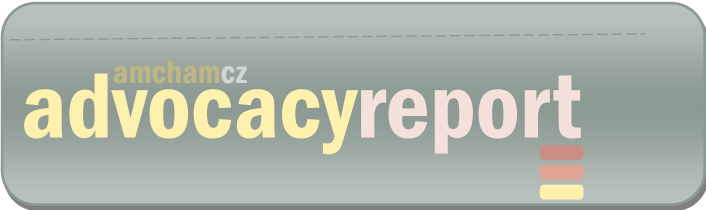




Can we be an innovative economy without smart immigration?

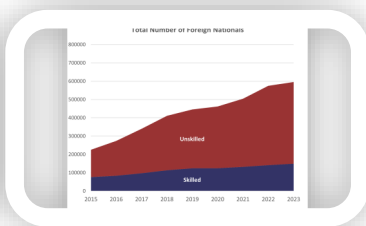
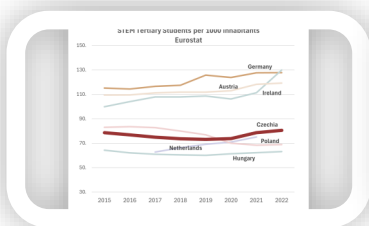
Does government policy align with government goals? That was our primary question when AmCham’s Human Resource Committee met with Jana Skalková, the chief advisor to the Minister of Labor. In particular, we wanted to know whether how the government handles labor policy fits with its aims to generate higher value-added products out of the economy.



Higher value-added ultimately means more advanced technology. More advanced technology requires more advanced scientific and engineering capability. That starts with STEM students. Although the last couple of years has seen the number of such students rise, Czechia has essentially spent the last decade running in place (see graph below left).

If the Czech educational system cannot produce more, immigration can provide substitutes. Czech immigration policy, however, is resulting in a rapid rise of the ratio of unskilled to skilled immigrants entering the country. (See graph below right).

AmCham agreed with Jana to organize a series of roundtables with other ministries with the goal of creating a unified people policy.



AmCham Health Care Council

Comparing incentives to objectives



The AmCham Health Care Council continues to meet with key figures in the health care sector to discuss the recommendations of the cross-industry panel of experts who debated the future of the country’s health care late this spring.

As a result of discussions with individuals such as Štěpán Svačina—the head of the Czech Medical Association JEP—and Miroslav Ludvík—who runs Motol Hospital, we have agreed to set up a series of debates which ask the question whether the government has set up incentive systems to achieve the high quality health care it aims to achieve. Does the way doctors and nurses get paid motivate high performance and deep commitment? Does public procurement reward innovation? Do doctors and disease societies have the resources (especially data) to spur the spread of new techniques?

AmCham Digital Economy Council

When does cost start impacting cybersecurity?

AmCham is discussing with the National Cybersecurity Office (NÚKIB) how the government plans to implement its proposed Cybersecurity Act.

The Act will mandate the government and strategic service providers take precautionary steps to ensure the continuity of their services during an emergency. One step is to be prepared to shift the operation of such services to within the territory of Czechia. Any credible back-up plan will cost the government and strategic services a good chunk of money. That will be passed to taxpayers and/or consumers.

Represented by Juraj Šedivý of CETIN, Michal Stachník of Microsoft, and Weston Stacey, AmCham agreed with NÚKIB to prepare proposals for how make sure the cost does not outweigh the benefit. [More](#)

government initiatives

energy policy

Energy policy update

Department for nuclear energy and new technologies was established at the Ministry of Industry and Trade to provide greater support to nuclear energy and related research. [More](#). In July, the Government [passed](#) updated National hydrogen strategy. State energy concept document (SEK) is in the legislative pipeline.

On path to construction process digitization, land planning coordination

Ministry for Regional Development [launched](#) on July 1 Builder's Portal (Portál stavebníka) for general public and Information System for Construction Process (Informační systém stavebního řízení) for staff. National geoportal for land planning was launched to bring together information on planning, regulatory issues or territorial plans and urban studies. [More](#).

Government also passed [BIM implementation document update](#).

digital economy

Government shaping digital strategy

The Government is working on the approval of the National semiconductor strategy ([more](#)), passed the [Act on Cybersecurity](#) proposal at its session on July 17 and on July 24, The [National AI Strategy 2030 update](#) was greenlighted.

Chamber of Deputies

Deputies will debate pension reform

The Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament approved the government's pension reform in a first reading. Key points include extended retirement age or minimum pension level, among others. [More](#).

amchamevents

September 10th
Macro Intel with Vice-Governor of
Czech National Bank Eva Zamrazilová

September 24th
AmCham Geopolitical Outlook with
PM's advisor Tomáš Pojar

September 27th
AmChamIntel: Energy Outlook

October 9th
AmChamIntel: 2025 Business Outlook

November 28th
AmCham Thanksgiving Dinner 2024

workforce policy

Minimum wage increase rules set

Chamber of Deputies passed Labor Code amendment setting minimum wage increase mechanism. [More](#).

labor market, immigration policy

Update on employment of foreigners

Starting from July 1, citizens of Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, UK and USA can use the so-called free access to the Czech labor market. The immigration process still applies and visas or residence permits are required. Blue card residence permits remain an option and may outweigh the benefits of the free access. [More details in English on changes in employment of foreigners, including digitized processes](#). Information in Czech is available [here](#).

