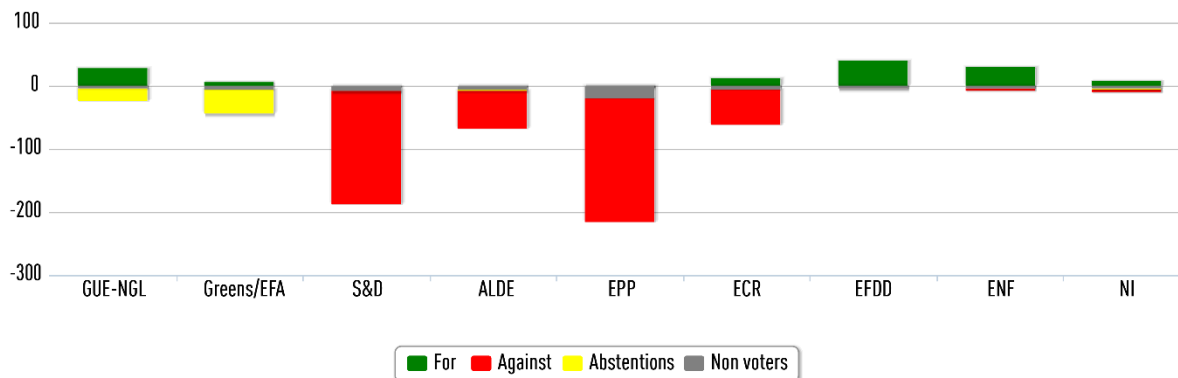


## Should the EU limit the Juncker Plan interventions aiming at promoting growth?

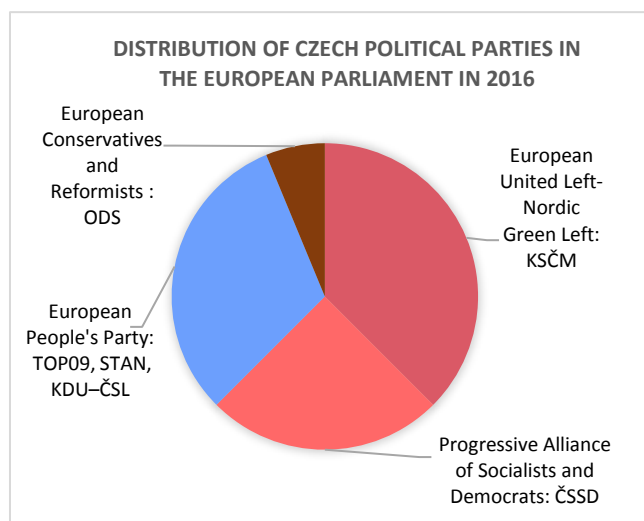
The vote of the MEPs



The European Fund for Strategic Investments as part of the Investment Plan for Europe (so-called Juncker Plan), one of the main flagships project of the current Commission. The goal of EFSI is to unlock up to 315bn of additional (mostly private) investment in the EU economy over a three years period. EFSI builds on a EUR 16 billion guarantee from the EU budget, which was partly provisioned with funds coming from other EU programmes, particularly Horizon2020 (the EU programme financing research and innovation) and the Connecting Europe Facility (the EU programme financing trans-european infrastructures).

Despite the innovative nature of the instrument, some MEPs criticized it, raising concerns about the additionally and quality of projects financed by EFSI as well as on the overall pertinence of the instrument to guarantee growth and development. However, most MEPs defended the instrument and a critical amendment tabled by EFDD was rejected by more than 70% of MEPs.

Centrist groups ALDE, S&D, the EPP and ECR strongly defended Juncker Commission's initiative, whereas, EFDD and ENF both voted against the European Fund for Strategic Investments. Interestingly, the majority of MEPs from Greens/EFA and a substantial amount of representatives from GUE-NGL decided to abstain.



The MEPs from the Czech Republic widely rejected the criticism against the fund established by the Commission. The only parties supporting the amendment were the Civic Democratic Party and the Party of Free Citizens. Instead, all the other parties defended EFSI, with the exception of the Communist Party, which was split: Jaromír Kohlíček supported the critical amendment, whereas Kateřina Konečná abstained.

# Should the EU limit the Juncker Plan interventions aiming at promoting growth?

The vote of MEPs elected in Czech Republic\*

For

**Evžen TOŠENOVSKÝ**



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

**Jan ZAHRADIL**



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

**Petr MACH**



Party of Free Citizens

EFDD

**Jaromír KOHLÍČEK**



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Against

**Dita CHARANZOVÁ**



ANO 2011

ALDE

**Martina DLABAJOVÁ**



ANO 2011

ALDE

**Petr JEŽEK**



ANO 2011

ALDE

**Pavel TELIČKA**



ANO 2011

ALDE

**Luděk NIEDERMAYER**



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

**Stanislav POLČÁK**



Mayors and Independents

EPP

**Jiří POSPÍŠIL**



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

**Michaela ŠOJDROVÁ**



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

**Jaromír ŠTĚTINA**



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

**Pavel SVOBODA**



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

**Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ**



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

**Pavel POC**



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

**Miroslav POČE**



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

**Olga SEHNALOVÁ**



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Abstain

**Kateřina KONEČNÁ**



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Absent

**Jiří MAŠTÁLKA**



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

**Jan KELLER**

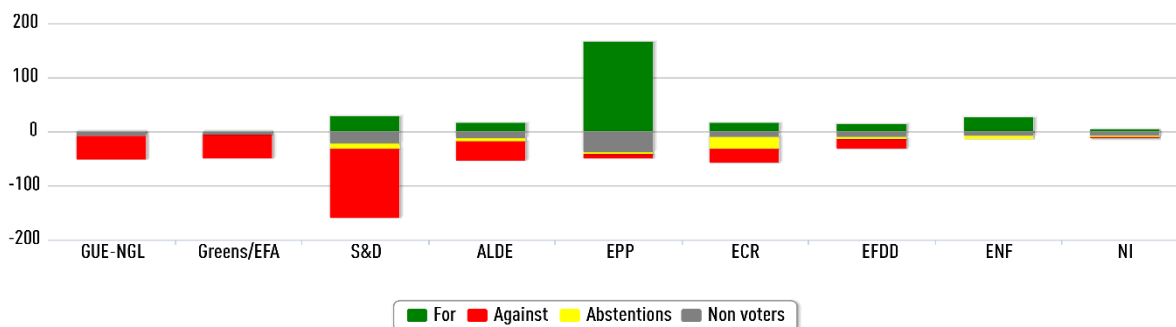


Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

## Should Employers to ban specific kinds of symbols that are claimed to be of a religious nature?

The vote of the MEPs

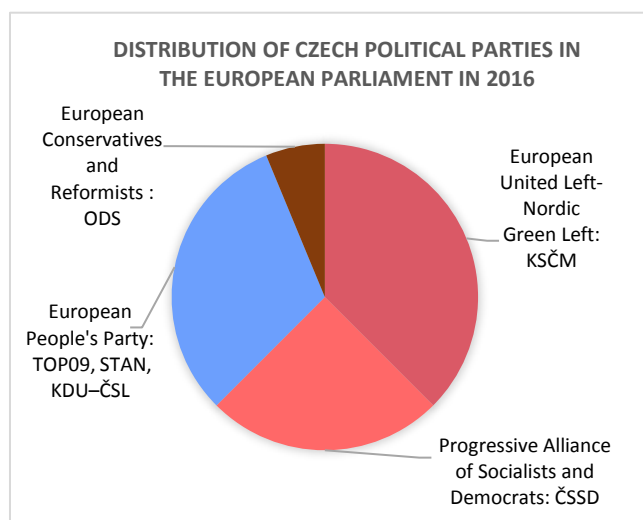


Two months after the Nice attacks, the MEPs voted on an amendment defending the rights of the employers to ban religious symbols on the workplace whenever these symbols violate the rights of women or can lead to security problems. This vote is quite important given the French context: France had already banned women to wear headscarves in public schools, as well as the burka and the *niqab* (the veils that cover women's faces).

