

**“Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the International Criminal Court,”
9 July 2009, From the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech
Republic,
http://www.mzv.cz/jnp/en/issues_and_press/statements/statement_of_the_ministry_of_foreign.html**

On 8 July 2009, the President of the Czech Republic signed the instrument of ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The instrument of ratification will be deposited with the UN Secretary-General's in New York. On this basis, the number of states which are parties to the ICC will increase to 110.

The ratification of this international agreement by the Czech Republic is another important step in the efforts of the international community in the fight against impunity for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Without the participation of the States, the Court wouldn't be able to fulfill its role as a key instrument in the fight against impunity in cases where the most serious crimes were committed and where national courts don't want or cannot investigate and prosecute these acts. The ICC also has an important role in preventing these acts and in discouraging from them.

The Czech Republic believes that its ratification will be a stimulus for other countries to consider the accession to the ICC. On this occasion, the Czech Republic recalls that the support for the ICC is an important part of the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU. The Czech Republic calls on the States to support the International Criminal Court and to comply with the international obligations, which derive from their membership.