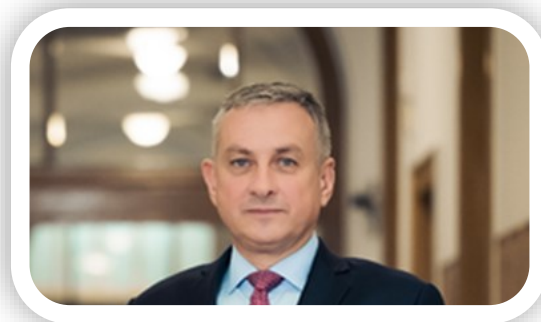
Please, see also [information](#) on the recognition of travel documents issued by the Russian Federation.

Labor market is one of the **four current top priorities of the Government**, together with transport infrastructure, regional education system and housing development.

labor market, health care policy

AmCham is soliciting feedback on proposed employer duties related to employee health

In proposed [draft Section 55a of the Act on Specific Health Care Services](#), the Ministry of Health has proposed increased responsibility of employers for employee health. AmCham is soliciting feedback by August 30. Please, contact kbendikova@amcham.cz for details.



EU

Government nominates Síkela to Commission

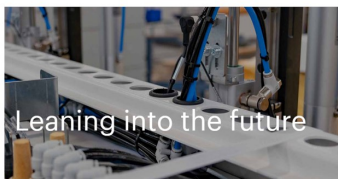
Minister of Industry and Trade Jozef Síkela will be the Czech candidate for European Commissioner. [More](#).

amchamcz

advocacyreport

policyanalysis

KEARNEY



Leaning into the future

CLIFFORD
CHANCE



TOP 10 OPERATIONAL IMPACTS OF THE EU AI ACT – SUBJECT MATTER, DEFINITIONS, KEY ACTORS AND SCOPE

IBC
JobAlliance

Challenges in patient understanding of breast cancer biology and biomarkers: results from a global survey on advanced/metastatic breast cancer



Welcome to the CEE tax guide 2024

Welcome to Fovis Mizans' twelfth annual Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) tax guide. The main purpose of our brochure is to provide an overview of the tax systems in the CEE region. In recent years, the list of jurisdictions covered has continuously expanded: we started out with 18 countries, and the 2024 edition now contains data for 25 jurisdictions. Alongside the traditional European countries like Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland (the Visegrád Group), southeast Europe, Germany and Moldova, and the Baltic states are also included. The Far East and Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan) also contributed to the tax guide.

Sanctions Matrix
Quarterly Update:
July 2024



CEP CEE: THE "MADE IN EUROPE" HOTSPOT FOR GLOBAL BUSINESS

#CEE #Research #Nearshoring #CTP

Central and Eastern Europe ("CEE") is well positioned to become the "Made in Europe" hub for the 21st century. Key business-smart advantages include lower costs, a highly skilled workforce, and a strategic location.

politicalanalysis

EU politics

Grayling: Eight CEE countries, 181 MEPs



'Following the conclusion of the EP voting, our teams across the CEE region bring you our analysis how the citizens of Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia chose their representatives. While the EPP still remains the largest group in the region, political shifts happened on both sides of the political spectrum with a significant number of MEPs still to confirm their EP Group's allegiance.

Our [report](#) brings crucial information how the political situation changed in each country, who will be the key influencers in the new look EP, and local political highlights,' says [Michal Šiffner](#), Head of Public Relations at Grayling Czech Republic.

Out of the 181 MEPs (25% of 720), there will be 101 new faces in Brussels.

The centre-right European People's Party (EPP) remains the largest political group in the region, amassing more than a third of the total seats the group obtained across the EU. Adding the far-right European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) to the mix, it is clear that the region is mainly represented by the right of the political spectrum.

High turnout in Hungary paved the way for the newly formed party TISZA to truly challenge Fidesz, which for the first time in 20 years did not secure an absolute majority in the EP elections. In Poland, Tusk won his first election in 10 years, but PiS still remains strong – a sign of how strong the polarization within the Polish society remains. On other hand, an unlikely alliance between the left and centre-right Romania secured them wins both in EP and in local elections.

In Slovakia, half of the new MEP representation will not be part of any of the active factions in the EP, while Croatia boosted their EPP numbers to the detriment of Eurosceptics. In the Czech Republic the opposition won the EP elections and there was a tide of protest coalitions against the current establishment.

In line with the continental trend, Bulgarian politicians were focused on local developments, driven by the local snap elections which took part simultaneously. Slovenia used these elections as an opportunity to hold referendum votes on other matters [More](#).