In the case of the European Parliament, the vote on this amendment was pretty tight. The amendment was rejected by a slim margin of 5%. The amendment was supported by EPP and ENF, whereas ALDE, S&D, the Greens and GUE-NGL opposed the ban. Interestingly, ECR and EFDD were split, although a majority of their MEPs voted against the proposal.

Despite the rejection of the amendments by the plenary, Czech MEPs were mostly in favor of the ban with 13 votes in favor of it. This also means that Czech MEPs did not follow their groups' colleagues in their opposition to the ban.

In fact, the members of Civic Democratic Party, TOP 09, Democratic Union- Czechoslovak People's Party voted differently from their European political groups and supported the right of the employers to limit the wearing of religious symbols. In a similar way the EFDD member from the Free Citizens Party, Petr Mach voted in favor.



Even more striking, none of the members of the Czech Social Democratic Party followed their political group in voting against the right to ban: Pavel Poc from the Czech Social Democratic Party voted in favor of the ban, whereas Jan Keller and Olga Sehnalová abstained. The only Czech opposing the ban were the members of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia.

## Should Employers to ban specific kinds of symbols that are claimed to be of a religious nature?

The vote of MEPs elected in Czech Republic\*

For

Dita CHARANZOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Martina DLABAJOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Petr JEŽEK



ANO 2011

ALDE

Pavel TELÍČKA



ANO 2011

ALDE

Evžen TOŠENOVSKÝ



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Jan ZAHRADIL



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Petr MACH



Party of Free Citizens

EFDD

Luděk NIEDERMAYER



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Stanislav POLČÁK



Mayors and Independents

EPP

Jiří POSPÍŠIL



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Michaela ŠOJDROVÁ



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Pavel SVOBODA



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Pavel POC



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Against

Jaromír KOHLÍČEK



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Kateřina KONEČNÁ



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Jiří MAŠTÁLKA



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Abstain

Jaromír ŠTĚTINA



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Jan KELLER



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Olga SEHNALOVÁ



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Absent

Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

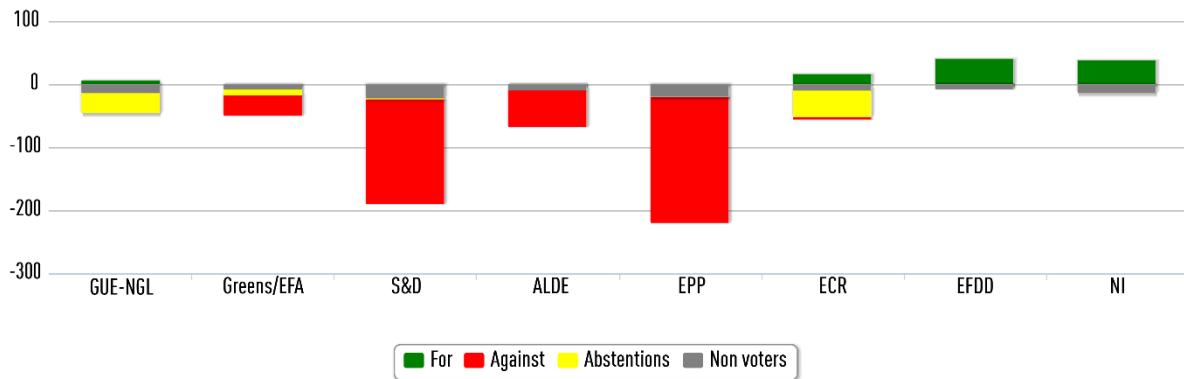
Miroslav POČHE



Czech Social Democratic Party

## Should the Parliament censor the European Commission?

The vote of the MEPs

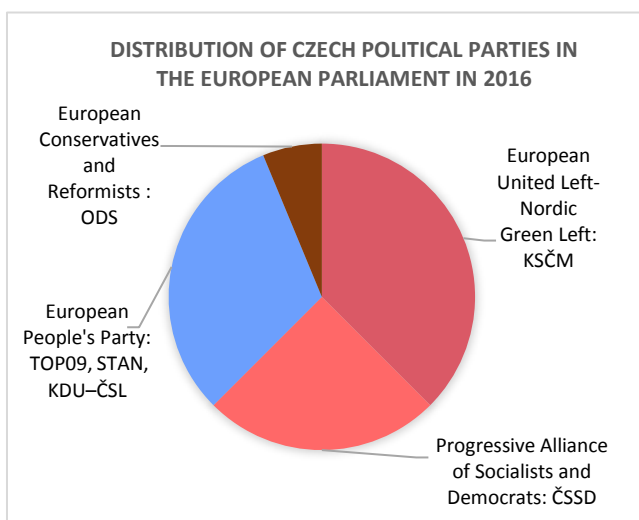


Shortly after receiving the approbation from the Members of the European Parliament, the new President of the Commission was involved in a litigation regarding his responsibilities in defining tax policies in Luxembourg, where he was Prime Minister, for multinational businesses tax-breaks-related issues.

The censure motion to the Commission executive was tabled by Eurosceptic MEPs from EFDD and ENF, was largely rejected by more than 70% of the Members.

However, more than 189 Members did not vote against the motion, therefore questioning the Juncker's leadership over the European Commission. EPP, S&D, ALDE and the Greens sided with the Juncker-led Commission, whereas most of the members of ECR and GUE-NGL decided to abstain.

Also in the Czech case, the motion of censure on Juncker's Commission did not draw much support. All the members of centrist parties (ANO 2011, Czech Social Democrat Party, TOP 09 and Christian Democratic Union- Czechoslovak People's Party) defended the Commission by the attacks of the fringe parties. However, there was a notable exception, as Stanislav Polčák (Mayors and Independents) abstained from voting.



On the other, all the Czech Communists, Conservatives and Eurosceptics supported the motion against Juncker.

## Should the Parliament censor the European Commission?

The vote of MEPs elected in Czech Republic\*

For

Evžen TOŠENOVSKÝ



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Jan ZAHRADIL



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Petr MACH



Party of Free Citizens

EFDD

Kateřina KONEČNÁ



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Jiří MAŠTÁLKA



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Against

Dita CHARANZOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Martina DLABAJOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Petr JEŽEK



ANO 2011

ALDE

Pavel TELIČKA



ANO 2011

ALDE

Luděk NIEDERMAYER



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Jiří POSPÍŠIL



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Michaela ŠOJDOVÁ



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Jaromír ŠTĚTINA



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Pavel SVOBODA



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Jan KELLER



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Pavel POC



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Miroslav POČE



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Olga SEHNALOVÁ



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Abstain

Stanislav POLČÁK



Mayors and Independents

EPP

Documented absence

Miloslav RANSDORF



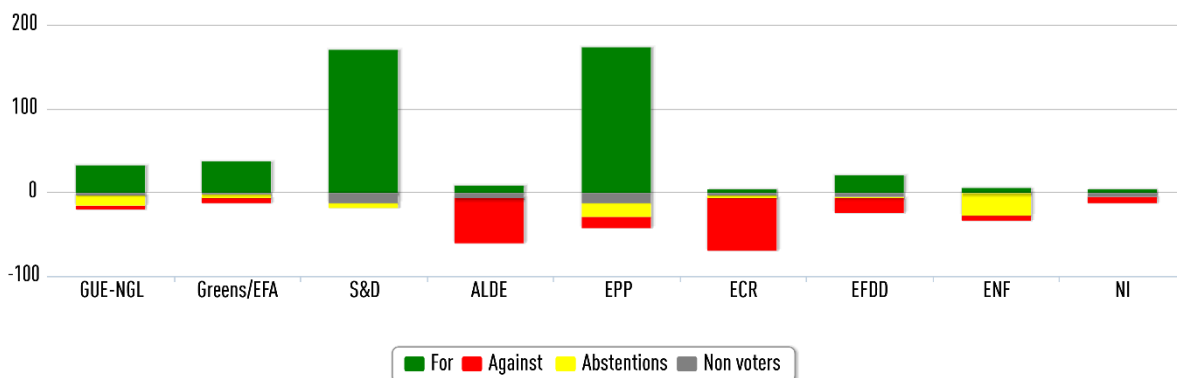
Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL



