



## European Car Free Day and European Mobility Week 2006 in the Czech Republic



On Saturday 16, 2006, European Car Free Day and European Week of Mobility began in a number of towns in the Czech Republic. In total 45 towns, i.e. by one fourth more than last year, has been involved in the event this year (+ 20 towns have supported the events). The motto for this year was "Climate Change".



**The new Czech Minister of Environment, Mr. Petr Jan Kalaš**, participated in the European Car Free Day at Prague on 17th September 2006. The Smetana Embankment together with J. Palach Square and contiguous streets were closed to the car traffic and a number of NGOs' stalls was present there. Minister Kalaš also met the Prague Mayor Mr. Pavel Bém there.



On Friday 22 September Mr Minister Kalaš went to work by train and on bicycle. Afternoon the same day took part in the event of the Auto\*Mat Association in Prague - a cycling tour through the town. The parking area in front of the Czech Ministry of Environment building was closed that day.

On European Car Free Day, the public city transport was free of charge in twenty-three towns.

European Car Free Day in 2006 was organized by the following towns in the Czech Republic: **Česká Lípa, Domažlice, Havířov, Havlíčkův Brod, Jablonec nad Nisou, Jilemnice, Kadaň, Kostelec nad Orlicí, Lipník nad Bečvou, Nové Město nad Metují, Pelhřimov, Prostějov, Příbram, Rumburk, Sušice, Sokolov and Uherské Hradiště.**

The whole week – i.e. European Mobility Week together with European Car Free Day was organized in the following towns: **Boskovice, České Budějovice, Frýdek-Místek, Hlučín, Hodonín, Hradec Králové, Hranice, Hroznová Lhota, Chrudim, Karviná, Kopřivnice, Kroměříž, Letovice, Litomyšl, Moravská Třebová, Moravský Krumlov, Olomouc, Ostrava, Písek, Plzeň, Praha, Říčany, Semice, Strakonice, Uherský Brod, Velké Meziříčí, Vsetín and Zábřeh.**

The following towns only supported the event: **Bolatice, Břeclav, Brno, Břeclav, Děčín, Hlinsko, Hořice, Cheb, Mladá Boleslav, Nový Jičín, Orlová, Prachatice, Přerov, Rosice, Tábor, Třebíč, Třeboň, Turnov, Ústí nad Labem and Znojmo.** More on [www.env.cz/edba](http://www.env.cz/edba)



This year, the European Mobility Week has been closely connected with the „You Control Climate Change“ campaign. The motto „Climate Change“ is therefore accompanied by another one: „Walk. Cycle. Go by bus. Car-Share. Change!“ Climate Change is one of the biggest challenges the world is facing and transport causes the dramatical increase

of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The European Mobility Week campaign promotes environmentally-friendly modes of transport: cycling, public transport, walking and car-pooling. In connection with Climate Change campaign people in towns and cities also can make small changes to their daily behaviour and combat climate change this way.

### Good examples in the Czech towns 2006

On Friday three classes of the **Semice** elementary school actively participated in the campaign “Each one of you controls climate changes”. The classes signed a declaration and sent their promise to the campaign organisers at the seat of the European Commission in Brussels. In **Kostelec nad Orlicí** and **Pelhřimov**, children metered their environmental footsteps during the EMW – [www.hraozemi.cz](http://www.hraozemi.cz), whereas in **Kopřivnice** and **Tábor**, children discussed the climatic change issues in relation to automobile transport as a part of their social science lessons, using the campaign’s website [www.climatechange.eu.com](http://www.climatechange.eu.com).

The “Protect the Earth’s Climate” week was full of discussions and school trips which took place in **Boskovice**. In **Hradec Králové**, the local coordinators organized a bike ride for school children on Třída



E. Beneše with an auxiliary programme focused on this year’s motto “Hurray, hurray, in the open air to play” connected with the motto Climate Change. On Brněnská Street, the city inhabitants had a chance to view the automatic air pollution monitoring station.

Children and adults in **Chrudim** had the opportunity to visit many stands in the park themed around climatic changes (“Do we want to protect the Earth’s climate?”) and also in **Prostějov**, during the ECFD, the organisers announced a new art competition on “Protecting Earth’s Climate” for preschool and elementary school children.

### European Mobility Week Award 2006

The Czech city České Budějovice has been among eleven „The Best of Europe“ towns this year for its campaign on European Mobility Week 2005. The British Council in České Budějovice 2005 (similarly as in Olomouc and Plzeň) was organised a workshop “City without Emissions - Carb0NiCity“, with the purpose to stimulate international discussion on climate change (picture on the right).



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