



American Chamber of Commerce in the Czech Republic

AmCham in Brief

AmCham

Czech Republic



About AmCham

The American Chamber of Commerce in the Czech Republic is a non-profit, nongovernment organization governed independently by a board of directors elected from and by its membership. We are a member of the US Chamber of Commerce and the European Council of American Chambers of Commerce (ECACC). We connect more than 1600 top executives and company owners representing more than 430 companies. Our member network spans industries, sizes and nationalities.

Our objective is to improve business environment in the Czech Republic. We can achieve it through networks of our members, business associations, public administration and NGOs we cooperate with. Our members can take an advantage of business opportunities, management improvements and advocacy.

- + We advocate legislative and regulatory reform. The Competitiveness Report assesses government policy in six areas using both statistics and opinion surveys. Our members and staff were integrally involved in the complete reform of the bankruptcy act, the new commercial registry process, reform of public procurement, the introduction of social security caps, the original package of investment incentives, more liberal rules for financial collateral, the entry of the Czech Republic into the US visa waiver program.
- + We promote our members through Best Office publication and on our website CzechMarketPlace.cz. The CzechMarketPlace.cz allows our members to promote themselves to thousands of potential partners.
- + We promote the country with our Czech Republic Overview, and by briefing potential investors. The overview is distributed by Czech government offices around the world and through our network.
- + We organize around 100 networking activities annually, including Leadership Cocktails, Seminars, Workshops and Discussions, General Manager Breakfasts and Evenings, Movie Clubs, a Golf Tournament and our Thanksgiving Ball.
- + We have recently initiated the Leadership Council, which will supervise our activities in the area of social responsibility. Our primary aim is to help member companies institute policies beneficial to their communities in their day-to-day business operations.

Board representatives about AmCham



Michael Fabián

Country Manager
American Express

“We live in a very unpredictable world. And we seek every island of stability in our business or for our personal lives. AmCham leadership has demonstrated strong values over the last years and these are so important to us today. I am proud I can be part of the community that aspires to make this country a better place to live and do business.”



Zdeněk Vilímek

Director, Corporate Identity,
Public Affairs and Communication
Coca-Cola Northern Central Europe

“AmCham in the Czech Republic provides for our company as well as for the others immensely important work in cultivating overall business environment. This environment we do need not only for our economical success, but also for fulfilling of our task to be a good corporate citizen. What we need is a level playing field. To have equal opportunities as the others. To be able to operate in transparent and perfectly legal environment. This traditional positive role of AmCham is probably more difficult to fulfill in new challenging economic environment. However, especially now, when the whole society is facing sharp headwinds, positive role of the Chamber is needed more than ever.”



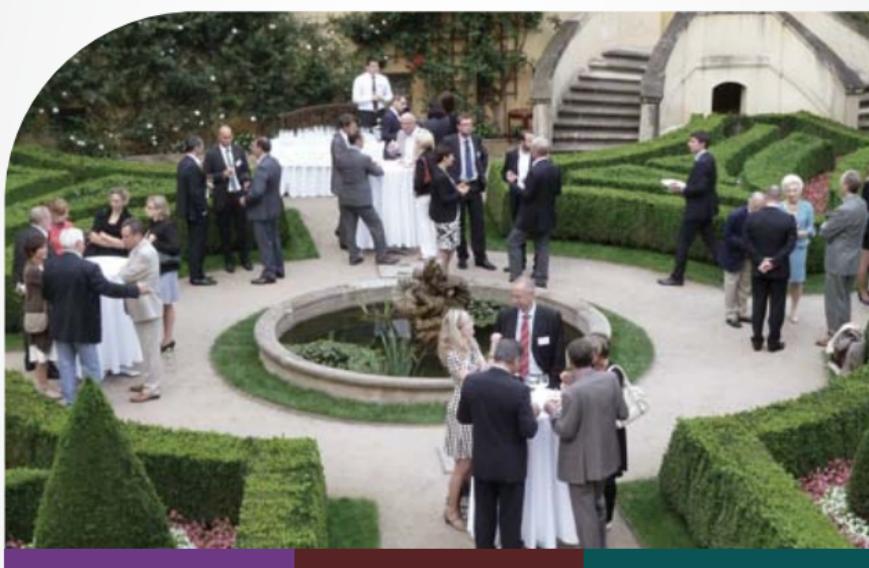
František Dostálek

Managing Partner
KPMG

“I have been a member of the AmCham Board since 2001 and remember how much time and effort we spent working with many of our members to improve the business environment in the Czech Republic. Positive results have been achieved in many areas, e.g. tax including caps on social security, company register and legal reforms. I am proud that KPMG has been involved in these activities.