## Should the EU pursue closer relations with Iran?

The vote of the MEPs

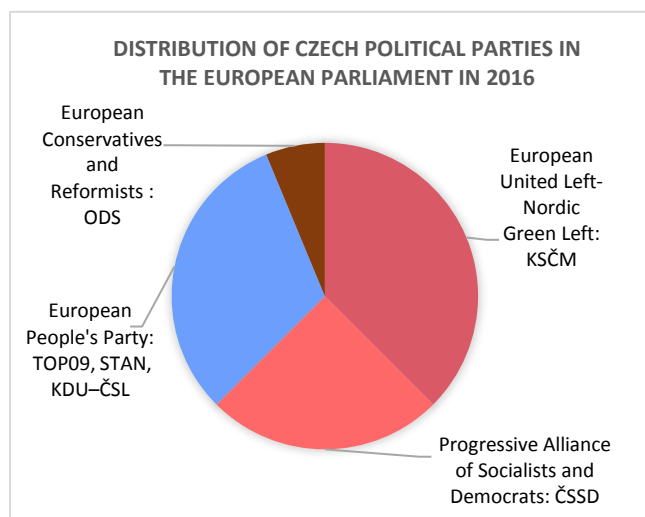


On the 25th October 2016, the EP passed a resolution advocating for closer relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, with a particular focus on the economic relations between the EU and the Middle Eastern country.

Ultimately, the resolution was approved by a heterogeneous majority of MEPs, made up of GUE-NGL, Greens/EFA, S&D, EPP and EFDD. On the other hand, the Liberals from ALDE and ECR voted against, whereas most members of ENF abstained.

Quite remarkably, overall, Czech MEPs hold opposite views on EU's relations with Iran than most of their colleagues. In fact, a majority of MEPs from Czechia voted against closer relations between the EU and Iran. Apart from the opposition of ANO 2011's and the Civic Democratic Party's members, only one Czech member of the EPP group followed the group in supporting closer relations with the Middle Eastern country:

- Michaela Šojdrová (Christian Democratic Union- Czechoslovak People's Party) voted in favour.
- Ludek Niedermayer (TOP 09) and Pavel Svoboda (Christian Democratic Union- Czechoslovak People's Party) abstained.
- Jaromír Štětina (TOP 09), Jiří Pospíšil (TOP 09), Tomáš Zdechovský (Christian Democratic Union- Czechoslovak People's Party) and Stanislav Polčák (Mayors and Independents) voting against closer relations with Iran.



On the other hand, all left-wing Czech MEPs from the Social Democratic and Communist parties supported a more collaborative and conciliatory stance towards Iran.

## Should the EU pursue closer relations with Iran?

The vote of MEPs elected in Czech Republic\*

### For

Michaela ŠOJDOVÁ



Christian and Democratic Union –  
Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Jaromír KOHLÍČEK



Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

Kateřina KONEČNÁ



Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

Pavel POC



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Miroslav POČHE



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Olga SEHNALOVÁ



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

### Against

Dita CHARANZOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Martina DLABAJOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Petr JEŽEK



ANO 2011

ALDE

Pavel TELIČKA



ANO 2011

ALDE

Evžen TOŠENOVSKÝ



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Jan ZAHRADIL



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Petr MACH



Party of Free Citizens

EFDD

Stanislav POLČÁK



Mayors and Independents

EPP

Jiří POSPÍŠIL



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Jaromír ŠTĚTINA



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ



Christian and Democratic Union –  
Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

### Abstain

Luděk NIEDERMAYER



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Pavel SVOBODA



Christian and Democratic Union –  
Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

### Absent

Jiří MAŠTÁLKA



Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

Jan KELLER



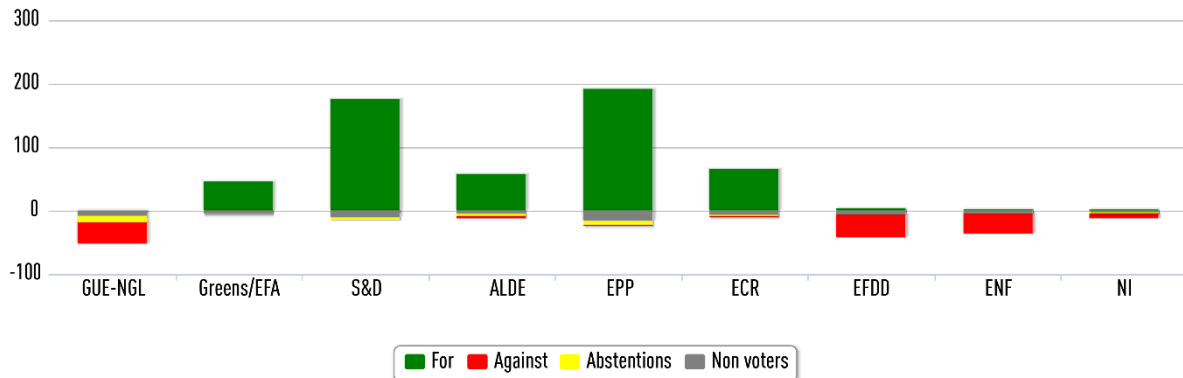
Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D



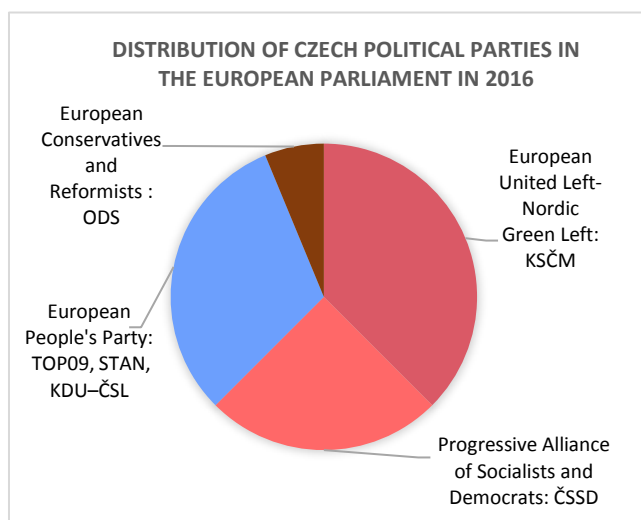
## Should the EU allow the redoubling of the capacity of the pipeline Nord Stream II?

The vote of the MEPs



Nord Stream II is a project aiming at doubling the capacity of the existing Nord Stream pipeline that transports gas from Russia to Germany through the Baltic Sea via the exclusive economic zones of Finland, Sweden and Denmark (bypassing the Baltic States and Poland). European Gas demand has been decreasing since 2010. Many Eastern and Central European countries thus oppose Nord Stream II as they see it as a way for Russia to enhance its influence in the EU and use Nordstream to reduce the quantity of Russian gas sent to the EU through Ukraine. On the other hand, the German Economic Ministry as well as Austria are more concerned about the positive economic effects of the project on the German economy, and ensuring continuous supply of Russian gas.

