

Directorate-General for the Presidency
Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments

Factsheet: The Czech Senate



Wallenstein Palace, seat of the Czech Senate


1. At a glance

The Czech Republic is a parliamentary democracy. The Czech Parliament (*Parlament České republiky*) is made up of two Chambers, both directly elected – the Chamber of Deputies (*Poslanecká sněmovna*) and the Senate (*Senát*).



The 81 senators in the Senate are elected for six years. Every other year one third of them are elected which makes the Senate a permanent institution that cannot be dissolved and continuously performs its work. Elections to the Senate are held by secret ballot based on universal, equal suffrage, pursuant to the principles of the majority system. Unlike the Lower Chamber, a candidate for the Senate does not need to be on a political party's ticket.

Senators, like MPs have the right to take part in election of judges of the Constitutional Court, and may propose new laws. However, the Senate does not get to vote on the country budget and does not supervise the executive directly. The Senate can delay a proposed law, which was approved by the Chamber. However this veto can, with some rare exceptions, be overridden by an absolute majority of the Chamber in a repeated vote.

2. Composition

Composition of Senate following the elections of 5-6 October & 12-13 October 2018			
	Party	EP affiliation	Seats
	Starostové a nezávislí (STAN) Mayors and Independents		19
	Občanská demokratická strana (ODS) Civic Democratic Party		18
	Křesťanská a demokratická unie - Československá strana lidová (KDU-ČSL) Christian-Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party		15
	Česká strana sociálně demokratická (ČSSD) Czech Social Democratic Party		13
	ANO 2011		7
	Senátor 21 Senator 21	Not affiliated	6
	Non-attached		3
			81
The next elections must take place in autumn 2020 at the latest.			

3. Officeholders

President of the Senate  Mr Miloš VYSTRČIL (ODS – Civic Democratic Party/ECR) Since 19 February 2020	Chairperson of the Committee on EU Affairs  Mr Václav HAMPL (KDU-ČSL and Independents/EPP) since 14 November 2018
Secretary-General of the Czech Senate: Ms Jana Vohralíková, as of 1st September 2019	

4. Relations with Members of the European Parliament

Participation rights for Czech MEPs in plenary sittings	No
Participation rights for Czech MEPs in committee meetings	Partially (Czech MEPs may attend committee meetings and may express their opinion and submit proposals, but they are only entitled to an advisory vote.)
Availability of videoconferencing system in the Czech Senate	No

5. Information links

- Official website: <http://www.senat.cz/>
- [The Standing Rules](#) (rules of procedure) in English
- [List of committees](#)
- [Recent documents submitted by the Czech Senate to the Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange \(IPEX\)](#)
- [European Parliament Liaison Office in Prague](#)

6. Contacts

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