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Ernst & Young
ExxonMobil Business Support Center
Czechia
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Honeywell
Johnson & Johnson
KPMG Česká republika
ManpowerGroup
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Skils
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Prague, 10 August 2020

The construction permit process will be a key factor determining how quickly and fully the Czech economy will recover from the crisis caused by the Covid19 pandemic, and it will also determine how much the government's The Country for the Future economic strategy will be turned into reality. Both the recovery from Covid19 and fulfilment of the strategy will require business investment into facilities and job creation, and the type of rapid decision-making necessary for timely investment will only occur if the period of time between commitment and the start of operations is predictable and short.

The current process has contributed to slower growth, retarded the rise in wages, and artificially increased the cost of the living for citizens through housing prices. We hope the government will achieve a comprehensive upgrade of the current process that includes laws that sets clear requirements and accountability in the law, reduces or aligns the multiple zoning plans so that the national economic strategy is feasible, and increases the efficacy of the administration through management and digitization.

Of the three components of reform, legislation is the easiest. Our comments on the current act are attached. We would recommend the draft act be accompanied by a review of existing zoning plans that 1) examine how today's zoning plans (and the economic development plans on which the zoning plans are based) allow for the achievement of the economic strategy (for instance, do universities have proximate affordable commercial or industrial space to house start-ups?) and 2) align the zoning plans of municipalities and regions that are economically dependent.

In addition, we believe the EU recovery funds may make possible an immediate and major improvement in the permit process that can shorten permission and appeals times. The digitization of the process could be combined with more rigorous management that ensures that authorities make decisions based on their remit (for instance, in the current process, environment ministry officials have rejected projects for economic development reasons outside both of their responsibility and expertise).

We believe such changes to the construction process would be one of the most essential contributions the government can make to assist in the recovery of jobs and prosperity, as well as the Government's economic strategy The Country for the Future. We stand ready to assist in this effort in whatever way we can.

Thank you for your consideration of our proposals.

With highest regard,



Weston Stacey
Executive Director