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## **COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT**

### **2025 Rule of Law Report Country Chapter on the rule of law situation in Czechia**

#### *Accompanying the document*

**Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the  
European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions**

#### **2025 Rule of Law Report The rule of law situation in the European Union**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The level of perceived judicial independence in Czechia is high among both the general public and companies. The implementation of the prosecution service reform is ongoing, and stakeholders view it positively. A new disciplinary procedure for judges, prosecutors and bailiffs entered into force, introducing the possibility of appeal. New rules increasing the remuneration of judges from 2026 were adopted, while the salaries of the judicial and prosecutorial staff also slightly increased. Digitalisation in the courts is generally advancing, with videoconferencing well established and further supported by recent legislative changes, though the rolling out of an ‘e-file’ system was further delayed. An amendment updating the rules on the use of lay judges, with a view to increase efficiency, entered into force. Amendments increasing the level of court fees in administrative matters are underway. The justice system is performing efficiently, with further improvements in case resolution times.

The implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy continues, and a new action plan was adopted. A steady flow of corruption investigations, prosecutions and convictions continues. Some measures were taken to reduce the length of proceedings and ensure the independence of investigation and prosecution in high-level corruption cases. The Constitutional Court declared legislation on conflicts of interests unconstitutional for procedural reasons and annulled the application of the revised provisions including those related to beneficial owners. A possible future revision of the rules on asset declarations and revolving doors remains under consideration at technical level. Legislation on lobbying was adopted as part of the Recovery and Resilience Plan and it also covers Members of Parliament. New legislation on the financing of electoral campaigns was adopted by Parliament, while a possible expansion of the Supreme Audit Office’s powers remains under consideration. Efforts to mitigate corruption risks in public procurement continue.

Draft legislation will, if adopted, enshrine certain rights of media service providers, provide the audiovisual media regulator with further responsibilities – including in relation to scrutiny of market concentrations – and oblige public bodies to publish the amounts allocated for the purpose of state advertising. Amendments to public service media legislation have clarified the public service remit and placed the financing system on a more sustainable basis. The transparency of media ownership has, however, not registered further developments. Additional protections for journalists’ sources and confidential communications have been proposed. There have been increased efforts by the police to address cases of abuse against journalists while online harassment of journalists remains an issue of concern.

The Government took steps to improve the inclusiveness of the policy-making process. However, the quality of legislation is affected by the use of a procedural technique known as ‘legislative riders’; these enable the introduction of amendments unrelated to the main substance of the legislative proposal, and the Constitutional Court circumscribes when this can be done. Some further measures have been adopted to improve the enabling environment for civil society. Following the entry into force of amendments to the Ombudsman Act, the National Human Rights Institution was established.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Overall, concerning the recommendations in the 2024 Rule of Law Report, Czechia has (made):

- Some progress on taking measures to address the remuneration of judges, and judicial and prosecutorial staff, taking into account European standards on resources and remuneration for the justice system.
- Some further progress on taking measures to reduce the length of proceedings and ensure independence of investigation and prosecution in high-level corruption cases.
- Fully implemented the part of the recommendation to complement existing rules on lobbying in an effort to strengthen the integrity framework for all members of Parliament and no progress as regards complementing the existing rules on revolving doors.
- No further progress on progressing with further reforms relating to transparency of information on media ownership.
- Fully implemented the recommendation to ensure that rules or mechanisms are in place to provide funding for public service media that is appropriate for the realisation of its public service remit while guaranteeing its independence.
- Fully implemented the recommendation to continue to advance the legislative changes to establish a National Human Rights Institution taking into account the UN Paris Principles.

On this basis, and considering other developments that took place in the period of reference, and in addition to recalling the relevant commitments made under the Recovery and Resilience Plan, it is recommended to Czechia to:

- Take further measures to reduce the length of proceedings and ensure independence of investigation and prosecution in high-level corruption cases.
- Take further measures to strengthen the integrity framework for all members of Parliament, in particular by complementing the existing rules as regards revolving doors.
- Reinitiate the revision of legislation on conflicts of interest, including as regards beneficial ownership.
- Progress with further reforms relating to transparency of information on media ownership.

## I. JUSTICE SYSTEM<sup>1</sup>

### Independence

**The level of perceived judicial independence in Czechia is high among both the general public and companies.** Overall, 64% of the general population and 63% of companies perceive the level of independence of courts and judges to be ‘fairly or very good’ in 2025<sup>2</sup>. The perceived judicial independence among the general public has significantly increased in comparison with 2024 (54%) and 2021 (51%). The perceived judicial independence among companies has also increased in comparison with 2024 (57%) and 2021 (51%).

**The implementation of the prosecution service reform is ongoing and stakeholders view it positively.** The reform introduced safeguards for the dismissal of the Prosecutor General and other chief prosecutors<sup>3</sup>. Its implementation is underway, in particular as regards the gradual replacement of all chief prosecutors<sup>4</sup>. Approximately ten to fifteen chief prosecutors are replaced every six months, and the selection procedures are reported to be functioning well<sup>5</sup>. Stakeholders broadly welcomed the reform<sup>6</sup>. The Prosecutor General’s Office published rules on career advancement and selection procedures for public prosecutors on 4 July 2024, as required by the amendments<sup>7</sup>. Further changes to the rules were announced by the new Prosecutor General, who took office in April 2025<sup>8</sup>.

**A new disciplinary procedure for judges, prosecutors and bailiffs entered into force, introducing the possibility of appeal.** Since 1 January 2025, when the reform entered into force, High Courts act as the first-instance disciplinary bodies, with appeals heard by the Supreme Court and the Supreme Administrative Court<sup>9</sup>. To promote consistency and avoid conflicting decisions, a ‘unifying disciplinary panel’ has been established at the Supreme Administrative Court. The new regime applies to cases initiated after January 2025. Other procedural revisions are being implemented, such as establishing a new courts registry, adapting the court management system and nominating the judges in the disciplinary panels<sup>10</sup>. The reform is part of the commitments under the Czech Recovery and Resilience

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<sup>1</sup> An overview of the institutional framework for all four pillars can be found [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> Figures 50 and 52, 2025 EU Justice Scoreboard and Figures 49 and 51, 2023 EU Justice Scoreboard. The level of perceived judicial independence is categorised as follows: very low (below 30% of respondents perceive judicial independence as fairly good and very good); low (between 30-39%), average (between 40-59%), high (between 60-75%), very high (above 75%).

<sup>3</sup> The reform was a subject of a 2023 Rule of Law Report recommendation and entered into effect on 1 July 2024.

<sup>4</sup> Transitional provisions of the Act on the public prosecution service, as amended.

