

Cancellation of Design Centre of the Czech Republic

Dear Sir, dear Madam, dear supporter of Design

I would like to inform you about the alarming circumstances in the Czech Republic, last Friday – on 19th October have been representatives of Design Centre of the Czech Republic definitely informed about the cancellation of their organization. Its activity will be stopped at the end of year 2007.

Design Centre of the Czech Republic is the only public organization concerning all design activities. Design Centre of the Czech Republic organizes design exhibition, students programs, competition: The Excellent Product of the Year, Young Package, supports design production, companies implementation of design and publishes design magazine and design bulletin. Design Centre of the Czech Republic represents Czech Republic in the international organization, is the only design organization connecting with other international organization. Design Centre of the Czech Republic is supported by Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic.

Unfortunately, our present minister of Industry and Trade, Mr. Riman and his deputy ministers have decided that 715 000 Eur which Design Centre of the Czech Republic was receiving is too much. Design Centre of the Czech Republic manages this amount for operation of two offices and galleries –rent, salaries, services and organizing all the activities. But still half of this amount is for grant program (the only design grant program) for supporting companies with implementation of design – Program Design. Even we don't agree with all Design Centre activities or, better said: way and presentation their activities - we can't agree with the cancellation of only public support of design. Ministry of Industry and Trade decided to transfer Design Centre Activities on CzechTrade - National Trade Promotion Agency.

CzechTrade's main objective is to promote international trade and cooperation between Czech and foreign companies. CzechTrade's professional information, assistance and consulting services accompany Czech exporters to foreign markets, and the agency is a contact partner for firms entering the Czech market, seeking interesting and reliable business partners and suppliers. They can't absolutely provide other activities that those oriented on trade. What will happen with support of students, non profit activities, exhibitions, workshops, technical advice, membership in BEDA, ICSID, ICOGRADA, IFI and priceless sixteen years built background and contacts? Minister of Industry and Trade didn't want to listen to opinions of experts and capacities in the filed of design.

I know this is very brief information but even if I provide you all the details you won't be able to understand. I do have all the details and I can't understand. Please express your point of view, your experiences. Inform us about situation of Design Centre in your Country. We will be grateful; we would like to visit Czech Minister of Industry and Trade and give him comparison with other countries. We can't be silent and loose the only support of design in the Czech Republic.

Jana Vinšová

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Non-profit organization concerning on design activities