I enjoy AmCham events and the opportunities to exchange views with our members. This is always encouraging, refreshing and invigorating!

There are more challenges today than there were ten years ago! Is this just because of the economic downturn? I do not think so. The Czech Republic is far from using its full competitiveness potential and businesses face more difficult times. The AmCham has to play even a more important role than ever. We can achieve more if we communicate more effectively and align our activities with those of other chambers and associations with similar objectives for improving the business environment. I am sure that the majority of responsible business players feel that we should act together to deal with the serious threats to the long-term prosperity of this country."



AmCham objectives

- + We aim to make the Czech Republic the best place to do business in Europe by constantly improving the networks between businesses, the knowledge of managing a business, and policy governing business.
- + We pursue the next initiative that benefits both the wider business community and Czech society.
- + We strive to create the next business opportunity, whether it is a transaction, an investment, or a new government policy.
- + We cooperate with governments on the next reform that makes economic policy more transparent, fair, and prosperous for the country.
- + We share the expertise and experiences of our community to raise the standards of operational excellence.

AmCham Services

AmCham services are tailored to the needs of our members and to achieve AmCham objectives.

1) Best Office

Managing well means constantly making your office run better even as it must do more and more as markets change around you. AmCham's Best Office service combines events and publications- as well as an upcoming online reference tool- to exchange the best practice in managing an office. We have established working groups to supervise this exchange in five areas: finance, IT, human resources, marketing and real estate. These groups were responsible for excellent discussions on Conflict resolution, Social media and its regulation, Using the internet to grow your business, Is the Czech Republic still on radar screen of multinationals to grow?, or Tenants forum. What you can do? Join our committees and share your best practice either at an event or in the annual publication.

2) Advocacy / Council on Czech Competitiveness

The Council is our primary vehicle for debating, researching and advocating policy. It is a platform for co-operating with policy associations and the government. One example is The Platform for Transparent Public Procurement, which combined the efforts of more than 30 political parties, government offices, or private sector association to help draft the government approved reform of the Act on Public Procurement. Our efforts to promote joint company-university research - the Best Co-operation of the Year - also fall under the Council. Another project is the task force on Prague tourism. Work with us to establish a working group on key competitiveness issues, join the team that conducts the competitiveness surveys and publishes the report, attend the issue roundtables with government decision-makers to ensure that your views are heard directly. Join our committees and discuss currently drafted legislation or learn more about it at our events and from our monitoring service. Our committees address labor, tax, commercial, civil, real estate law issues, or developments in the fields of energy and health care, for example.

3) Leadership Council

We created the Leadership Council as our primary interface with the world outsider the business community. The Council has two main mandates. The first is to advance our efforts to create more trust between business and the rest of society. Our Truth and Trust series features debates about how transparent and truthful companies should be, as well as evening discussions on the role of truth in politics with leading politicians. The second mandate is to broaden our social responsibility activities. This includes AmCham's One

World, Many Voices project to improve language training in Czech elementary schools. We are also going to devote more attention to promoting our member's CSR activities, including co-ordinating some of those activities into projects that can achieve more than the sum of their parts. What can you do? Get involved in our Truth and Trust series, participate in the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee or support our One World, Many Voices project.

4) CzechMarketPlace

This is our focal point for promoting your business. It attracts thousands of visitors each month both from Czech Republic and abroad. You can visit the site to research key statistics and analysis of the market, find information on movements within important companies, and to read profiles of movers and shakers in the market. How can you use it? Report your big accomplishments, publish your research, and announce your key events, activities, job openings and promotions.

5) Peer-to-Peer Networking

Our primary networking channels are small and informal exchanges between top decision-makers. Our staff uses their knowledge of your business needs to link you with potential partners so that you have the chance to sit down and talk about your common interests. How can you use it? Contact us to arrange a small gathering that fits your business interests or help us organize a relaxing evening for business leaders.

6) Representative Events

We also offer a range of events designed for you to celebrate your success with your business partners and other members of the community. The flagship of these activities is the Thanksgiving Ball, which is considered the highlight of business' social calendar. We also hold quarterly Leadership Cocktails and regular Speaker Series events with top decision-makers. Newly introduced Spring Party, annual General Assembly, and a more informal event- the Movie Club- should be also included to our members' representation calendar. What can you do? You can invite business partners to attend these top class events or increase your profile by sponsoring the event.