<sup>5</sup> Country visit Czechia, Ministry of Justice, Prosecutor General’s Office, Union of Public Prosecutors. Ministry of Justice and Union of Public Prosecutors reported that the number of candidates is so far rather low.

<sup>6</sup> Stakeholders reiterated that while they assess the reform positively, it represents a compromise on certain matters. Country visit Czechia, Prosecutor General’s Office, Union of Public Prosecutors. See also 2024 Rule of Law Report, Czechia, pp. 3–5.

<sup>7</sup> Document No. 1 SL 1006/2024–23, based on Section 12 para. 7 of the Act on the public prosecution service.

<sup>8</sup> Country visit Czechia, Prosecutor General’s Office.

<sup>9</sup> Section 3 para. 2 of the Act on proceedings in the cases of judges, prosecutors and bailiffs, as amended. The Supreme Court hears cases about judges, while the Supreme Administrative Court hears cases about Supreme Court judges, administrative judges (except for judges of the Supreme Administrative Court), public prosecutors and bailiffs.

<sup>10</sup> Country visit Czechia, Ministry of Justice.

Plan (RRP) and responds also to a GRECO recommendation<sup>11</sup>. Stakeholders are generally positive about the introduction of the second instance, acknowledging the aim of enhancing the legality and fairness of disciplinary proceedings<sup>12</sup>. The selection procedure for judges continues to work well, with stakeholders welcoming the increased transparency of the procedure<sup>13</sup>.

## Quality

**There has been some progress on the recommendation on the remuneration of judges, and judicial and prosecutorial staff<sup>14</sup>.** Following the Constitutional Court's ruling in May 2024, which annulled the prior reform of the remuneration rules for judges, the Government adopted a new law, which entered into force in March 2025. This law reinstated the original multiplier used to calculate judicial salaries, as requested by the Constitutional Court, though this provision will apply only from 2026. For 2025, the new law introduced a special provision setting out the concrete nominal value for judicial salaries<sup>15</sup>. The amendment affects also the salary of the public prosecutors, where a nominal value of salary for 2025 was set as well<sup>16</sup>. The judiciary considers the law to be in conflict with the Constitutional Court's ruling, since the value set for 2025 does not correspond to the multiplier set in the ruling, and applies retroactively from 1 January 2025. Individual judges have challenged the law before general courts as well as the Constitutional Court<sup>17</sup>. The rules for determining judges' remuneration must be objective, foreseeable, but also stable and transparent, so as to exclude any arbitrary intervention by the legislature and the executive, and the same requirements apply to any measures derogating from those rules<sup>18</sup>. Prosecutorial and non-judge court staff went on a three-day strike in October 2024 in connection to their salaries<sup>19</sup>. A limited salary increase for all staff was provided from 1 January 2025 in line with commitments made by the Ministry of Finance. These salaries have not kept pace with other public sector positions<sup>20</sup>, which continues to affect the recruitment and retention of qualified staff in the

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<sup>11</sup> The reform is part of Czech Recovery and Resilience Plan ('RRP'): Reform 2 Strengthening the legislative framework and transparency in the areas of courts, judges, prosecutors and bailiffs, component 4.3. GRECO Fourth Evaluation Round – Evaluation Report, recommendation ix, introducing the possibility for judges to challenge disciplinary decisions including for dismissal before a court.

<sup>12</sup> Country visit Czechia, Supreme Court, Union of Judges.

<sup>13</sup> Country visit Czechia, Supreme Court, Union of Judges.

<sup>14</sup> The 2024 Rule of Law Report recommended Czechia to "[t]ake measures to address the remuneration of judges, and judicial and prosecutorial staff, taking into account European standards on resources and remuneration for the justice system."

<sup>15</sup> Section 4 of Act on the salary and other emoluments connected with the performance of the duties of public officials and certain state bodies and judges and members of the European Parliament. A specific term 'public official' in the law., which comprises the MPs, the members of the Government, the President, the members of the Supreme Audit Office and other representatives. The term also includes judges of the Constitutional Court, however, their salary is based on the judicial salaries.

<sup>16</sup> Act on the salary and certain other allowances of public prosecutors. The salary of public prosecutors constitutes 90% of the judicial salary.

<sup>17</sup> Country visit Czechia, Union of Judges. ČT24 (2025). Advokátní deník (2025).

<sup>18</sup> Judgement of the CJEU, joined cases C-146/23, *Sąd Rejonowy w Białymstoku* and C-374/23, *Adoreikė*, para 56, paras. 65 et seq.

<sup>19</sup> Country visit Czechia, Union of Judges. Judicial staff went on strike also on 29 May 2024.

<sup>20</sup> Country visit Czechia, Supreme Court, Prosecutor General's Office, Union of Judges, Union of Public Prosecutors.

judiciary and prosecution services<sup>21</sup>. Some progress was made on the recommendation to address the remuneration of judges, as well as on the salaries of the judicial and prosecutorial staff.

**The level of digitalisation in the courts is generally advancing, with videoconferencing well established and further supported by recent legislative changes, while the rolling out of the ‘e-file’ system was further delayed.** The level of digitalisation in the courts is generally advancing<sup>22</sup>. Procedural rules allow the use of digital tools in courts, and various digital solutions are in place to initiate and follow proceedings, particularly in civil, commercial and administrative cases. Since 1 October 2024, with the change to the rules for using videoconferencing in court proceedings, it is no longer required that a court employee be present with a party, witness or other participant during a videoconference session<sup>23</sup>. It is expected that similar amendments will be made to the Criminal Procedure Code<sup>24</sup>. However, the implementation of the e-file system has been postponed again and remains in the procurement phase. Judges and lawyers consider the system to be essential for reducing court workload and for enabling lawyers and parties to access case files remotely. The electronic information management system for public prosecution is also facing delays, with the Ministry of Justice expecting it to be introduced in the second half of 2025<sup>25</sup>. The Ministry of Justice launched a public mediation dashboard with a view to provide transparent access to court-related mediation data, as well as developing future instruments to promote alternative dispute resolutions<sup>26</sup>.

**An amendment updating the rules on the use of lay judges entered into force.** The amendment to the Act on courts, judges, lay judges and the public administration of courts, entered into force on 1 January 2025<sup>27</sup>. It aims to increase the efficiency of judicial proceedings involving lay judges<sup>28</sup>. Under the new law, lay judges are no longer involved in labour disputes in civil proceedings and in criminal proceedings before district courts. Such cases are now to be decided by a single judge. The participation of lay judges is reserved for first-instance criminal proceedings before regional courts in cases concerning particularly serious crimes<sup>29</sup>. The changes are generally welcomed by stakeholders, who view them as a balanced approach to improving efficiency while preserving the role of lay judges in the justice system<sup>30</sup>.

