

AmCham.monitor is a bi-weekly summation of vital policy news and opinion from the global marketplace. Starting with the Czech Republic and rippling out, the monitor is a practical tool for Czech executives for piecing together a cogent view of how policymakers see and shape the market.

## Czech Republic

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## Czech Republic

### ČEZ Has Launched a Public Tender on Nuclear Blocs Supplier

The energy producer ČEZ has launched a public tender on construction of two blocks of the nuclear power plant Temelín. The plan is still to be approved in an ecological impact assessment and also by a the Government. [\[more\]](#)

## Government

### Czech State Treasury Project

The Ministry of Finance approved a final concept of the State Treasury project on 4 August. The project should interconnect all state organizations whose management of finances it will enable to watch in detail. [\[more\]](#)

### Ministry for Regional Development Plans to Build a National Infrastructure for Electronic Administration of Public Tenders

The project, which will require huge investment, is a part of a strategy called „Smart Administration“, which aims at using EU funding for improving transparency and effectiveness of public administration. Several alternatives are being drafted now. The second stage – implementation of a chosen alternative – is planned for 2010 – 2011. [\[more\]](#)

### A New Arbitration Court for Disputes Between Patients and Health Insurers to be Launched Soon

The Health Ministry, Czech Health Forum and Economic Chamber of the Czech Republic finalize preparations to launch a new arbitration court for disputes in the area of health insurance. The core of its activities will be disputes on the amount of patients' claims against health insurers. [\[more\]](#)

## Parliament

### Reduced VAT rate

The Parliament's Budget Committee will discuss the amendment to the VAT law on 2 September. Proposed changes concern reduced VAT rate on certain labor intensive services - among those also restaurant services - and were agreed as anti-crisis measures on EU level. All Member States are allowed to apply it on experimental basis running to 2010. [\[more\]](#)

### Expropriation Act Amendment

The Parliament will consider a substantial draft amendment to the Act on Expropriation on September session submitted by the group of MPs. The Government adopted no position on the draft due to possible noncompliance with the Constitution. The draft aims at elimination of existing obstacles delaying realization of ongoing public infrastructure projects. [\[more\]](#)

## Regions

### South-Moravia Region

New Science Park for IT to be opened in Brno: Centre for Education, Research and Innovations in ICT (CERIT) will be created until 2011 in former area Zbrojovka. CERIT will support start-up companies and students and research. [\[more\]](#)

### Zlín region

First regional brownfields strategy in Zlín region: Goal of the Strategy on brownfields usage in Zlín region is to improve image of the region, expand opportunities for entrepreneurs and connected creation of new jobs, increase economic activities and improve environment in revitalizing areas. [\[more\]](#)

## EU

### Italian moratorium on repayments of bank loans by SMEs

[\[more\]](#)

### Digital economy can lift Europe out of crisis, says Commission report

The European Commission's Digital Competitiveness report published August 4 shows that Europe's digital sector has made strong progress since 2005: 56% of Europeans now regularly use the internet, 80% of them via a high-speed connection (compared to only one third in 2004), making Europe the world leader in broadband internet. Europe is the world's first truly mobile continent with more mobile subscribers than citizens (a take up rate of 119%). [\[more\]](#)

### European market for credit default swaps becomes safer

As of July 31, credit default swaps (CDS) relating to European entities and indices based on these entities will start clearing through central counterparties regulated in the EU. This will reinforce financial stability by ensuring better risk management for European CDS. [\[more\]](#)

### New rules on credit rating agencies, bank capital requirements, cross-border payments and e-money, and a programme to support the effectiveness of EU policies

The Council has adopted a regulation introducing a legal framework for credit rating agencies and a directive updating capital requirements for banks. It also adopted a regulation on cross-border payments and a directive on electronic money, in the light of assessments of the application of existing rules, as well as a decision establishing Community programme to support activities in the field of financial services, financial reporting and auditing. [\[more\]](#)

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## Europe

### Croatian Parliament Passes Crisis Tax Measures

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### British earmark 10 million pounds for young talents in poor areas

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## USA

### US Treasury reports on home loan modification program

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### Treasury Secretary outlines financial reform plans to Congress

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### Environmental Protection Agency announces results of grocery efficiency program

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## Globe

### China will not change macro policy

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### India signs trade agreement with Korea

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