A vast majority of MEPs expressed concerns about Nord Stream II and some MEPs even adopted positions that are in contrast to the stance taken by their parties at home, such as German S&D MEPs who opposed the project supported by their party leader Sigmar Gabriel. In this case, political views are deemed to be more important than national affiliations. EPP, S&D, ALDE, ECR and the Greens/EFA were concerned by the redoubling of Nord Stream, whereas only GUE-NGL, EFDD and ENF were not.



As previously stated, the vast majority of the MEPs voted along European political group lines and, in the case of the Czech representatives, there was 100% overlapping between their votes and the positions of their groups. A majority of 17 Czech MEPs were in favor of blocking the Russia-backed project, with the members of Ano 2011, The Czech Democratic Party- Czechoslovak People's Party, Top 09 and The Civic Democratic Party voting in favor. The ones that opposed the critical paragraph were the members of the Communist Party and the Civic Democratic Party.

## Should the EU allow the redoubling of the capacity of the pipeline Nord Stream II?

The vote of MEPs elected in Czech Republic\*

### For

Dita CHARANZOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Martina DLABAJOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Petr JEŽEK



ANO 2011

ALDE

Pavel TELIČKA



ANO 2011

ALDE

Evžen TOŠENOVSKÝ



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Jan ZAHRADIL



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Luděk NIEDERMAYER



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Stanislav POLČÁK



Mayors and Independents

EPP

Jiří POSPÍŠIL



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Michaela ŠOJDOVÁ



Christian and Democratic Union –  
Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Jaromír ŠTĚTINA



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Pavel SVOBODA



Christian and Democratic Union –  
Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ



Christian and Democratic Union –  
Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Jan KELLER



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Pavel POC



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Miroslav POČE



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Olga SEHNALOVÁ



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

### Against

Petr MACH



Party of Free Citizens

EFDD

Jiří MAŠTÁLKA



Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

Miloslav RANSDORF



Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

### Documented absence

Kateřina KONEČNÁ

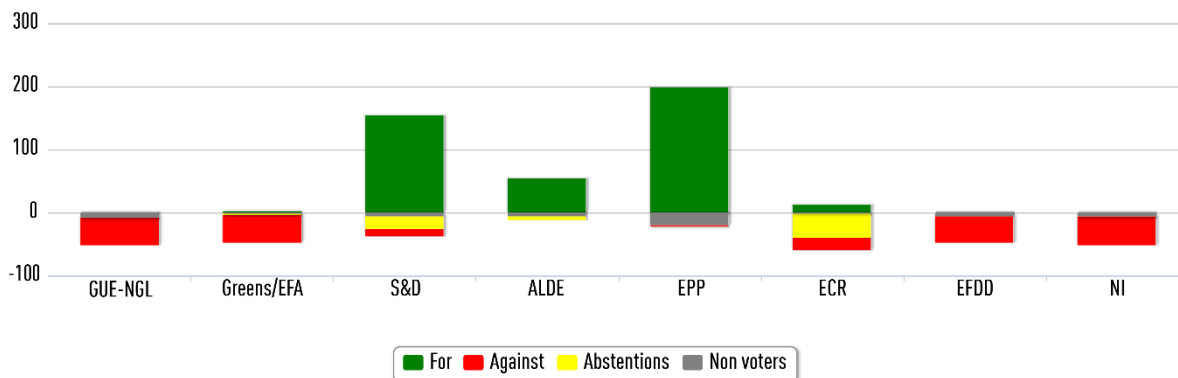


Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

## Should the EP appoint Juncker's Commission?

The vote of the MEPs

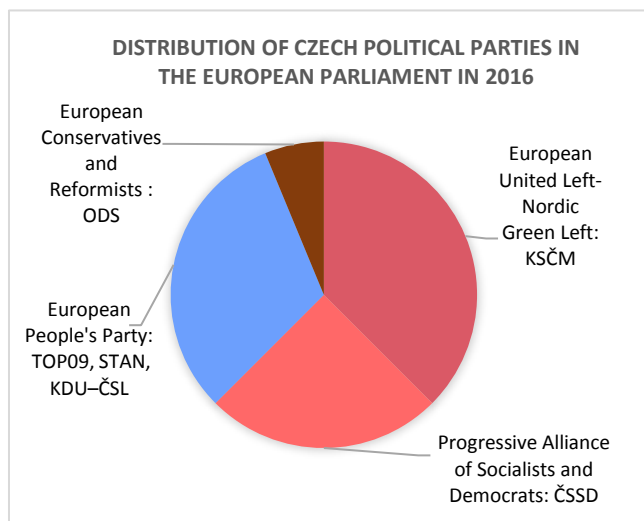


The current College of Commissioners led by Jean-Claude Juncker has been elected by the European Parliament on the 22nd October 2014 (few months after the European elections).

More than 60% of MEPs supported the new Commission, although the positive votes mostly came from the three centrist groups in the European Parliament: the European people's Party, the Liberals and the Social Democrats.

Instead, all the other groups in the European Parliament voted against the appointment of the new College of Commissioners, apart from ECR, which was split among MEPs voting in favour, the ones voting against and the several abstentions.

Likewise, also MEPs from Czechia gave the green light to the election of Juncker's Commission. In fact, all the MEPs from ANO 2011, the Czech Social Democratic Party, TOP 09 and Christian Democratic Union- Czechoslovak People's Party supported the new Commission.



Outright opposition only came from the Communists and the Party of Free Citizens. Instead, the Civic Democratic Party was split: Jan Zahradil voted against the new Commission, whereas Evzen Tosenovsky abstained.

## Should the EP appoint Juncker's Commission?

The vote of MEPs elected in Czech Republic\*

For

Dita CHARANZOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Martina DLABAJOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Petr JEŽEK



ANO 2011

ALDE

Pavel TELIČKA



ANO 2011

ALDE

Luděk NIEDERMAYER



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Stanislav POLČÁK



Mayors and Independents

EPP

Jiří POSPÍŠIL



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Michaela ŠOJDOVÁ



Christian and Democratic Union –  
Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Jaromír ŠTĚTINA



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Pavel SVOBODA



Christian and Democratic Union –  
Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ



Christian and Democratic Union –  
Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Jan KELLER