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<sup>21</sup> This is particularly the case in Prague and other bigger cities. Negotiations continue, but stakeholders reported that the Ministry indicated that judges must decide whether to increase their own salaries or those of their staff, creating tension within the judiciary. Country visit Czechia, Union of Judges.

<sup>22</sup> The provision of Equipment of courtrooms with audio-visual data recorders was supported in the framework of the Czech Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP), Investment 3: Digital service for justice.

<sup>23</sup> Act amending Act No. 182/2006 Coll., on insolvency and other laws including Act amending Act No. 99/1963 Coll., Civil Procedure Code; Czech Government (2025), written input, p. 5.

<sup>24</sup> Czech Government (2025a), additional written input.

<sup>25</sup> Czech Government (2025), written input, p. 5. Country visit Czechia, Union of Public Prosecutors.

<sup>26</sup> Czech Government (2025a), written input on the single market dimension, p. 3.

<sup>27</sup> Act amending Act No. 6/2002 Coll., on courts and judges.

<sup>28</sup> Czech Government (2025), written input, p. 1; Czech Bar Association (2025), written input, p. 5.

<sup>29</sup> Explicit permission is made also for the proceedings concerning the crime of murder of a newborn child by the mother, although it does not fall in the category of particularly serious crimes. Lay judges are excluded from participating in proceedings concerning particularly serious property crimes and economic crimes. Czech Government (2025), written input, p. 1; Czech Bar Association (2025), written input, p. 5.

<sup>30</sup> Country visit Czechia, Constitutional Court, Supreme Court, Czech Bar Association.

**Amendments increasing the level of court fees in administrative justice matters are underway.** The amendments to the Act on court fees, currently submitted for discussion in Parliament, aim at doubling, and in the case of cassation appeals almost tripling current fees. The aim of the reform is to ensure the financial sustainability of the judicial system, including rising administrative expenses. The level of fees has remained unchanged since 2011. Some stakeholders are concerned about the sudden increase in court fees and its potential risk to access to justice<sup>31</sup>, whereas other stakeholders consider the increase reasonable<sup>32</sup>.

## **Efficiency**

**The justice system is performing efficiently with further improvements in case resolution times.** The disposition time in civil and commercial cases at first instance decreased from 134 days in 2022 to 126 days in 2023, among the lowest in the EU. While the clearance rate for administrative cases at first instance decreased to 111% in 2023, compared to 126% in 2022, the estimated time needed to resolve such cases continued to improve, dropping from 225 days in 2022 to 212 days in 2023. The Ministry of Justice is continuing a project aimed at developing a methodology for collecting empirical data on the labour intensity of various court activities, alongside creating an initial dataset to support a more accurate determination of staffing needs at individual courts. Data collection took place in February 2025 with active participation from the judiciary. The analysis of the collected data is expected to be completed by July 2025<sup>33</sup>.

## **II. ANTI-CORRUPTION FRAMEWORK**

**The perception among experts, citizens and business executives is that the level of corruption in the public sector remains relatively high.** In the 2024 Corruption Perceptions Index by Transparency International, Czechia scores 56/100 and ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the European Union and 46<sup>th</sup> globally<sup>34</sup>. This perception has been relatively stable over the past five years<sup>35</sup>. The 2025 Special Eurobarometer on Corruption shows that 75% of respondents consider corruption widespread in their country (EU average 69%) and 24% of respondents feel personally affected by corruption in their daily lives (EU average 30%). As regards businesses, 62% of companies consider that corruption is widespread (EU average 63%) and 35% consider that corruption is a problem when doing business (EU average 35%). Furthermore, 34% of respondents find that there are enough successful prosecutions to deter people from corrupt practices (EU average 36%), while 24% of companies believe that people and businesses caught for bribing a senior official are appropriately punished (EU average 33%)<sup>36</sup>.

**The implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy 2023-2026 continues and a new action plan was adopted<sup>37</sup>.** The action plan covering 2023-2024 was assessed as being

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<sup>31</sup> Country visit Czechia, League of Human Rights.

<sup>32</sup> Country visit Czechia, Union of Judges, Czech Bar Association.

<sup>33</sup> The project is called “Strengthening the efficiency of the judicial system in the Czech Republic” and is supported by the Technical Support Instrument of the European Commission.

<sup>34</sup> The level of perceived corruption is categorised as follows: low (above 79); relatively low (between 79-60), relatively high (between 59-50), high (below 50).

<sup>35</sup> In 2020 the score was 54, while, in 2024, the score is 56. The score significantly increases/decreases when it changes more than five points; improves/deteriorates (changes between 4-5 points); is relatively stable (changes from 1-3 points) in the last five years.

<sup>36</sup> Data from Special Eurobarometer 561 (2025) and Flash Eurobarometer 557 (2025).

<sup>37</sup> Czech Government (2025), written input, p. 10.

largely implemented<sup>38</sup>. Some civil society stakeholders criticised the new action plan, which they say focuses too much on analysis and preparation and lacks concrete decisions and steps forward to improve the overall anti-corruption framework<sup>39</sup>. The Anti-Corruption Council, an advisory body to the government which includes civil society<sup>40</sup>, met once in 2024, focusing its discussions on the ongoing criminal law reform<sup>41</sup>. Concerns raised by civil society about a possible mitigation of sanctions, in particular introducing fines instead of imprisonment, for certain corruption crimes, have been addressed by removing such provisions from the final proposal submitted to Parliament<sup>42</sup>. The Conflicts of Interest and Anti-Corruption Department of the Ministry of Justice is responsible for the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy, processing asset declarations and conflicts of interest and whistleblowing. Despite an increase in tasks – such as for the implementation of the new lobbying legislation – it has not received corresponding resources amidst general budgetary constraints<sup>43</sup>.

**A steady flow of corruption investigations, prosecutions and convictions continues.** In 2024 the authorities opened 154 corruption investigations (compared to 168 in 2023) and prosecuted 166 individuals for corruption offences or suspicions thereof (compared to 162 individuals in 2023)<sup>44</sup>. A total of 141 persons were brought before a court (compared to 158 in 2023)<sup>45</sup>, while 99 were convicted for corruption in 2024 (compared to 123 persons in 2023). 2024 saw 13 acquittals for corruption (compared to 26 in 2023). Most cases related to the offences of bribery or of arranging an advantage in the context of public procurement<sup>46</sup>. As regards foreign bribery, updated statistics are not available. The 2024 report noted that only a limited number of cases of foreign bribery were detected and prosecuted despite the legal framework being in place<sup>47</sup>.

