**Martin Jahn** (CZ)
Vice Prime Minister for
Economic Affairs of the
Czech Republic
Prague

Born in 1970. Martin Jahn graduated in international trade from the University of Economics, Prague. From 1996 to 1999, he studied marketing and communication at DePaul University, Chicago, where he earned a Master of Business Administration.

In 1994, Martin Jahn started his professional career as a Marketing Manager in the Czech Investment and Business Development Agency, CzechInvest. He was responsible for promoting the Czech Republic abroad and attracting foreign direct investment for key sectors. He also worked extensively with the Czech and international press. In 1995, Martin Jahn became Director of the Greenfield Projects Department. He supervised a group of Project Managers who directly assisted foreign companies in establishing manufacturing operations in the Czech Republic. Between 1996 and 1999, Martin Jahn attracted U.S. manufacturing investments to the Czech Republic as Director of CzechInvest's Office in Chicago. After coming back to the Czech Republic, he was nominated Chief Executive Officer of CzechInvest. In 2004, Martin Jahn was appointed Vice Prime Minister for Economic Affairs. In this position he is responsible for the coordination of economic policy, research & development and human resource development policies.

Theses

**What Can "Old Europe" Learn From the New Member States?**

- The new member states do excel in several fields of the Lisbon Strategy:
  Estonia, the Czech Republic and Slovenia are ahead of the EU 15 in the use of new technology. Three Baltic countries are handing out the lowest state subsidies in the entire EU. Slovakia is described as a leader in implementing reforms.

- Higher economic growth in ten new member states can encourage growth in the old member states:
  Higher economic growth in the countries like the Czech Republic encourages economic

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growth in "Old Europe", too. The new member states as a whole are rising faster than the old member states. This is the only way for a real convergence between the old and the new members. Higher growth of labour productivity in the new member states compared to the old ones is necessary.

- European countries need a more business friendly environment:
  The new member states are willing to take up economic and social reforms. We, the new members of the EU, have similar problems with our social systems and must solve it by the same measures. It is necessary to remove barriers for entrepreneurs as well. I refuse "social dumping" arguments. I consider different social standards as a competitive advantage of each country.

- Our competitors are China and India:
  The Commission's draft plan for pan-European free trade in services can bolster up the whole European economy. The competitiveness of the European economy depends on the competitiveness of each member state. Member states do not compete with each other for jobs or investments. Our competitors are China or India.