

## Czech Parliamentarism

- The Constitution of the Czech Republic was adopted on December 16, 1992.
- The constitutional system is based on the model of rationalised parliamentarism.
- The history of Czech parliamentarism already dates back more than 160 years.
- The Parliament consists of two chambers – the Chamber of Deputies (200 Deputies) and the Senate (81 Senators).
- The Chamber of Deputies can be dissolved by the President of the Republic; the Senate cannot be dissolved.
- The Constitution gives the Parliament four essential functions: representative, legislative, scrutiny and the power to appoint persons to selected functions.
- Since 2013, the President of the Republic has been elected in direct elections.
- The Czech Republic has been a NATO member since 1999 and a member of the European Union since 2004.

## Parliamentary Elections

- Elections to both chambers of the Parliament take place by secret ballot on the basis of a general, equal and direct right to vote.
- The Chamber of Deputies is elected for a four-year term according to the principle of proportional representation.
- Senators are elected for six years based on a majoritarian system.
- Every citizen of the Czech Republic who has reached eighteen years of age has the right to vote.
- For a citizen to be eligible to be elected to the Chamber of Deputies, he/she must be at least twenty-one years of age.
- Elections to the Chamber of Deputies take place in 14 electoral districts.
- For elections to the Chamber of Deputies, the Imperiali and Hagenbach-Bischoff's quotas for allocating seats is used; moreover, a political party must receive at least five per cent of the votes in order to pass the electoral threshold.

## The Mandate of a Deputy

- A mandate comprises a set of rights and obligations of a member of the Chamber of Deputies, from the moment of his/her election.
- It has the characteristics of a free mandate which must be performed in person according to the oath, while not being bound by any orders.
- The mandate is protected by parliamentary immunity – a Deputy cannot be prosecuted for his/her voting, speech and expressions in Parliament.
- The mandate is incompatible with the function of the President of the Republic, Senator, judge and numerous other public functions according to special laws; a Deputy may be a member of the Government.
- A Deputy is bound by obligations arising from the Conflict of Interest Act – every year, he/she must submit a written statement about his/her property, gifts, commitments and other activities performed concurrently with his/her mandate as a Deputy.
- Throughout the performance of the mandate, the Deputy receives a salary set by a special law. Furthermore, other expenses associated with the performance of the function (travelling expenses, assistants, office) are reimbursed.

## Scrutiny of the Government

- The Government is accountable only to the Chamber of Deputies (not to the Senate).
- The Prime Minister and the members of the Government are appointed by the President of the Republic.
- Within 30 days of being appointed, the Government must request a vote of confidence from the Chamber of Deputies.
- The Chamber of Deputies may express no confidence in the Government by an absolute majority of votes (101).
- The Government is responsible to the Chamber of Deputies as a whole – it is thus impossible to express no confidence in individual ministers.
- Deputies may submit interpellations to members of the Government both in writing and orally.
- The Chamber of Deputies may establish a commission of inquiry as a special investigative body.

## The Legislative Process

- A bill may be tabled by a Deputy, a group of Deputies, the Government, the Senate and Regional Assemblies.
- Each bill must first be tabled in the Chamber of Deputies and discussed by it.
- In each electoral term, approximately 700 bills are tabled in the Chamber of Deputies.
- In the Chamber of Deputies, bills are discussed using the system of three readings.
- Committees of the Chamber of Deputies play an important role in the legislative process.
- In case of bills of ordinary laws, the Chamber of Deputies may override the veto of the Senate and of the President of the Republic with an absolute majority of the votes of the Deputies (101).
- Apart from bills of ordinary laws, both chambers of the Parliament also adopt constitutional laws, in which case a qualified 3/5 majority both in the Chamber of Deputies and in the Senate is needed.



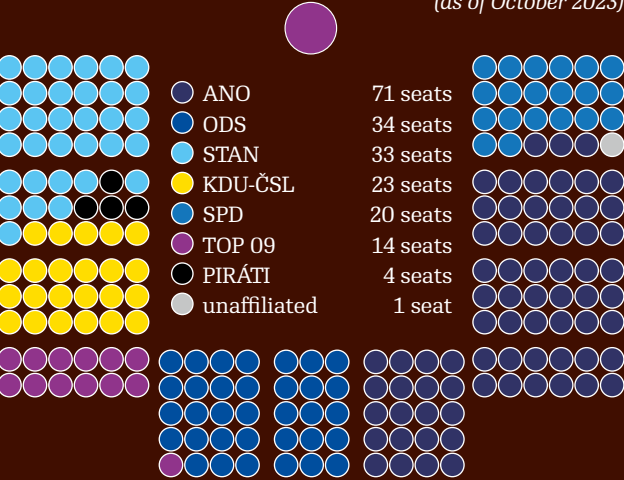


Committees of the Chamber of Deputies:

- Committee on Agriculture
  - Committee on the Budget
  - Committee on Budgetary Control
  - Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs
  - Committee on Defence
  - Committee on Economic Affairs
  - Committee on the Environment
  - Committee on European Affairs
  - Committee on Foreign Affairs
  - Committee on Health Care
  - Committee on Petitions
  - Committee on Public Administration and Regional Development
  - Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport
  - Committee on Security
  - Committee on Social Policy
  - Committee on Media Affairs
  - Mandate and Immunity Committee
  - Steering Committee
- (as of October 2023)

The distribution of seats in the Chamber of Deputies by political group

(as of October 2023)



Speaker



Markéta Pekarová Adamová (TOP 09)

Deputy Speakers



Věra Kovářová  
(STAN)



Jan Bartošek  
(KDU-ČSL)



Jan Skopeček  
(ODS)



Olga Richterová  
(PIRÁTI)



Karel Havlíček  
(ANO 2011)



Klára Dostálová  
(ANO 2011)



*'All state authority emanates from the people; they exercise it through legislative, executive, and judicial bodies.'*

Article 2, Section 1 of the Constitution

*'I pledge loyalty to the Czech Republic. I pledge that I will uphold its Constitution and laws. I pledge on my honour that I will carry out my duties in the interest of all the people, to the best of my knowledge and conscience.'*

The oath taken by Deputies, Article 23, Section 3 of the Constitution

ANO - ANO 2011; ODS - Civic Democratic Party; PIRÁTI - Czech Pirate Party; SPD - Freedom and Direct Democracy - Tomio Okamura; KDU-ČSL - Christian and Democratic Union - Czechoslovak People's Party; TOP 09 - TOP 09; STAN - Mayors and Independents



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THE PARLIAMENT OF  
THE CZECH REPUBLIC  
THE CHAMBER  
OF DEPUTIES