7) Personal Development Workshops

You cannot build a company if you cannot build yourself. Using facilitators with extensive management experience, our workshops help you to develop the skills such as intercultural management, nonverbal communication or advanced sales skills - that make you more effective as a leader and manager. How can you use it? Register for the one-day workshop or help us design a workshop that fits your needs.

AmCham membership

Why join?

- + Become a part of the business community network consisted of more than 430 companies with thousands of employees.
- + Advocate legislative changes improving Czech business.
- + Improve and develop your management skills in many areas.
- + Meet leaders from different business industries to network and share experience.

How to join?

- + All businesses, whether foreign or domestic, having dealings in the Czech Republic are welcome to apply for AmCham membership.
- + Membership year starts in July and lasts until June next year.
- + The company can join AmCham any time during the membership year (July-June). All you have to do is to send us your application form filled and signed (available online at www.amcham.cz).

Membership categories:

- + Special category for distinguished members – Corporate Patron (2 year membership)
- + Standard membership category: Corporate membership
- + Start up membership category: Small Business/ Entrepreneur membership (for start up companies with annual turnover under CZK 40 millions)



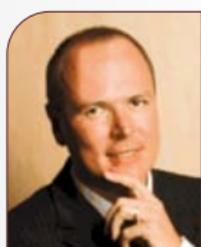
Members about AmCham



Margareta Křížová

Partner, Head of Business Advisory
CEAG

“AmCham is a dynamic market player, always in the center of what is happening in business and law. It is a source of information, knowledge and provides the ability to stay in touch with the business community. It is important for us, as a law firm and M&A advisory to have access to the latest information in advocacy, to have a chance to raise comments in legislation process through AmCham and to discuss foreign investment trends. AmCham is a dynamic platform where, through a number of excellent events like the GM breakfast, we have the opportunity to meet and talk with our professional peers in the Czech Republic and exchange information as well as discuss latest market trends. We appreciate the possibility of talking to other regional chambers through AmCham, thereby providing our clients even better service in the Central and Eastern European region. CEAG is pleased to actively participate in a number of committees and events, and cooperate with highly professional and knowledgeable colleagues at AmCham. We look forward to continuing this participation. Simply said, AmCham is an important part of our doing business in the Czech Republic and we would like to thank everyone working at AmCham for their cooperation and for being a resourceful and friendly business platform.”



Daniel Weinhold

Partner
Weinhold Legal

“The AmCham has proven to be a true leader in an effort of business communities to improve Czech legislation and practice of the public authorities in areas which are core for businesses operating in the Czech Republic. I am proud of being able to contribute to that effort in particular through a splendid initiative launched by AmCham in the spring of 2010 when foreign chambers of commerce, business associations, governmental authorities and all leading political parties formed the Platform for Transparent Public Procurement, and continuing in 2011. It has been an honor for me to chair the expert group of the Platform which prepared almost forty concrete legislative measures

aimed at the public procurement being more transparent and effective. All the participating political parties made a specific commitment to enact and enforce the measures immediately after the general elections. AmCham proved to be very efficient and also artful when achieving such unique consensus. And also unselfish – having put the ultimate goal above merits being awarded solely to AmCham, and stepping back when success of the initiative required so. This effort follows up on great past achievements of AmCham in particular in the insolvency law and corporate registrations initiatives, and demonstrates how AmCham could made itself useful not only for its members but for the public good in general.”



Rick P. Enders
General Manager
Prague Marriott Hotel & Marriott
Executive Apartments

“The Marriott International group operating in the Czech Republic has been a member of Amcham for more than a decade as a Corporate Patron and throughout the years supported the chamber for many events supporting our mutual aims. Amcham provides a solid networking platform with supporting activities they organize which are tailored to meeting the challenges and business needs companies are facing operating in the Czech Republic. The philosophy of the chamber is very much aligned with Marriott core values when it comes to doing business in an open, ethical and transparent way. From a lodging perspective we are very happy that Amcham took the lead in coordinating and promoting a new initiative – Selling & Advertising Prague as a Destination – by inviting various organizations with the capacity and interest in promoting Prague to join together in a structured approach to ensure that the city of Prague will continue to be a hot destination. We as a group look forward to a continued productive partnership and further cooperation with the chamber in the years to come.”





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Other websites by AmCham:

www.czechcompete.cz

www.transparentnizakazky.cz

www.spolupraceroku.cz