

## Factsheet: The Czech Chamber of Deputies



Thun Palace, seat of the Chamber of Deputies









### 1. At a glance

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 200 Members of the Chamber of Deputies are elected for four-year terms. Members are elected by secret, general, equal and direct elections pursuant to the principles of proportional representation.

The Chamber of Deputies has greater powers than the Senate, especially regarding parliamentary scrutiny, as the Government is solely responsible to the Chamber of Deputies. The Chamber is the only body that debates and decides the state budget. It also has greater legislative powers than the Senate. In the case of proposals for regular laws, if the Senate has rejected a legislative proposal or proposed amendments then Chamber may vote to override the Senate by a simple majority of votes. However, in the case of proposed constitutional laws or proposals for the expression of consent with the ratification of international agreements or in certain cases pertaining to defence and security, the Chamber and the Senate have equal powers.

Following the October 2017 elections, nine parties entered the lower house, resulting in the most fragmented Chamber of Deputies in the history of the Czech Republic. The populist movement ANO 2011 led by Andrej Babiš clearly won the elections but needed another party to create a majority coalition government. In January 2018, the government failed a parliamentary vote of confidence, as no other party would agree to a coalition with ANO 2011 given the EU-fraud allegations faced by Andrej Babiš. In July 2018, after eight months of negotiations, a coalition under Prime Minister Babiš was reached between ANO 2011 (Renew) and ČSSD (S&D) with the support of the Communist party (KSČM/GUE/NGL). This is the first time the Communist party participates in national politics since the fall of the communist regime in 1989.











### 2. Composition

Results of the elections of 21-22 October 2017				
	Party	EP affiliation	%	Seats
	ANO 2011		29,6	78
	Občanská demokratická strana (ODS) Civic Democratic Party		11,3	25
	Česká pirátská strana (Piráti) Czech Pirate Party (Pirates)		10,8	22
	Svoboda a přímá demokracie (SPD) Freedom and Direct Democracy		10,6	22



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	<b>Komunistická strana Čech a Moravy (KSČM)</b> Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia		7,8	15
	<b>Česká strana sociálně demokratická (ČSSD)</b> Czech Social Democratic Party		7,3	15
	<b>Křesťanská a demokratická unie - Československá strana lidová (KDU-ČSL)</b> Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party		5,8	10
	<b>TOP 09</b>		5,3	7
	<b>Starostové a Nezávislí (STAN)</b> Mayors and Independent		5,2	6
				<b>200</b>
<b>Turnout: 60,8%</b>				
<b>The next elections must take place in autumn 2021 at the latest.</b>				

### 3. Officeholders

<p><b>President of the Chamber of Deputies</b></p>  <p>Mr Radek Vondráček (ANO 2011/Renew) since 22 November 2017</p>	<p><b>Chairperson of the Committee on European Affairs</b></p>  <p>Mr Ondřej Benešík (KDU-ČSL/EPP) since 29 November 2017</p>
<p><b>Secretary-General of the Chamber of Deputies: Mr Jan Morávek, since 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017</b></p>	

### 4. Relations with Members of the European Parliament

<b>Participation rights for Czech MEPs in plenary sittings</b>	Yes, as guests, following the prior authorisation of the Chamber of Deputies
<b>Participation rights for Czech MEPs in committee meetings</b>	Partially (Czech MEPs may attend committee meetings and may take part in their proceedings without having a right to vote or to move motions and amendments.)
<b>Availability of videoconferencing system in the Czech Chamber of Deputies</b>	No

### 5. Information links

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

## **6. Contacts**

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