

V. CZECH REPUBLIC

Population: 10,292,933

Membership OSCE: 1 January 93 - Helsinki Final Act: - Charter of Paris:

Membership Council of Europe: 30/06/93 - Membership U.N.: 19/01/93

A. CONSTITUTION

Constitution adopted on: 16 Dec 1992

Article 3 [Constitutional Order]:

Part of the constitutional order of the Czech Republic is the **Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms**:

Article 15

(1) Freedom of thought, conscience and religious conviction is guaranteed. Everybody has the right to change his or her religion or faith, or to have no religious conviction.

(2) Freedom of scientific research and of the arts is guaranteed.

(3) Nobody may be forced to perform military service against his or her conscience or religious conviction. Detailed provisions are set by law.

Article 16

(1) Everybody has the right to profess freely his or her religion or faith either alone or jointly with others, privately or in public, through religious service, instruction, religious acts, or religious ritual.

(2) Churches and religious societies administer their own affairs, in particular appoint their organs and their priests, and establish religious orders and other church institutions, independently of organs of the State.

(3) The conditions of religious instruction at state schools shall be set by law.

(4) Exercise of the aforesaid rights may be limited by law in the case of measures which are essential in a democratic society for protection of public security and order, health and morality, or the rights and freedoms of others.

B. LEGISLATION

Law No. 308/91 Coll. on Freedom of Belief and position of Churches and Religious Societies

Law No. 161/92 Coll. on Registration of Churches and Religious Societies on 19 March 1992

C. CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

Charter of Fundamental Freedoms, published in the Official Gazette: Sbirka zákonů No. 2/1993

Law on Civil Service, published in the Official Gazette: Sbirka zákonů No. 18/1992.