**Cooperation between the relevant law enforcement institutions remains good<sup>48</sup>.** The Ministry of Interior and the National Agency against Organised Crime (NCOZ) remain committed to improving the investigative capacities of the NCOZ and a new uniform

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<sup>38</sup> Ministry of Justice (2025c).

<sup>39</sup> Country visit Czechia, Transparency International and Lobbio; Transparency International Czechia (2025), written input, p. 9.

<sup>40</sup> The Minister of Justice removed the formal obligation of the Anti-Corruption Council, an advisory body to the government which includes civil society, to meet twice per year. Country visit Czechia, Ministry of Justice and iRozhlas (2024).

<sup>41</sup> Ministry of Justice (2025a).

<sup>42</sup> Country visit Czechia, NEON/Glopolis.

<sup>43</sup> No extra resources have been planned so far to be assigned to the responsible department in the Ministry of Justice. Around 6 FTE and CZK 12 million are expected to be needed. Country visit Czechia, Transparency International/Lobbio and Ministry of Justice and iRozhlas (2025) and Czech Government (2025), written input, p. 11. Some civil society organisations consider this lack of resources puts at risk the broader implementation of the anti-corruption policy and the Anti-Corruption Council already issued a recommendation on this topic to the government in 2023. Ministry of Justice (2023), NEON/Glopolis (2025), written input, pp. 11-12 and Country visit Czechia, Transparency International and Lobbio. The Minister of Justice has stated these resources cannot be granted by the Ministry of Finance due to the budgetary situation. Czech Senate (2025).

<sup>44</sup> Police (2025) and Public Prosecution Service (2025).

<sup>45</sup> This includes: indictments, motions for punishments, and agreements on guilt and punishment.

<sup>46</sup> Public Prosecution Service (2025).

<sup>47</sup> 2024 Rule of Law Report, Czechia, p. 12.

<sup>48</sup> Country visit Czechia, National Agency against Organised Crime and Public Prosecution Service. See also 2024 Rule of Law Report, Czechia, pp. 10-11.

analytical tool<sup>49</sup> is being rolled out to investigators in a pilot phase<sup>50</sup>. Cooperation with the EPPO is generally good, with the results praised by stakeholders<sup>51</sup>. Of its open cases in 2024, the EPPO reported that five were related to corruption (3.3 % of its total open cases)<sup>52</sup>.

**Some progress was made on the recommendation to take measures to reduce the length of proceedings and ensure the independence of investigation and prosecution in high-level corruption cases<sup>53</sup>.** Investigations, prosecutions and adjudications in cases of high-level corruption, involving both former and current high-level officials continue, and additional cases were detected<sup>54</sup>. Some measures were taken to support the investigative stage, including addressing the excessive caseload on the Regional Police Directorate in Prague, better evaluating police performance in economic crime cases, and establishing an additional police unit to aid in operative detection of economic crime<sup>55</sup>. Concerns persist over the length of judicial proceedings in high-level corruption cases at all stages of the process, including investigation, prosecution and adjudication<sup>56</sup>. There were no new allegations of undue interference reported as influencing high-level corruption cases in the reporting period<sup>57</sup>. No measures were taken to prevent such instances from re-occurring in the future. On the basis of all these developments, there has been some progress on the recommendation made in the 2024 Rule of Law Report.

**The Constitutional Court declared the technique used to revise legislation on conflicts of interests unconstitutional and annulled the application of the revised provisions to beneficial owners and media ownership<sup>58</sup>.** In December 2024 the Constitutional Court overturned parts of the revised legislation on conflicts of interest and in particular the amendments aimed at excluding high-ranking politicians from media ownership<sup>59</sup> on

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<sup>49</sup> A digital solution to input data and analysis uncovered during investigations in a uniform and standardised manner.

<sup>50</sup> Czech Government (2025), written input, pp. 7-8 and Country visit Czechia, National Agency against Organised Crime.

<sup>51</sup> Country visit Czechia, National Agency against Organised Crime, the Public Prosecution Service and the Union of Public Prosecutors. See also 2024 Rule of Law Report, Czechia, p. 11.

<sup>52</sup> EPPO (2025), Annual Report 2024, p. 25.

<sup>53</sup> The 2024 Rule of Law Report recommended Czechia to “[t]ake measures to reduce the length of proceedings and ensure independence of investigation and prosecution in high-level corruption cases.”

<sup>54</sup> Examples of high-level corruption cases include the Dozimetr procurement scandal linked to Prague municipal transport, the Brno municipal apartments sales case, and corruption cases in the IKEM and Motol hospitals and cities of Olomouc and Pardubice. See 2024 Rule of Law Report, Czechia, pp. 11-12 (and earlier editions), Country visit Czechia, National Agency against Organised Crime and the Public Prosecution Service.

<sup>55</sup> Czech Government (2025), written input, pp. 7-8.

<sup>56</sup> According to data of the prosecution, the average length of proceedings from the start of investigation to the final verdict ranged between 614 to 854 days in 2024, depending on the corruption offence, although this data is not disaggregated between regular and high-level cases (compared to 64 to 1222 days in 2023). As an example, a case involving a former Prime Minister and an MEP related to a 2008 subsidy fraud remains in re-trial at the Court of Appeal. Charges in this case were brought for the first time in 2016. Public Prosecution Service (2025). See also 2024 Rule of Law report, Czechia, pp. 11-12.

<sup>57</sup> Country visit Czechia, Union of Judges, Union of Prosecutors, Public Prosecution Office and Transparency International/Lobbio.

<sup>58</sup> See also the broader discussion on transparency of media ownership as such in pillar III.

<sup>59</sup> The 2023 Rule of Law report recommended to “[c]omplete the revision of legislation on conflicts of interest, including by clarifying the definition of beneficial ownership.” In 2024, this recommendation was considered fulfilled on the basis of the adoption of these legislative revisions.

procedural grounds<sup>60</sup>. The application of the revised law, including the new monitoring powers granted to the Office for the Supervision of the Finances of Political Parties and Movements, has as such been suspended<sup>61</sup> and the overall conflicts of interest legislation has been reinstated to its state prior to amendment – therefore no longer covering beneficial owners<sup>62</sup>. As such, serving high-ranking politicians may in principle be beneficial owners of media without this constituting a situation of conflict of interest. In practice, no such cases were flagged by stakeholders<sup>63</sup>. The current Government does not expect to reintroduce similar amendments before the autumn 2025 parliamentary elections, although a draft bill similar to the annulled provisions remains pending in Parliament as an individual MP initiative<sup>64</sup>.

