



Eight Big Bets that Brno will be at the center of Europe’s High Tech Economy

“Brno has all the ingredients an economy needs to be innovative.” AmCham Vice-President Ondrej Krajicek of Y Soft posited to sum up our recent discussion with the author of The Country for the Future vision, Karel Havlicek. “What we need now is the confidence to bet on our abilities and a higher commitment to cooperate with each other to achieve our goals.”

Krajicek was one of six companies– joined by Thermofisher Scientific, onsemi, Honeywell, Garrett Motion and AT&T - that presented. Havlicek with their technology de-



velopment plans that could make Brno a major center of European technology creation. VUTB Rector Ladislav Janicek and the head of science at CEITEC Pavel Tomancek also outlined how they are raising the standard of scientific research at their respective institutions.

At a second session, Brno Technology Park and CzechInvest explained how they plan to improve the physical for breeding and expanding innovative businesses.

Havlicek promised that his party would support the efforts to increase technology creation whether in opposition or in the government. AmCham argued that active support of all political parties was essential for the decades long ambition to become an innovative economy.

He will visit Alliance Laundry’s research center to learn how the Green Deal is spurring their research into sustainable industrial dryers and travel on to onsemi on January 31 to discuss their proposed investment into the development of semiconductors. [more](#)

AmCham Advocacy: Government Reform Piecing all the interests together



AmCham members serving as our representatives on the government’s Committee for Strategic Projects met with its chief coordinator Tomas Hruda to agree how we can support the reforms proposed by through the committee more effectively. The committee has addressed a large number of proposals over the first few months since it was formed by the prime minister last fall. The goal now is to reduce those proposals to a few essential reforms and work those reforms into reality. Hruda and the AmCham agreed that we would submit a letter to the prime minister’s team containing our recommendations for which of the current list of proposals should be prioritized.



AmCham and US Embassy Prioritizing Climate Change and Cybersecurity

The AmCham board met with US Ambassador Bijan Sabet and his team to discuss how we could cooperate more closely.

“We see three key factors that will determine how Czechia will build on its success,” AmCham Board member Pavel Sovicka of Panattoni said. “Number one: the size of our high tech development and production. Number two, our access to innovative people. Number three, the effectiveness of government.”

AmCham presented an overview of its Business Outlook for 2024, and proposed projects to address climate change and cybersecurity. [more](#)

government initiatives

Macroeconomic and tax policy

Government approved SIRS to prepare sites for large strategic investments

The government approved the establishment of the **State Investment and Development Company (SIRS)**, which will be in charge of preparation of sites for large strategic investments such as factories for the production of batteries for electric cars or the production of semiconductors. The new company will prepare in real time modern industrial sites with the necessary infrastructure. [more](#)

digitization policy

Plans for construction process digitization

The Ministry for Regional Development outlined their plans for 2024: issue implementing decrees for the new Construction Act, which will set out the details of processes, issue the first land development plan, which will not yet be binding for decision-making, and also, the national land planning geoportal will be launched concentrating land planning outputs in one place. [more](#).

public finance and taxation

Ministry of Finance releases 2024 plans

Ministry of Finance published an [overview of changes for 2024](#), plans for [digitization of financial administration](#) and [budget for 2024](#).

industrial policy

New investment incentives now in play

The amended Act on Investment Incentives entered into force. [more](#)

health care policy

Plans of the Ministry of Health for 2024

Changes are expected for the Public Health Insurance Act, Act on Health Services, Public Health Protection Act, and Act on Electronic Health Care. [more](#)

amchamevents

February 16th
EU Parliamentary Election Brief:
K. Dostalova and K. Havlicek
(ANO)

February 22nd
Big Bets with DPM for Digitization
and Minister for Regional Development
I. Bartoš in Brno

March 5
AmCham Health Care Council:
The State of Czech Health Care

March 7th
EU Parliamentary Election Brief:
M. Kolaja (Pirats)



labor market policy

Call for comments on “flexi” amendment to Labor Code

During a discussion on the most recent amendment to Labor Code and further planned changes to labor law with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs on January 23, many employers have welcome the introduction of regulation of remote work, but also provided feedback and raised several issues (including DPP, DPČ contracts or digitization of HR agenda, among others) that need to be improved. The feedback exchange is ongoing. Priorities of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs are Labor Code, Act on Employment and EU directive on remote work. The deadline for AmCham member comments ahead of the next meeting is February 5 noon. Contact kbendikova@amcham.cz to join the [AmCham Labor Code Working Group](#).

