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## POLICY OF PROTECTION FROM IMPACTS OF DROUGHT AND WATER SCARCITY IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC – CONSULTATION AND PROCESSING

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**Keywords:** drought – water scarcity – inter-ministerial commission  
WATER-DROUGHT – landscape water retention – water resources –  
water quality

In the context of a severe drought period, which has started in 2014, an inter-ministerial commission WATER-DROUGHT was established to prepare a strategic policy document on protection from impacts of drought and water scarcity in the Czech Republic. The result of the consultation process – the Policy of Protection from Impacts of Drought and Water Scarcity – was submitted to the Government for approval in June 2017. The analytical part of the document describes the main observed adverse trends in climatic and hydrological conditions in last three decades including several maps of vulnerability to drought and water scarcity. Expected impacts of climate change on water balance were also discussed and described. The strategic part of the document defines vision and strategic goals, which include improving the knowledge of current and future risk of drought and water scarcity, preparedness based on operational plans and measures and awareness rising, and ensuring balance between available water resources and water demand across all sectors and restoring the natural water regime of the landscape. The protection from impacts of drought and water scarcity has to be managed on several levels – preventive, operational and strategic. The attention has to be focused on public awareness raising for better and more responsible water management.