National Report Czech Republic Spring 2014

Of the emerging democracies in central and eastern Europe, the Czech Republic has one of the most developed industrialized economies. It is one of the most stable and prosperous of the post-Communist states of Central and Eastern Europe. Although, actualy the depression influences negatively the growth of GDP which is now in minus values.

The intervention of the Czech central bank in November 2013 brings an influential reduction of the exchange rate of the Czech Crown which means aprox. 10 % price rising not only for the importeurs.

In the locksmith industry that means demand on cheaper products with lower margin for the locksmith. In MKS there are asked certified and patent protected systems but only in the middle price level. The locksmithes should be more oriented to the mechatronical and electronical solutions which brings more comfort to the endcustomer and higher margin for the locksmith.

The main player on the Czech market is the domestical producer FAB actualy owned by Assa Abloy with its approx. 60 % market share followed by KABA, EVVA (with its ownership of the former domestical producer Guard) and others.

It is known, in Czech Republic there are the rules of proofing the cylinders more hard as in the rest of Europe. The cylinders are tested not only following the EN 1303 but even following the EN 1627 as a part of the whole door equipment. The testing of resistance against bump key method is additionally certified by a state authority.

In this situation it is very important that our project “Safe Country” is running very succesfully. Our members which are signed with the logo of the project already get new business oportunities and the signed products by the logo of “Safe Country” reached higher volume of sales.

In April an election General Meeting of our Association was held. The former Board with 9 members in head of Mr. Fraz as the President was confirmed. So now is the Czech association with all its power ready to organize the ELF Convention in 2016 or 2017 in Prague.

Patent protected products are the question in Czech Republic. Not all of the deliverers on the market have a clear patent protection politics. Our Association will invite all of them to advise the patent numbers to find them out on the web pages of the Czech patent authority and to inspect them by undepended experts.