Brussels, 29 July 2014

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COVER NOTE

from: Mr Tomas PROUZA, State Secretary for European Affairs of the Czech Republic
received on: 29 July 2014
to: Mr Uwe CORSEPIUS, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
Subject: Nomination of Ms Věra JOUROVÁ as Member of the European Commission

Delegations will find attached a letter from Mr Tomas PROUZA, State Secretary for European Affairs of the Czech Republic, nominating Ms Věra JOUROVÁ as Member of the European Commission.
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

TOMAS PROUZA
State Secretary for European Affairs

Prague, 28 July 2014

Your Excellency,

I am pleased to inform you that the Government of the Czech Republic has nominated a candidate for the member of the European Commission under the presidency of Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker. On 24 July 2014 the Government confirmed Ms Věra Jourová, the current Minister of Regional Development, as the nominee of the Czech Republic. She was nominated following her hearing and approval in the Parliament of the Czech Republic.

Please find attached the letter of the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, Mr. Bohuslav Sobotka, to the President-elect of the European Commission, Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker, as well as a CV of Ms Věra Jourová.

Kindest regards,

Attachment

H. E. Federica Mogherini
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Rome

CC
Mr. Uwe Corsepius
Secretary General of the Council of the European Union
Brussels
Bohuslav SOBOTKA
Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

Prague, 24 July 2014
Ref.: 10969/2014 - OKA

Dear Mr. President,

I am pleased to inform you that the Government of the Czech Republic approved the nomination of the candidate for the member of the European Commission under your presidency. On 24 July 2014 the Government confirmed Ms Věra Jourová, the current Minister of Regional Development, as the nominee of the Czech Republic. She had been nominated following her hearing and approval in the Committee on European Affairs of the House of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic.

The decision of the Government is based on our conviction about the excellent education and experience as well as moral integrity of Ms Jourová. She has not only professional, but also political background. Ms Jourová was elected to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic in 2013. In January 2014, she was appointed the Minister of Regional Development in the Government of the Czech Republic due to her long-lasting engagement in the field of implementation of the Cohesion policy of the European Union.

I believe that our choice will meet your preferences and that we will have the opportunity to discuss the qualification and aspirations of Ms Jourová in the new College of Commissioners soon.

Kindest regards,

Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker
President of the European Commission
Brussels
Belgium
Mgr. et Mgr. Věra Jourová

A politician, lawyer, the vice-president of ANO 2011 political movement. Since November 2013, she has been member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic and, since January 2014, she has been the Minister of Regional Development.

Before taking her position at the Ministry for Regional Development, she worked as a trainee solicitor and as a consultant specialising in EU funding, strategic planning and regional development.

In 2006-2013 she provided consultancy services covering the agenda of EU funds, strategic planning and regional development not only in the Czech Republic, but also in Romania, Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Russia, Belarus, Moldova and Georgia.

She specialised in the assessment and evaluation of managing authorities’ and intermediate bodies’ implementation systems. She provided consultancy services to managing authorities (including crisis management and change management), streamlining staffing of individual job positions, setting up implementation systems and carrying out system reviews and monitoring. Her key clients included not only individual ministries and regional authorities, but also the European Commission and the United Nations Development Program.

As the Deputy Minister for Regional Development, in 2003-2006, she was the head of the team responsible for negotiating the EU funds agenda with the European Commission and the European Investment Bank. She was responsible for the management of EU funds in the Czech Republic, setup of the EU funds distribution system (optimum organisational setup and staffing, decision-making on HR development within the section including the training and education system and wage conditions. She was also responsible for change management, setup of the management and control systems, development of the communication strategy, evaluation plan, and the monitoring system).

She was the head of the EU funds team negotiating with the European Commission, European Investment Bank etc. She managed the European Integration Section where she was in charge of 4 departments with approx. 200 employees.

Věra Jourová also worked at the municipal level as the head of the Department of Regional Development (2001-2003) where she was in charge of development and investment projects for the Vysočina region. She held high-level responsibility for the regional development agenda, preparing the region for EU accession.

She also served as secretary and spokesperson of the Municipal Office of Třebíč (1995-2000), where, among other things, she focused on integration of cultural facilities.

In 1991 she graduated from the Faculty of Arts of Charles University, receiving a master’s degree. At that time, she was already raising two children. In 2012 she successfully graduated from the Faculty of Law at the same university, receiving her second master’s degree.

As a top expert specialised in EU funds and subsidies in the order of billions of Euros flowing from Brussels to the Czech Republic, she faced pressure from politicians, godfathers and incompetent and possibly corrupt bureaucracy while at the Ministry. She refused to play a foul game and received a "well-deserved" punishment. After false accusation of accepting a bribe, she ended up in detention for a month in the autumn of 2006 due to the Budišov case.

The investigation ended in the summer of 2008 by a ruling stating that she had committed no criminal offence and that her prosecution had been illegal. The court awarded her financial damages; however, the Constitutional Court ruled that the other claims had been barred by the statute of limitations.
She speaks fluent English and can make herself understood in Russian. Věra Jourová is divorced, has two children, a daughter and a son.

Political activities:

- In 2003-2006 she was a member of the Czech Social Democratic Party (CSDP);
- In 2002, she was elected member of the Municipal Council of Třebíč for the CSDP;
- In 2009, she ran for the European Parliament as an independent candidate on the ticket of the European Democratic Party (EDP);
- In 2010, she also ran for the Czech Chamber of Deputies as an EDP member on the ticket of the Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People’s Party;
- Since 2012 she has been involved in the ANO movement – she was the chief manager, worked on the political programme; last March, she was elected the First Vice-President; In last October’s early elections to the Chamber of Deputies, she was the election ticket leader of the ANO movement in the Výsočina region.