**A possible future revision of rules on asset declarations and revolving doors remains under consideration at technical level.** Following an analysis of the functioning of the legislation on conflicts of interest from June 2024 and which focused on a possible extension of asset reporting obligations<sup>65</sup>, the Ministry of Justice has planned a further study on “revolving doors” under the 2025-2026 action plan of the Anti-Corruption Strategy. This qualitative analysis would focus on frequency, motivation and impact of revolving doors, including possible preventive measures<sup>66</sup>. A decision on possibly introducing new rules on asset declarations or revolving doors will be for a new government following parliamentary elections in autumn<sup>67</sup>. The lack of broader rules on revolving doors for all categories of high-level officials has been flagged as a gap in the legal framework<sup>68</sup>. As regards asset declarations, the Ministry of Justice established 1 277 failures to declare assets in 2024 (down from 2 012 cases reported in 2023)<sup>69</sup>. It conducted 44 in-depth verifications of declarations filled by public officials leading to 10 cases of administrative proceedings against public officials at municipal level<sup>70</sup>. Civil society has criticised that the actual control of the declarations is generally carried out at the local level by small municipal offices where the relevant official has his main residence, leading to unequal implementation of the legislation<sup>71</sup>.

**Legislation on lobbying was adopted as part of the Recovery and Resilience Plan.** Legislation on lobbying was adopted by Parliament in May 2025, having been proposed by

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<sup>60</sup> The conflicts of interest legislation was added to another, unrelated legislative procedure. This technique was used in part to override obstruction of the Parliament’s regular work by opposition MPs. In response, a group of 70 MPs of the main opposition party brought the complaint to the Constitutional Court. The Court did not pronounce itself on the substance of the legislation. The Court ruled that because the bill that the conflicts of interest legislation was attached to had no close relationship with either the purpose or the content of the conflicts of interest legislation, and at the same time in the Chamber of Deputies a broad consensus on its adoption had not been reached, it had to declare this technique unconstitutional. Constitutional Court (2024).

<sup>61</sup> Office for the Supervision of the Finances of Political Parties and Movements (2025).

<sup>62</sup> NEON/Glopolis (2025), written input, p. 14.

<sup>63</sup> Civil society is not aware of any high-ranking politicians currently owning such media. Country visit Czechia, Transparency International and Lobbio.

<sup>64</sup> Country visit Czechia, Ministry of Justice.

<sup>65</sup> 2024 Rule of Law report, Czechia, pp. 13-14.

<sup>66</sup> Ministry of Justice (2024), pp. 6-7.

<sup>67</sup> Country visit Czechia, Ministry of Justice.

<sup>68</sup> Including for Members of Parliament – see below. 2023 Rule of Law Report, Czechia, p. 14.

<sup>69</sup> 117 cases concerned failure to declare at the beginning of term, 1 023 involved annual declarations and 137 cases concerned the end of term declarations. Czech Government, written input, p. 10.

<sup>70</sup> Czech Government, written input, p. 10.

<sup>71</sup> RekonstruceStatu (2024a).

the government in March 2024<sup>72</sup>. Lobbying legislation was recommended by GRECO and is included in Czechia's Recovery and Resilience Plan<sup>73</sup>. The law will apply from 1 July 2025 and introduces lobbying rules including a transparency register with obligations for both lobbyists and lobbied parties to register their contacts as well as a legislative footprint<sup>74</sup>. State owned enterprises, chambers of commerce and associations of local governments are covered in the scope of the law as lobbyists<sup>75</sup>. The law includes provisions to ensure the transparency of the legislative footprint<sup>76</sup>. There is concern that effective implementation may be hampered by insufficient resources<sup>77</sup>.

**Some progress was made on taking further the integrity framework for Parliament by fully implementing the recommendation on lobbying while there was no progress in rules on revolving doors<sup>78</sup>.** The new law on lobbying also applies to members of Parliament (although not to Parliamentary aides) and as such contributes to strengthening the overall integrity framework for Members of Parliament. Rules on revolving doors remain unchanged and a comprehensive framework is lacking in relation to gifts and benefits for members of Parliament<sup>79</sup>. The Chamber of Deputies only has voluntary ethics rules for its members, while the Senate remains opposed to any such ethical rules<sup>80</sup>. As such, some progress was made on the recommendation of the 2024 Rule of Law Report, as the part on lobbying was fully implemented and there was no progress as regards complementing the existing rules on revolving doors.

**Further measures aim to improve ethics of police and civil servants.** A Commission for Police Culture continues to develop recommendations on the acceptance of gifts and conflicts of interests for police officers<sup>81</sup>. On 1 January 2025, the amended Civil Service Act entered into force, which prohibited civil servants from accepting any gifts or other benefits, with the exception of gifts from the civil service authority itself<sup>82</sup>. Training continued in 2024 to update civil servants on the revised code of ethics adopted in 2023<sup>83</sup>.

**New legislation on the financing of electoral campaigns was adopted by Parliament.** The Office for the Supervision of the Finances of Political Parties and Political Movements

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<sup>72</sup> Law on the regulation of lobbying.

<sup>73</sup> Czechia has committed to adopt legislation on lobbying by mid-2025 under its Recovery and Resilience Plan (milestone 206). See Annex to the Council Implementing Decision on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Czechia, pp. 131. Concerns have been raised by GRECO that in the absence of such legislation, the transparency of contacts with lobbyists remains low. GRECO (2023), recommendation I, paras 9-13.

<sup>74</sup> 2024 Rule of Law Report, Czechia, p. 15.

<sup>75</sup> Some exceptions which are listed in Sec 2 para 2 (b, c) of the law may apply

<sup>76</sup> The legislative footprint records a lobbyist who lobbied regarding specific legislation. Information about a lobbied person and interest group that ordered lobbying is not included in the legislative footprint. However, these data should be recorded in the lobbyist's declaration which shall be submitted two times a year.

<sup>77</sup> Country visit Czechia, Transparency International/Lobbio and Ministry of Justice and iRozhlas (2025).

<sup>78</sup> The 2024 Rule of Law report recommended Czechia to "[s]trengthen the integrity framework for members of Parliament, in particular by complementing the existing rules as regards revolving doors and lobbying".

<sup>79</sup> The Government maintains a dialogue with both chambers of Parliament on this issue. The recommendations from GRECO to adopt a Code of Ethics in both chambers of Parliament likewise remain unfulfilled. GRECO (2023), recommendation ii, paras. 14-18.

<sup>80</sup> Country visit Czechia, Ministry of Justice and 2024 Rule of Law Report, Czechia, p. 15.

<sup>81</sup> Czech Government (2025), written input, p. 9 and Country visit Czechia, Ministry of the Interior.

