

PRESS RELEASE

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Position of the British Chamber of Commerce on the Civil Service Law

The British Chamber of Commerce in Prague fully supports efforts to improve the transparency and efficiency of public administration. We note that the Czech Republic remains the only country in the EU in which civil servants are not protected from political pressures by legislation. We understand that unless a credible civil service law is adopted by 1st January 2014, EU funding to which the Czech Republic would otherwise be entitled will be suspended. This requirement of the European Commission puts EUR 23.1bn for the period 2014-2020 at stake¹.

In the Global Competitiveness Report 2012-2013 by the World Economic Forum², the Czech Republic holds 123rd place out of 144 countries in terms of clientelism among state officials and 119th place in wastage of public resources.

The British Chamber of Commerce supports the adoption of a civil service law that will provide state officials with clear rights and responsibilities, including sufficient protection from political pressures. We believe such a law must:

- Separate political and non-political appointments, and include a definition of the competencies in each case;
- Ensure that senior positions are filled using public procurement procedures and establish a transparent remuneration system, limiting discretionary payments;
- Increase the liability of officials for their decisions;
- Define clear and adequate protection for whistle-blowers.

We believe an earlier adopted Act on Civil Service (zákon č. 218/2002, o službě státních zaměstnanců), the effective date of which has been delayed until 1st January 2015 (!), fulfils the above requirements and should be allowed to enter into force on 1st January 2014, thereby meeting the European Commission requirement referred to above.

¹ The fifth highest subsidy of all member states in the EU budget for 2014-2020.

² The Global Competitiveness Report 2012-2013 by World Economic Forum
(http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GlobalCompetitivenessReport_2012-13.pdf)
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Notes for Editors

The British Chamber of Commerce in the Czech Republic was formed in April 1997. Since then membership has grown to over 200 companies representing a broad spectrum of British interests in the Czech Republic, from major investors to individual entrepreneurs. The British Chamber of Commerce is a partner of [Rekonstrukce státu](#).

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