

INFORMATION ON THE BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR VOTING IN THE ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

to take place on Friday 5 June 2009 from 2.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. and on Saturday 6 June 2009 from 8.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Conditions for citizens of other EU member states to vote in the elections to the European Parliament in the Czech Republic

A citizen of another EU member state has the right to vote in the elections to the European Parliament in the Czech Republic if he or she has reached 18 years of age by the second day of the elections and has been registered in the population register since 22 April 2009 at the latest (i.e. if he or she has confirmation of temporary residence or a permit for permanent residence in the Czech Republic) and is registered in the electoral register for the elections to the European Parliament.

A citizen of another EU member state may apply to be registered in that electoral register at the local authority in whose administrative district he or she is registered in the population register by **4.00 p.m. on 26 April 2009** at the latest. That application may be filed in person or in writing. It must be accompanied by a copy of the confirmation of temporary residence or the permit for permanent residence and a sworn affidavit in which the applicant lists his or her citizenship, place of abode and the address of the electoral district where he or she has previously been registered in the electoral register, and states that he or she will only vote in the Czech Republic. A specimen application form is included at the end of this brochure.

A citizen of another EU member state who has applied in the Czech Republic to be registered in the annex to the electoral register for the purposes of municipal elections may vote in the elections to the European Parliament provided he or she requests, by 4.00 p.m. on 26 April 2009 at the latest, that the local authority with which he or she is registered in the annex transfer his or her data to the electoral register for the elections to the European Parliament. The application must also include a sworn affidavit.

A citizen of another EU member state who applied to be registered in the electoral register for the 2004 elections to the European Parliament and has not subsequently requested his or her deletion and still satisfies the conditions to exercise his or her right to vote may also vote in the elections to the European Parliament in the Czech Republic.

Voting at the polling station

In order to vote a voter must furnish proof of his or her identity and citizenship on entering the polling station. The fact that he or she is registered in the population register in the Czech Republic is already established by virtue of his or her entry in the electoral register for the elections to the European Parliament. A voter who is not registered in the excerpt from the electoral register cannot be added to that register on the day of elections to be allowed to vote. That does not apply if the voter votes with a voting permit.

After being recorded in the excerpt from the electoral register the voter will receive an empty official envelope from the ward electoral commission. At the voter's request the ward electoral commission will issue him or her with new ballot papers. Those ballot papers are, however, delivered to voters at their place of abode three days before the elections at the latest.

A voter votes in person; voting by proxy is not permitted.

After receiving the official envelope, and if required the ballot papers, the voter must go into the area prescribed for marking ballot papers, where no one, not even a member of the ward electoral commission, is permitted to be present at the same time as the voter. Inside that area the voter inserts the ballot paper into the official envelope. On the ballot paper the voter may indicate which of the candidates he or she prefers by marking a circle around the numbers for a maximum of two candidates listed on the same ballot paper. No other marks are made on the ballot paper.

The voter casts his or her vote by placing the official envelope with the ballot paper into the ballot box before the ward electoral commission.

If the voter is unable to mark the ballot paper due to handicap, or if he or she is unable to read or write, another voter may be present with him or her in the area prescribed for marking ballot papers, and that voter may mark the ballot paper in accordance with his or her instructions and insert it in the official envelope and place it in the ballot box.

Voting with a voting permit

If a voter is unable or does not intend to vote in his or her electoral ward where he or she is registered in the electoral register for elections to the European Parliament, he or she may apply to the local authority by 21 May 2009 at the latest for a voting permit that authorises him or her to vote in any electoral ward in the Czech Republic. A voter who attends a polling station with a voting permit is obliged, after furnishing the aforementioned proof, to surrender that permit to the ward electoral commission, which will attach it to the excerpt from the electoral register for the elections to the European Parliament and will add the voter to that excerpt. The board will also issue the voter with ballot papers and an official envelope.

Voting outside the polling station using a portable ballot box

A voter may request for serious reasons, especially poor health, that the local authority, or on the day of the elections the ward electoral commission, allow him or her to vote outside the polling station yet within the electoral ward for which the ward electoral commission has been established. In such event the ward electoral commission will send two of its members to the voter with a portable ballot box, an official envelope and ballot papers.

Further information on the elections to the European Parliament is published on the Ministry of Interior website at www.mvcr.cz, and is also available from the local authority or the regional authority.