<sup>82</sup> A recommendation will be attached to the Code of Ethics to clarify this for authorities; Czech Government (2025), written input, p. 9.

<sup>83</sup> Czech Government (2025), written input, p. 9.

continues to function on the basis of its revised rules on collective and majority-based decision-making<sup>84</sup>. New legislation on electoral campaigns, which aim to consolidate the current framework on political party financing was approved by the Senate on 11 June 2025<sup>85</sup>. The law would enter into force on 1 January 2026. The proposed legislation has been welcomed by civil society<sup>86</sup>.

**An expansion of the Supreme Audit Office's powers is being considered.** A reform of the Supreme Audit Office (SAO) is included in the Anti-Corruption Plan<sup>87</sup>. Draft constitutional amendments concerning the powers of the SAO were submitted in the interministerial commenting procedure at the end of 2024. As in previous attempts to reform the Office, these drafts seek to regulate the powers of the SAO to audit the Czech Radio and the Czech Television and state-owned enterprises<sup>88</sup>. Separately, legislation was filed by a group of Members of Parliament that only focuses on auditing supervision over Czech Radio and Television.

**Awareness-raising on whistleblower protection continues.** The Ministry of Justice conducted extensive awareness-raising activities on the 2023 legislation on whistleblower protection<sup>89</sup>. It has committed to make the role of the Ministry as external reporting channel more efficient, for example by enhancing the reporting tools and introducing secure communication. Further training and awareness-raising activities are also planned<sup>90</sup>. The government reports that out of the 156 whistleblower reports received in 2024, 20 relate to criminal behaviour and four out of those to economic crime<sup>91</sup>.

**Efforts to mitigate corruption risks in public procurement continue.** As regards public procurement, businesses' attitudes towards corruption in the EU show that 27% of companies in Czechia (EU average 29%) think that corruption has prevented them from winning a public tender or a public procurement contract in practice in the last three years<sup>92</sup>. 43% of businesses perceive the level of independence of the public procurement review body (The Office for the Protection of Competition) as very or fairly good<sup>93</sup>. The Single Market and Competitiveness Scoreboard on access to public procurement in Czechia reports 40% of single bids for 2023 (EU average 29%)<sup>94</sup>. Public procurement processes are seen as a main corruption risk area, including by law enforcement, particularly because of issues such as lack of transparency in

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<sup>84</sup> Office for the Supervision of the Finances of Political Parties and Movements (2025). See also 2024 Rule of Law Report, Czechia, pp. 15-16.

<sup>85</sup> Czech Government (2025), written input, p. 9 and draft Law on Electoral Campaigns (778). See also 2024 Rule of Law Report, Czechia, p. 16.

<sup>86</sup> RekonstruceStatu (2024b).

<sup>87</sup> Supreme Audit Office (2025), written input; Czech Government (2025), written input, p. 12.

<sup>88</sup> None of these proposals focus on auditing supervision of local governments, which was also included in previously proposed amendments. The State Audit Office reported that, given the approaching electoral period, it is unlikely these amendments will be adopted during the current legislature. Supreme Audit Office (2025), written input.

<sup>89</sup> Czechia committed to adopt legislation on whistleblowing by the end of 2023 under its Recovery and Resilience Plan (milestone 202). See Annex to the Council Implementing Decision on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Czechia, pp. 130.

<sup>90</sup> Ministry of Justice (2024), p. 11

<sup>91</sup> Ministry of Justice (2025b).

<sup>92</sup> Flash Eurobarometer 557 on Businesses' attitudes towards corruption in the EU (2025). This is 2 percentage points below the EU average.

<sup>93</sup> Figure 59, 2025 EU Justice Scoreboard.

<sup>94</sup> 2023 Single Market Scoreboard.

setting tender specifications or suppliers providing false information<sup>95</sup>. As such, it is addressed in the new anti-corruption action plan which strengthens links with the existing 2024-2028 public procurement strategy. Both documents focus on making public procurement more efficient and transparent<sup>96</sup>. A proposed reform of the Office for the Protection of Competition – a goal of both policy documents and an important demand from civil society to improve transparency in public procurement – is currently stalled at government level and unlikely to move forward before elections<sup>97</sup>. The risk measurement finalised in 2023<sup>98</sup> led to the inclusion of sector-specific actions in the 2025-2026 Action Plan against corruption, such as to prevent corruption in sports<sup>99</sup>.

### **III. MEDIA PLURALISM AND MEDIA FREEDOM**

**New competences are envisaged for the media regulator in draft legislation which provides media companies with additional rights and responsibilities.** The draft Law on Media Services is intended to align Czech legislation with the European Media Freedom Act, including by making the media regulator responsible for scrutiny of market concentrations and by expanding the definition of media service providers to those providing online services. Furthermore, the regulator will be given a monitoring role to oversee that public bodies publish the amounts allocated for the purpose of state advertising. The Media Pluralism Monitor 2025 confirmed its low-risk score in relation to the independence of the media regulator<sup>100</sup>.

**There have been further amendments to the legislation regulating Czech public service television and radio, fully implementing the 2024 recommendation<sup>101</sup>.** Amendments to the Act on Czech Television and the Act on Czech Radio and other related acts have clarified the public service remit of the public service broadcasters and reformed the financing system to ensure sustainability by increasing the licence fee levied on households and introducing an indexation to take inflation into account. The legislation also extends the categories of users obliged to pay the fee to owners of devices other than television sets<sup>102</sup>. While the increase in the fee has been met with criticism from opposition parties and certain commercial broadcasters, the management of both Czech Television and Czech Radio have warned that in the absence of an increase in fees, a significant reduction in the creation of original content and staff will be inevitable. Several stakeholders concur that these changes increase the sustainability of public service media<sup>103</sup>. In light of these developments, the Media Pluralism Monitor (MPM) for Czechia considers this to now be an area presenting low risk<sup>104</sup>. On this basis, the Commission considers the recommendation to be fully implemented.

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<sup>95</sup> Office for the Protection of Competition (2025), Country visit Czechia, National Agency against Organised Crime, NEON/Glopolis (2025), written input, p. 15.

<sup>96</sup> Ministry of Justice (2024), p. 8.

<sup>97</sup> RekonstruceStatu (2024c) and Transparency International Czechia (2025), written input, p. 10.

<sup>98</sup> 2024 Rule of Law Report Czechia, p. 17.

<sup>99</sup> Czech Government (2025), written input, p. 12.

<sup>100</sup> Media Pluralism Monitor (2025), p. 14.

<sup>101</sup> The 2024 Rule of Law report recommended to Czechia to “[e]nsure that rules or mechanisms are in place to provide funding for public service media that is appropriate for the realisation of its public service remit while guaranteeing its independence.”