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Pavel POC



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Miroslav POCHÉ



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Olga SEHNALOVÁ



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Against

Jan ZAHRADIL



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Petr MACH



Party of Free Citizens

EFDD

Kateřina KONEČNÁ



Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

Jiří MAŠTÁLKA



Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

Abstain

Evžen TOŠENOVSKÝ



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Didn't vote

Miloslav RANSDORF

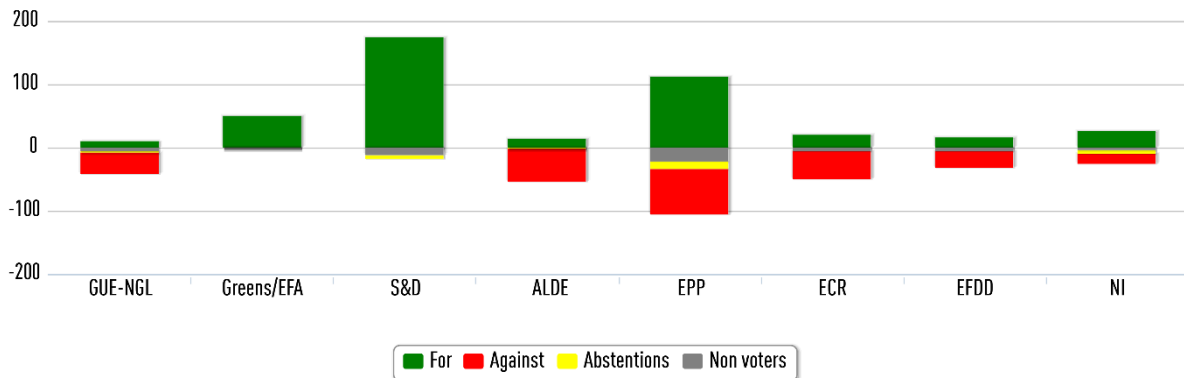


Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

## Should the EU introduce the payment of ETS allowances for steel coming from outside the EU?

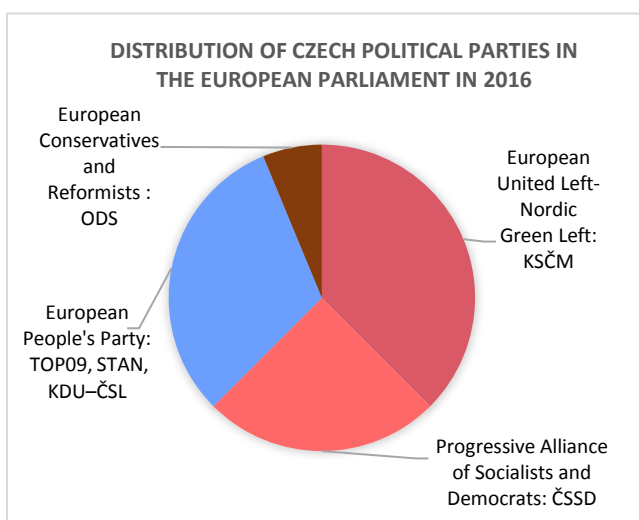
The vote of the MEPs



European steel producers face two key challenges: shrinking European steel demand (27% below pre-crisis levels) and fierce competition with foreign steel exports. In addition, MEPs worry about carbon leakage which is the idea, not yet convincingly supported by facts and evidence, that carbon-intensive production might leave the EU to settle in countries where environmental regulation is looser only as a result of tighter European environmental regulation.

For this reason, an amendment proposed by S&D group advocated that the Commission should study a scheme of payment of ETS allowances for imported steel, in order to counter the phenomenon of carbon leakage and weaken foreign competition. As a matter of fact, this idea has been studied for more than ten years now, including by the European Commission.

This amendment was approved by more than 60% of MEPs. Political groups split along national lines during this vote. However, generally speaking, the amendment was supported by most members of EPP, S&D and Greens, the EPP was split on this issue with less than 60% of EPP MEPs supporting the amendment. In the other political groups, most MEPs voted against the proposed system, with the notable exception of the 19 Polish ECR MEPs that supported it.



Most Czech MEPs welcomed the call to introduce ETS allowances for imported steel with skepticism. In fact, only the Czech Social Democratic Party and TOP 09 supported the initiative, whereas the Civic Democratic Party and the ANO 2011 voted against it. In this case, the members of the Christian Democratic Union- Czechoslovak People's Party were completely split: Michaela Šojdrová voted against, Tomas Zdechovsky abstained and Pavel Svoboda voted in favour. Sitting on the fence, the Communist members did not take a clear position and abstained.

# Should the EU introduce the payment of ETS allowances for steel coming from outside the EU?

The vote of MEPs elected in Czech Republic\*

For

Luděk NIEDERMAYER



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Stanislav POLČÁK



Mayors and Independents

EPP

Jiří POSPÍŠIL



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Pavel SVOBODA



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Jan KELLER



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Pavel POC



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Miroslav POČE



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Olga SEHNALOVÁ



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Against

Dita CHARANZOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Martina DLABAJOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Petr JEŽEK



ANO 2011

ALDE

Pavel TELIČKA



ANO 2011

ALDE

Evžen TOŠENOVSKÝ



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Jan ZAHRADIL



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Petr MACH



Party of Free Citizens

EFDD

Michaela ŠOJDOVÁ



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Abstain

Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Kateřina KONEČNÁ



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Jiří MAŠTÁLKA



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Didn't vote

Jaromír ŠTĚTINA



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Documented absence

Miloslav RANSDORF



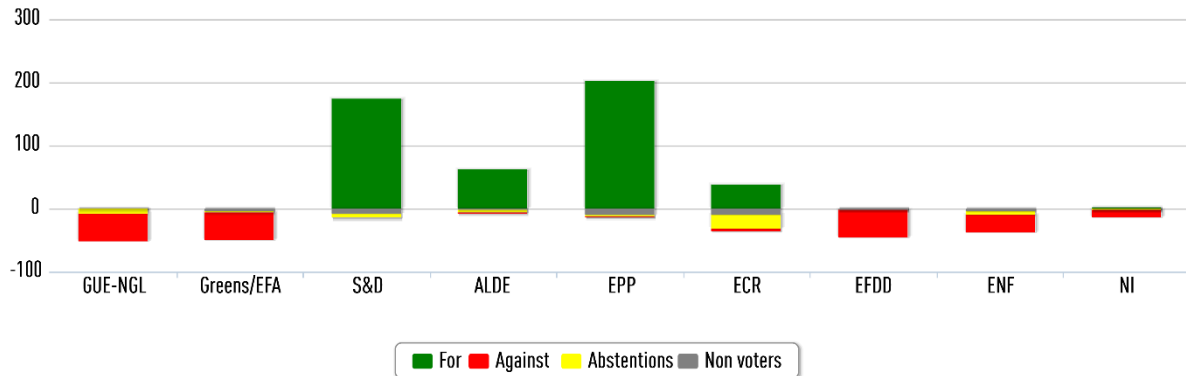
Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL



## Should a European Border and Coast Guard Agency be established?

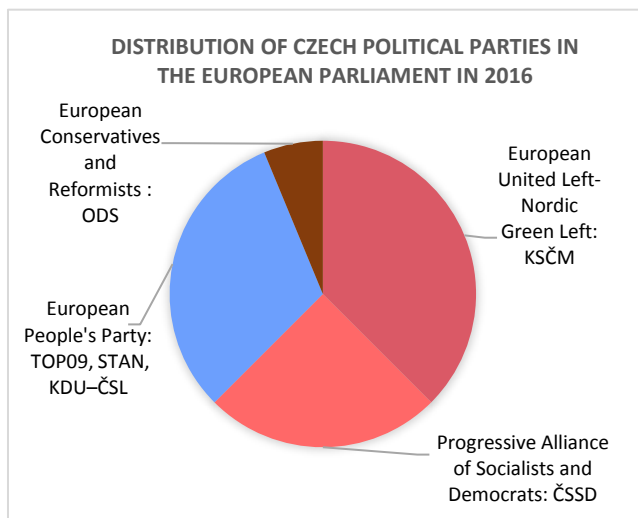
The vote of the MEPs



At the beginning of July 2016, MEPs supported the establishing of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in a move to centralize the management of the borders at the European level. This agency will replace Frontex and have the power to deploy a team of experts to help the national authorities to cope with the vast influx of refugees in the European Union.

This team can even be deployed without the consent of the concerned Member State, with the approval of the European Council. The new agency received the support of EPP, S&D, ALDE and most of ECR. All the remaining groups voted compactly against its establishment.

Also, representatives from the Czech Republic supported the establishment of the new agency. Indeed 14 MEPs voted in favor of the new agency (ANO 2011, Czech Social Democratic Party, TOP 09 and the Democratic Union- Czechoslovak People's Party). Apart from the opposition of Petr Mach (Free Citizens Party), also the members of the Civic Democratic Party, as well as Jiří Pospíši (TOP 09) decided to abstain on the new agency.



For a different reason, also the Czech Communists decided to abstain, e.g. they did not completely share the human rights concerns put forward by GUE-NGL.

