impacts on water quantity and quality, contributing in particular to an increase in extreme hydrological events, such as floods and droughts.

The **ineffective management** of water resources is a fundamental problem which influences water scarcity and can induce additional impacts when a drought occurs.

Planning in the field of water management in the Czech Republic has a long tradition and complies with the EC Water Framework Directive. In this context the **Plan of Main River Basins of the Czech Republic and the Plan of Water Supply and Sewerage System Development in the Czech Republic** were produced.

With regard to **drinking water supply** to the population and wastewater drainage, the Czech Republic ranks among the countries which are better furnished with respective facilities. The situation is comparable with the standards of the most advanced countries of the European Union also in terms of the supplied drinking water quality.

The situation in the field of **wastewater treatment** is satisfactory and the process of meeting the objectives of Directive No 91/271/EEC includes intensive construction of new wastewater treatment plants or rehabilitation or intensification of the existing wastewater treatment plants.

One of the priorities of the **Operational Programme „Environment“ in the period 2007 – 2013** defined in Priority Axis 1 **„Improvement of Water Management Infrastructure and Reduction of Flood Risk“** is to improve the status of surface waters and groundwaters. This priority will be met by reducing the discharged pollution through construction, modernization and intensification of wastewater treatment plants, associated construction of sewerage systems and reduction of the impacts of non-point and diffuse pollution sources on water quality, reduction of eutrophication of surface waters and provision of comprehensive monitoring of waters allowing trouble-free use of waters for human consumption and for the life of biological communities.

In the field of **irrigation**, the method supported by the national support programme in orchards, vineyards and hop-fields since the year 2001 is drop irrigation. The drop irrigation system is a progressive method of irrigation resulting in production stability and increased quality while minimizing water consumption. This programme was notified by the European Commission in the year 2006 without any adverse observations.

Members of the Czech National ICID committee participate in international conferences. Conferences are also arranged at the national level. Certain benefit can be seen in the fact that the Association of Irrigation Engineers and Operators was transformed into the Association for Irrigation and Water in Landscape of the Czech Republic, with its extended activities focused also on other fields of effective water use and water economy in landscape. Progressive scientific and research knowledge in this field is transferred into practice and training courses are arranged to inform about the changes in legislation, to identify funding possibilities for dealing with the issues of shortage and overabundance of water with the objective to achieve sustainable farming.