<sup>102</sup> Section 2 of the Act on radio and television fees.

<sup>103</sup> Czech Syndicate of Journalists (2025), written input, and Lobbio (2025), written input; Country visit Czechia, ECPMF and IPI.

<sup>104</sup> Media Pluralism Monitor (2025), p. 23.

**There has been no further progress in relation to transparency of media ownership<sup>105</sup>.** The decision of the Constitutional Court in relation to the amendments to legislation regulating conflicts of interests<sup>106</sup> may have a bearing on media ownership by politicians as those amendments specifically precluded elected officials from owning media companies by any means, including by means of a trust. In the meantime, there has been no development in relation to media ownership transparency, which is an issue covered by the European Media Freedom Act. The MPM 2025 registers an increase in risk score to medium risk in terms of the political independence indicator and maintains its high-risk score for transparency of media ownership pointing out that while the public can access information about beneficial owners of legal entities – including media companies – via an electronic register, the information in the registry is not verified<sup>107</sup>. On this basis, no further progress has been made in relation to the recommendation from the 2024 Rule of Law Report.

**There have been increased efforts by the police to address cases of abuse against journalists while concerns continue to be voiced regarding online harassment** A recent poll has found that up to 70% of Czech journalists experienced death threats or threats of physical abuse, while 40% said they were targets of an orchestrated online campaign<sup>108</sup>. Draft amendments to the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure would, if adopted, provide additional protection in terms of journalistic sources and confidential communications<sup>109</sup>. The MPM 2025 therefore maintains an unchanged medium risk score for this area pointing out that online attacks against journalists, particularly female journalists, are an ongoing problem together with the precarious working conditions many journalists face<sup>110</sup>. The Council of Europe Platform to promote the protection of journalism and the safety of journalists received two new alerts since the publication of the last rule of law report, concerning verbal threats and intimidations targeting an investigative reporter and an exiled journalist who faced an extradition request from Russia<sup>111</sup>. The Media Freedom Rapid Response (MFRR) mechanism flagged four alerts relating to a draft bill, later abandoned, limiting reporting on suspects and prosecuted persons in major criminal cases; the impact of the termination of US funding on Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty; criticism by the anti-monopoly authority of the style of journalism of a news portal and the case of the verbal threats mentioned above<sup>112</sup>.

#### **IV. OTHER INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES RELATED TO CHECKS AND BALANCES**

**The Government took steps to improve the inclusiveness of the policy-making process.** Throughout 2024, the Government conducted pilot testing of the Methodology for the Participation of non-governmental organisations in Consultative and Working Bodies with the aim of enhancing civil society engagement in policymaking<sup>113</sup>. The methodology was

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<sup>105</sup> The 2024 Rule of Law Report recommended that Czechia “[p]rogress with further reforms relating to transparency of information on media ownership.”

<sup>106</sup> Further described in Pillar II.

<sup>107</sup> Media Pluralism Monitor 2025 report on Czechia, p. 17.

<sup>108</sup> Hlidacipes (2024).

<sup>109</sup> Czech government (2025), written input, p. 16.

<sup>110</sup> Media Pluralism Monitor (2025), pp. 13-14.

<sup>111</sup> Council of Europe, Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists. The government has replied to both these alerts. In the former case, the journalist was afforded police protection while in the latter the relevant court rejected the extradition request.

<sup>112</sup> European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (2025).

<sup>113</sup> Country visit Czechia, Office of the Government.

submitted for official interministerial commenting procedure in the first half of the year 2025, before being proceeded to the Czech government for discussion<sup>114</sup>. A progressive roll-out of the eLegislation system, a platform for drafting, commenting on and promulgating legislation, started in July 2024 and is expected to continue until its full operation by 2026<sup>115</sup>. Organisational reform transferring the agenda of the Regulatory Impact Assessment to a specialised unit within the Office of the Government aims to improve the quality of impact assessments<sup>116</sup>. Stakeholders reported regular inclusion and overall openness of the consultation process<sup>117</sup>.

**The quality of legislation is impacted by the use of ‘legislative riders’.** The continued practice of additions of amendments insufficiently related to the substance of the legislative proposal, allowing for circumventing regular legislative procedure (so-called ‘legislative riders’), is considered problematic by various stakeholders as it hinders public consultation, transparency, and legal certainty<sup>118</sup>. The Constitutional Court held repeatedly in the cases brought before it that such a practice can be in breach of constitutional and rule of law principles<sup>119</sup>.

**Following the entry into force of the amendments to the Ombudsman Act, the recommendation to establish a National Human Rights Institution can be considered fully implemented<sup>120</sup>.** The amendments to the Act on the Public Defender of Rights entered into force on 1 July 2025. The amendments grant the Public Defender of Rights the role of a NHRI and create a new position for a Children’s Ombudsman, who will operate within the existing Office of the Public Defender of Rights. Launching the accreditation process is envisaged for 2026<sup>121</sup>. Stakeholders, including the Office of the Public Defender of Rights, welcome this development, but pointed to the need of securing sufficient financial and human resources for the operation of the new institutional settings<sup>122</sup>.

**On 1 January 2025, Czech Republic had 9 leading judgments of the European Court of Human Rights pending implementation, an increase of 4 compared to the previous year<sup>123</sup>.** At that time, Czech Republic’s rate of leading judgments from the past 10 years that had been implemented was at 56% (compared to 76% in 2024; 44% remained pending), and the average time that the judgments had been pending implementation was 2 years and 8 months (compared to 4 years and 3 months in 2024)<sup>124</sup>. The oldest leading judgment, pending

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<sup>114</sup> Czech Government (2025), additional written input for the 2025 Rule of Law Report.

<sup>115</sup> The aim is to facilitate and harmonise preparatory works within the legislative process, increase transparency and provide for a better overview of the ongoing process. Czech Government (2025), written input, p. 20; 2024 Rule of Law Report, Czechia, p. 20.

<sup>116</sup> Country visit Czechia, Office of the Government.

<sup>117</sup> Country visit Czechia, Glopolis, NeoN, Czech Chamber of Commerce.

<sup>118</sup> Country visit Czechia, Lobby, Transparency International Czechia; STEM (2025), written input, p. 22. See also Venice Commission (2010), pp. 23-24; Venice Commission (2016), p. 13.

<sup>119</sup> For example, decisions of the Czech Constitutional Court, Pl. ÚS 77/6 and Pl. ÚS 41/23. The practice of introducing legislative riders in the course of legislative process was declared unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court (Pl. ÚS 41/23), even in cases when it occurs in response to obstructions in the Parliament.