Macroeconomic and tax policy

New NERV recommendations to Government aim to stir up economic growth

The National Economic Council of the Government NERV submitted 37 recommendations focusing on labor market, education, public administration, housing and investment. The cabinet will decide on proposals that can be implemented or at least kicked off before the next general elections. [more](#) ([Czech document](#)).

energy policy

Public consultations on national plan for energy and climate

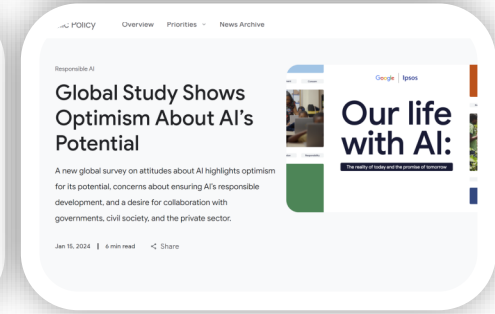
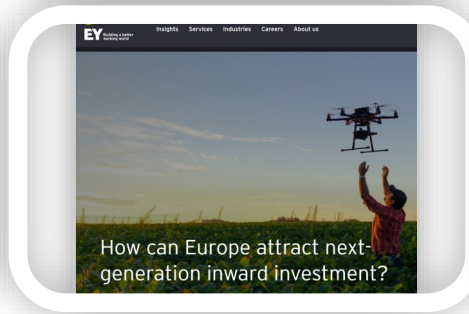
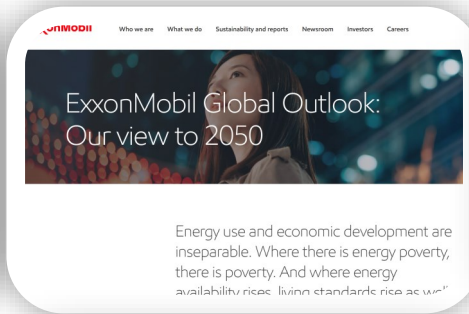
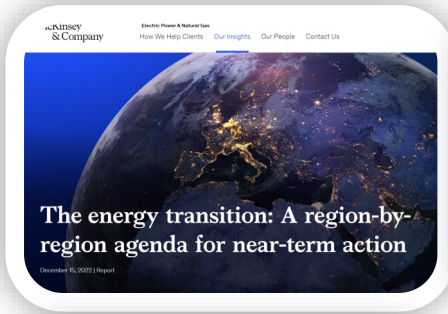
The deadline for public consultation on **National Plan of the Czech Republic in the field of energy and climate** is February 29, 2024. [more](#)

EU policy

AmCham EU issues recommendations

[AmCham EU recommendations to the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union](#)

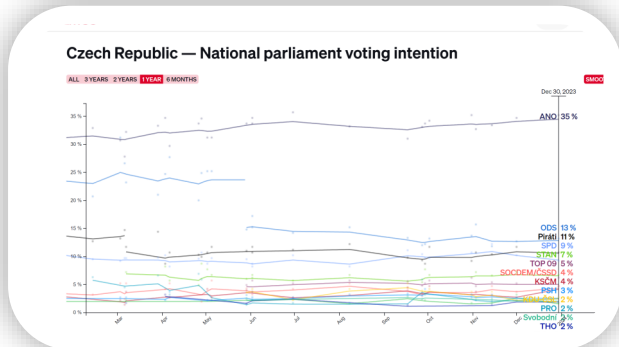
policyanalysis



politicalanalysis

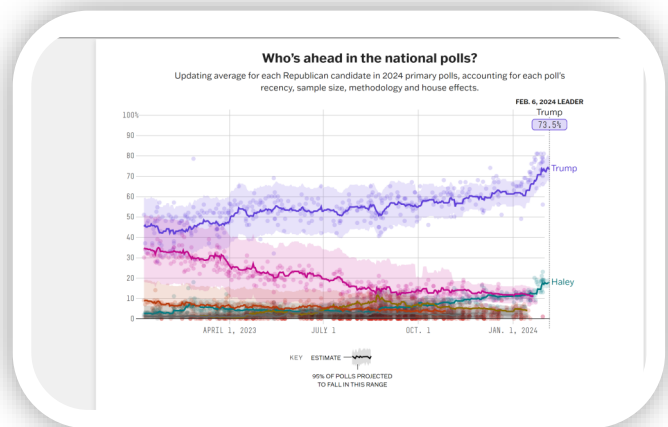
czech national politics

A scramble to stay on the ship



Opinion polls indicate that the current coalition would lack the seats in parliament to continue after the election. Even more concerning for 3 of the five coalition partners, voters are hinting that those three parties may lack enough support to return to Parliament. That seems to have set off a scramble within the coalition to become the opposition within the coalition. One party aired an ad in which their deputy prime minister admitted the government had not met expectations, and suggested that they were pushing the prime minister to do more. Another party chair- and deputy prime minister- survived a leadership contest, and pledged to step down if party polling did not recover.

More maneuvering of parties within the coalition can be expected. For now, no one anticipates that this will result in a defection or a confidence vote. But the greater the agitation within, the higher the chance of rupture.



US national politics

The sequel seems close to certain

For all the talk about replacing President Biden with a younger candidate, the president has faced no real resistance to his nomination. He has been receiving support in the (few) primaries at the usual levels for incumbents. Deadlines have passed for other candidates to get their names on primary ballots.

Ex-president Donald Trump has faced a harder path. His first significant challenger faltered, and quit the race. His second, Nikki Haley, has not received enough support yet to pose a real threat. The greatest danger (outside of the courts) is that a significant number of Haley supporters have indicated they will not vote for the ex-president. That could be the difference.