## Should a European Border and Coast Guard Agency be established?

The vote of MEPs elected in Czech Republic\*

For

Dita CHARANZOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Martina DLABAJOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Petr JEŽEK



ANO 2011

ALDE

Pavel TELIČKA



ANO 2011

ALDE

Luděk NIEDERMAYER



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Stanislav POLČÁK



Mayors and Independents

EPP

Michaela ŠOJDROVÁ



Christian and Democratic Union –  
Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Jaromír ŠTĚTINA



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Pavel SVOBODA



Christian and Democratic Union –  
Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ



Christian and Democratic Union –  
Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Jan KELLER



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Pavel POC



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Miroslav POČHE



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Olga SEHNALOVÁ



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Against

Petr MACH



Party of Free Citizens

EFDD

Abstain

Evžen TOŠENOVSKÝ



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Jan ZAHRADIL



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Jiří POSPÍŠIL



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Jaromír KOHLÍČEK



Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

Kateřina KONEČNÁ



Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

Jiří MAŠTÁLKA

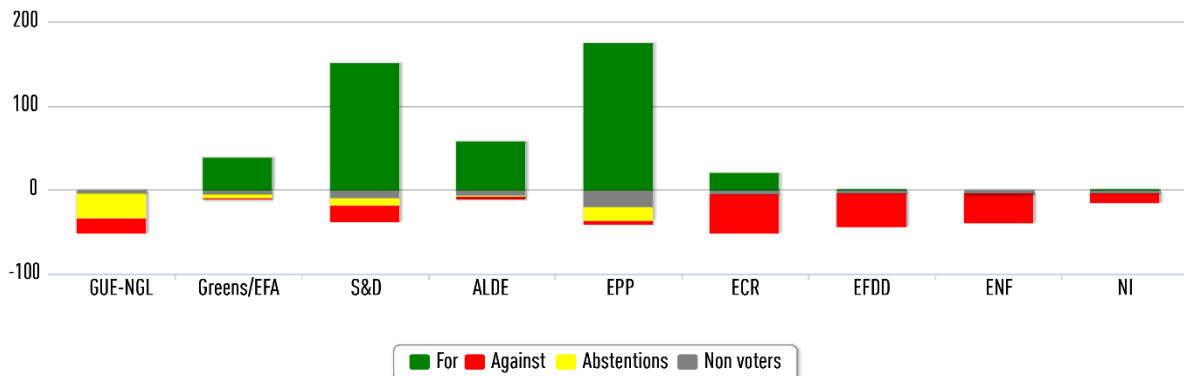


Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

## Should the EU Budget be increased?

The vote of the MEPs

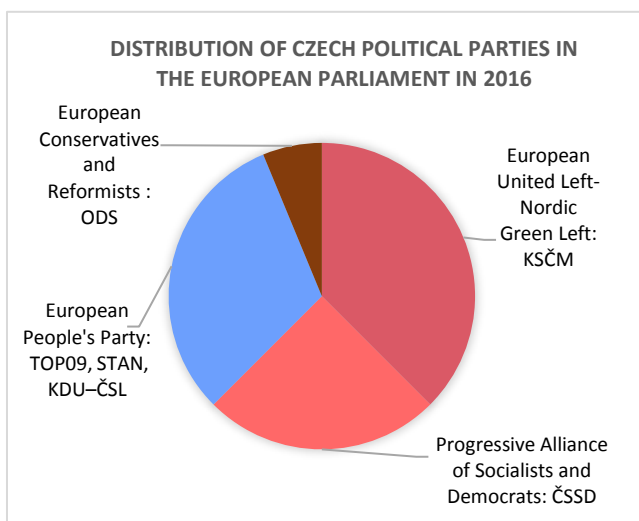


The European Union budget for next year was voted last month. A large majority of Members of the European Parliament (65%) asked for more money to be allocated to youth initiatives and migration. However, after handing the provisional deal to the Council, concerns were raised since national governments disagreed on increasing the spending from the institutions and tried to block Parliament's attempt to not make any cuts.

By now, an agreement between the Council and the European Parliament was reached and secures 500million more for the Youth Employment Initiative and a package of 750million redirected to migration related funds.

Several groups in the EP supported the increase: the EPP, S&D, ALDE, the Greens and even a part of ECR. Instead, the Eurosceptic groups EFDD, ENF and most of ECR opposed the initiative, whereas the far left was split between voting against and abstaining.

The representatives of the Czech Republic were on the same line as the majority of the European Parliament in supporting the general budget of the EU for 2017. Indeed, all the Czech MEPs from EPP, S&D and ALDE voted in favor of the new budget. Instead, the members of the Civic Democratic Party and the Party of the Free Citizens voted against the increased budget for 2017.



On this issue, the Communist party was more divided, as Kateřina Konečná voted against the general budget, whereas Jaromír Kohlíček abstained.

## Should the EU Budget be increased ?

The vote of MEPs elected in Czech Republic\*

For

Dita CHARANZOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Martina DLABAJOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Petr JEŽEK



ANO 2011

ALDE

Pavel TELIČKA



ANO 2011

ALDE

Luděk NIEDERMAYER



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Stanislav POLČÁK



Mayors and Independents

EPP

Jiří POSPÍŠIL



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Michaela ŠOJDOVÁ



Christian and Democratic Union –  
Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Jaromír ŠTĚTINA



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Pavel SVOBODA



Christian and Democratic Union –  
Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ



Christian and Democratic Union –  
Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Pavel POC



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Miroslav POČE



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Olga SEHNALOVÁ



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Against

Evžen TOŠENOVSKÝ



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Jan ZAHRADIL



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Petr MACH



Party of Free Citizens

EFDD

Kateřina KONEČNÁ



Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

Abstain

Jaromír KOHLÍČEK



Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

Absent

Jiří MAŠTÁLKA



Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

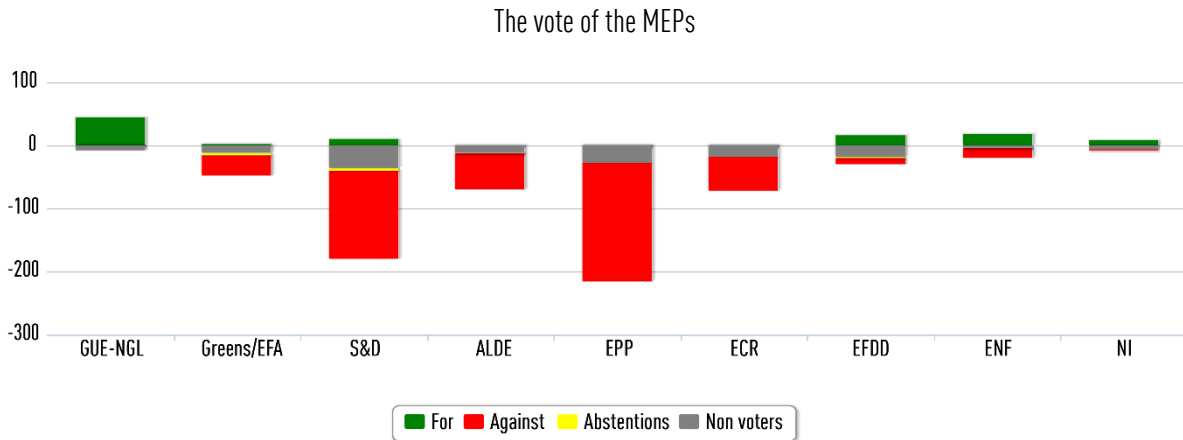
Jan KELLER



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

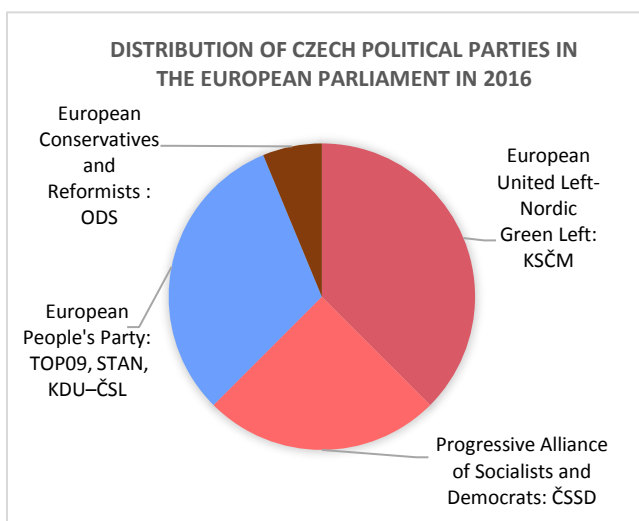
## Should the EU prevent public railway systems from being privatized?