<sup>120</sup> 2024 Rule of Law Report recommended Czechia to “[c]ontinue to advance the legislative changes to establish a National Human Rights Institution taking into account the UN Paris Principles.”

<sup>121</sup> Czech Government (2025), p. 23; Country visit Czechia, Public Defender of Rights.

<sup>122</sup> Country visit Czechia, Public Defender of Rights, League of Human Rights, Glopolis/NeoN.

<sup>123</sup> For an explanation of the supervision process, see the [website](#) of the Council of Europe.

<sup>124</sup> All figures calculated by the European Implementation Network (EIN) and based on the number of cases that are considered pending at the annual cut-off date of 1 January 2025. EIN (2025), written input, p. 3.

implementation for 17 years, concerns the discrimination in the enjoyment by the applicants of their right to education, due to their much higher likelihood, because of their Roma origin, of being assessed as pupils with “mild mental disabilities” and thus assigned to special primary schools<sup>125</sup>. As regards the respect of payment deadlines, on 31 December 2024 there was 1 case in total awaiting confirmation of payments (compared to 2 in 2023)<sup>126</sup>. On 16 June 2025, the number of leading judgments pending implementation had remained 9<sup>127</sup>.

**Over half of the companies surveyed in Czechia express confidence in the effectiveness of investment protection.** 61% of companies are very or fairly confident that investments are protected by law and courts<sup>128</sup>. As regards authorities relevant for economic operators, 48% of companies perceive the level of independence of the national competition authority (the Office for the Protection of Competition) as very or fairly good<sup>129</sup>. Business stakeholders generally perceive the level of consultation on the preparation of relevant pieces of legislation as sufficient<sup>130</sup>. The legislative framework provides various safeguards regarding decisions or inaction of administrative authority<sup>131</sup>, though stakeholders pointed out that judicial proceedings following a challenge of an administrative decision can be lengthy<sup>132</sup>. While there are no specific mechanisms in place to ensure the implementation of administrative court judgments<sup>133</sup>, the enforcement of decisions issued in the administrative jurisdiction is subject to general rules governing enforcement<sup>134</sup>.

**Some further measures have been adopted to enhance the enabling environment for civil society.** The civic space in Czechia continues to be considered “open”<sup>135</sup>. The financial framework for civil society organisations (‘CSOs’) was complemented by amendments to the Public Collections Act and the extension of temporary tax benefits<sup>136</sup>. The Government also slightly increased the amount of funding to the civil society sector<sup>137</sup>. Some stakeholders expressed concerns that specific fields of CSO action continue to be at risk of underfinancing<sup>138</sup>. The Government further engaged in projects fostering a rule of law

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<sup>125</sup> Judgment of the ECtHR, 57325/00, *D.H. and Others v. the Czech Republic*, pending implementation since 2007.

<sup>126</sup> Council of Europe (2025), p. 156.

<sup>127</sup> Data according to the online database of the Council of Europe (HUDOC).

<sup>128</sup> Figure 54, 2025 EU Justice Scoreboard,

<sup>129</sup> Figure 60, 2025 EU Justice Scoreboard.

<sup>130</sup> Country visit Czechia, Czech Chamber of Commerce, Association of small and medium enterprises, *Změna k lepšímu*.

<sup>131</sup> Czech Government (2025a), written input on single market dimension, p. 9.

<sup>132</sup> Country visit Czechia, Czech Chamber of Commerce, Association of small and medium enterprises, *Změna k lepšímu*.

<sup>133</sup> Figure 49, 2025 EU Justice Scoreboard 2025. The data presented reflects exclusively the mechanisms in place at the level of the highest administrative jurisdictions; the same or other mechanisms may be in place at lower instance administrative courts.

<sup>134</sup> Decisions of the administrative courts issued under the Administrative Procedure Code serve as binding titles for execution and enforcement (see Section 274(1)(b) of the Civil Procedure Code, Section 40(1)(a) of the Execution Code, Section 176(1)(b) of the Tax Code).

<sup>135</sup> Rating by CIVICUS; ratings are on a five-category scale defined as: open, narrowed, obstructed, repressed and closed.

<sup>136</sup> Act on Public Collections and Act on tax measures in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion of the Russian Federation.

<sup>137</sup> NEON/Glopolis (2025), written input, p. 26.

<sup>138</sup> Country visit Czechia, League of Human Rights and Glopolis.

culture<sup>139</sup> and in initiatives combating hate speech<sup>140</sup>. However, some stakeholders reported incidents of negative labelling of CSOs by some politicians<sup>141</sup>.

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<sup>139</sup> Czech Government (2025), written input, p. 27; STEM (2025), written input, p. 28.

<sup>140</sup> Czech Government (2025), written input, p. 25. Country visit Czechia, League of Human Rights, Glopolis.

<sup>141</sup> Country visit Czechia, Glopolis/NeoN; STEM (2025), written input, p. 27.

## Annex I: List of sources in alphabetical order\*

\* *The list of contributions received in the context of the consultation for the 2025 Rule of Law report can be found at [https://commission.europa.eu/publications/2025-rule-law-report-targeted-stakeholder-consultation\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/publications/2025-rule-law-report-targeted-stakeholder-consultation_en).*

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## **Annex II: Country visit to Czechia**

The Commission services held virtual meetings in March 2025 with:

- Administration of the Parliament (replies received in writing)
- Anti-Corruption Council of the Government
- Association of Small and Medium Enterprises
- Association of Private Broadcasters
- Constitutional Court
- Czech Bar Association
- Czech Chamber of Commerce
- Czech National Committee of International Press Institute
- Council for Radio and Television Broadcasting
- Endowment for Independent Journalism
- European Centre for Press and Media Freedom
- League of Human Rights
- Lobbio
- Ministry of Culture
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Justice
- National Organized Crime Agency
- NeoN/Glopolis
- Office for the Protection of Competition (replies received in writing)
- Office for the Supervision of the Finances of Political Parties and Movements (replies received in writing)
- Office of the Government
- Ombudsman
- Prosecutor General's Office
- Supreme Administrative Court (replies received in writing)
- Supreme Audit Office
- Supreme Court
- Syndicate of Journalists (replies received in written)
- Transparency International Czech Republic
- Union of Judges
- Union of Public Prosecutors
- Změna k lepšímu

\* The Commission also met the following organisations in a number of horizontal meetings:

- Amnesty International
- Araminta
- Civil Liberties Union for Europe
- Civil Society Europe
- European Civic Forum
- European Partnership for Democracy

- European Youth Forum,
- International Commission of Jurists
- International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
- JEF Europe
- Philea – Philanthropy Europe Association.
- Transparency International