Although the European Union does not have competences with regards to whether rail suppliers should be privatized or kept public, the vote on this amendment highlights some interesting positions of national parties. In this case, a large majority of MEPs (72%) rejected the proposal of the far-left group GUE-NGL, which called on Member states to maintain their public ownerships of railways and, consequently, to avoid any privatization.

The anti-privatization initiative was supported by GUE-NGL, the Greens/EFA and EFDD, whereas opposition came from EPP, ALDE, S&D and ECR. The far right ENF was split between supporting and opposing MEPs (the National Front rejected privatization, whereas the other parties in the group supported them).

The majority of the Czech MEPs voted in the same way as most of the Members of the European Parliament did, with 17 MEPs who defended the policy of privatization of the European railway supply.



Most of the Czech representatives voted in line with their EU political groups, with Ano 2011, Top 09 and the Christian Democratic Union- Czechoslovak People's Party and Czech Social Democratic Party voting against the critical amendment. However in the case of the Social Democrats, one MEP, Pavel Poc, voted in favor. Apart from Poc, the Communist were the only ones, among Czech MEPs, who opposed the privatization of railways.

# Should the EU prevent public railway systems from being privatized?

The vote of MEPs elected in Czech Republic\*

For

Kateřina KONEČNÁ



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Against

Dita CHARANZOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Martina DLABAJOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Petr JEŽEK



ANO 2011

ALDE

Pavel TELIČKA



ANO 2011

ALDE

Evžen TOŠENOVSKÝ



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Jan ZAHRADIL



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Luděk NIEDERMAYER



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Stanislav POLČÁK



Mayors and Independents

EPP

Jiří POSPÍŠIL



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Michaela ŠOJDOVÁ



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Jaromír ŠTĚTINA



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Pavel SVOBODA



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Jan KELLER



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Miroslav POČE



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Olga SEHNALOVÁ



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Absent

Jiří MAŠTÁLKA



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Didn't vote

Petr MACH



Party of Free Citizens

EFDD

Jaromír KOHLÍČEK



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Pavel POC



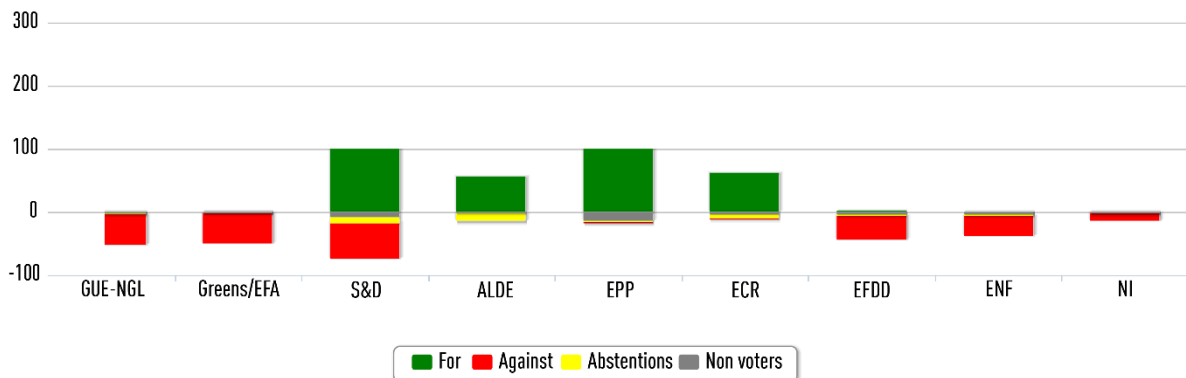
Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D



## Should TTIP negotiations continue?

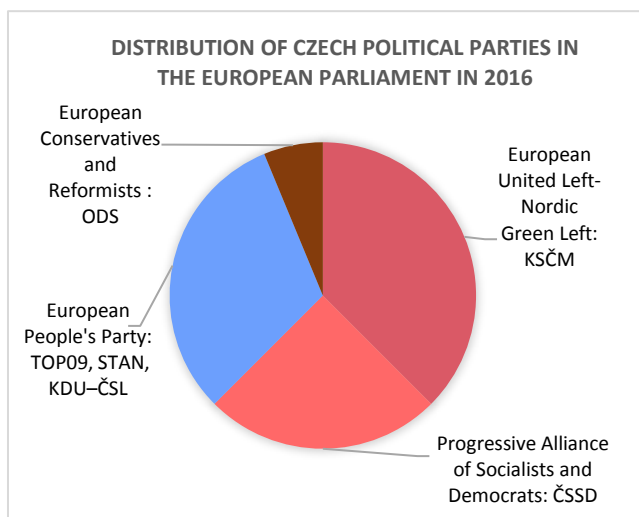
The vote of the MEPs



In 2013, Member States gave to the European Commission the mandate to negotiate on their behalf a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) with the United States. On the 8 July 2015 the European Parliament voted with a comfortable majority of 61 % MEPs to continue negotiations but with specific red lines.

After 3 years, little progress has been made in some key chapters and the election of Donald Trump will probably lead to suspend negotiations. France is the only Member State having officially expressed in 2016 a negative opinion on the pursuit of negotiations.

Overall, Czech MEPs showed support for the TTIP as all the members of ANO 2011, Civic Democratic Party, TOP 09 and Christian Democratic Union- Czechoslovak People's Party and even the Czech Social Democrat Party voted in favor of the report.



However, within the latter party, Jan Keller disagreed with the rest of his colleagues and voted against the continuation of TTIP negotiations. In addition to Keller's opposition, also the Czech members of GUE-NGL and EFDD were willing to block the negotiations for the free trade agreement.

## Should TTIP negotiations continue?

The vote of MEPs elected in Czech Republic\*

### For

Dita CHARANZOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Martina DLABAJOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Petr JEŽEK



ANO 2011

ALDE

Pavel TELIČKA



ANO 2011

ALDE

Evžen TOŠENOVSKÝ



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Jan ZAHRADIL



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Luděk NIEDERMAYER



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Stanislav POLČÁK



Mayors and Independents

EPP

Jiří POSPÍŠIL



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Michaela ŠOJDOVÁ



Christian and Democratic Union –  
Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Jaromír ŠTĚTINA



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Pavel SVOBODA



Christian and Democratic Union –  
Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ



Christian and Democratic Union –  
Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Pavel POC



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Miroslav POČE



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Olga SEHNALOVÁ



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

### Against

Petr MACH



Party of Free Citizens

EFDD

Kateřina KONEČNÁ



Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

Jiří MAŠTÁLKA



Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

Miloslav RANSDORF



Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

Jan KELLER

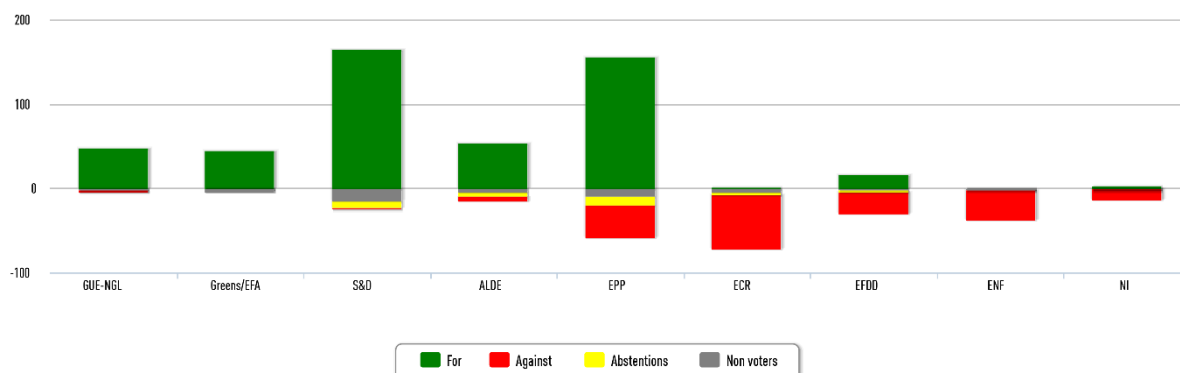


Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

## Should the EU fight for increasing social inclusion of refugees as well as their integration in the labour market?

The vote of the MEPs

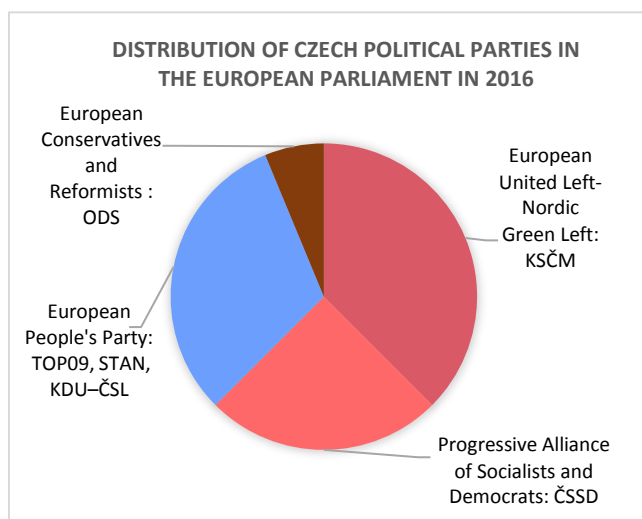


Last July, the European Parliament voted on an own-initiative report drafted by the Italian Member Brando Benifei, which suggested potential solutions to improve social inclusion of refugees as well as their integration in the labour market.

The report passed with 69% of the votes. The report stressed the need to differentiate between emergency measures and medium term ones. Additionally, it pushed for accelerating the recognition of diploma and qualifications and the establishment of a language training system.

The report was supported by GUE-NGL, Greens/EFA, S&D, ALDE and the EPP, whereas opposition came from ECR, EFDD, ENF and even a few members of the EPP.

Despite the backing of a comfortable majority of MEPs in the plenary, only one Czech MEP contributed to the approval of the report: Jaromir Stetina, member of Top 09. Apart from few abstentions, most Czech MEPs voted against additional measures to spur integration of refugees.



Among the MEPs abstaining, we found Luděk Niedermayer (TOP 09), Pavel Svoboda (Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party), as well as three members of the Czech Social Democratic Party: Miroslav Poche, Olga Sehnalová and Pavel Poc. All the members of ANO 2011, Civic Democratic Party and the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia opposed the call for more efforts on this issue.

# Should the EU fight for increasing social inclusion of refugees as well as their integration in the labour market?

The vote of MEPs elected in Czech Republic\*

**For**

Jaromír ŠTĚTINA



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

**Against**

Dita CHARANZOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Martina DLABAJOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Petr JEŽEK



ANO 2011

ALDE

Pavel TELIČKA



ANO 2011

ALDE

Evžen TOŠENOVSKÝ



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Jan ZAHRADIL



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Stanislav POLČÁK



Mayors and Independents

EPP

Jiří POSPÍŠIL



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Michaela ŠOJDROVÁ



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Jaromír KOHLÍČEK



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Kateřina KONEČNÁ



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Jiří MAŠTÁLKA



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Jan KELLER



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

**Abstain**

Petr MACH



Party of Free Citizens

EFDD

Luděk NIEDERMAYER



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Pavel SVOBODA



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Pavel POC



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Miroslav POČE



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Olga SEHNALOVÁ

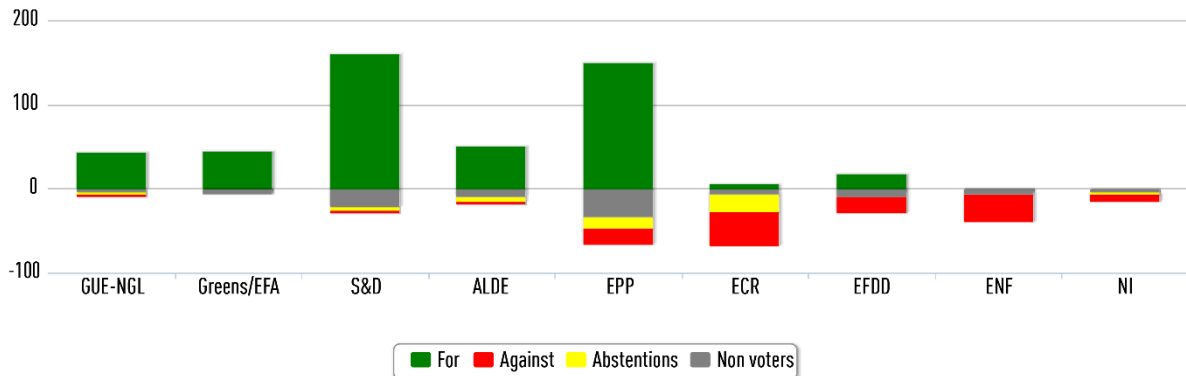


Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

## Should refugees be allocated across Europe?

The vote of the MEPs

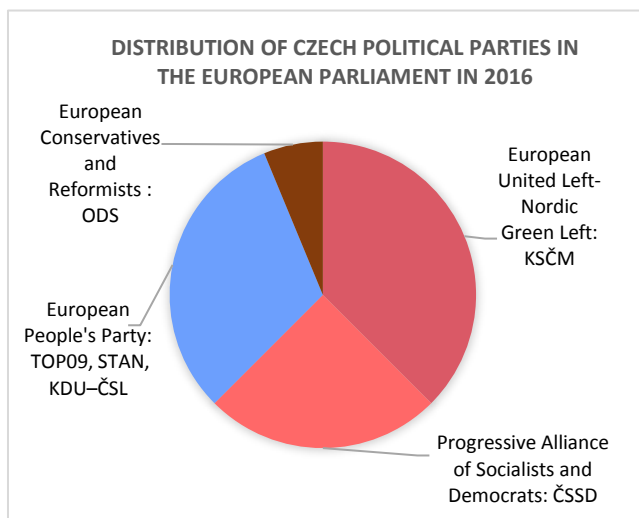


Since the very beginning, the decision to redistribute the refugees from Italy and Greece to other Member States, has been a source of controversy, polemic and even led to a referendum in Hungary.

The vote on the initiative in the European Parliament represents a good opportunity to measure the level of support for the quota system from the Members representing the 28 national contexts.

Although, the text was largely approved, a considerable number of MEPs adopted a critical stance. The system was supported by the EPP, S&D, ALDE, Greens/EFA and GUE-NGL, whereas only ECR, ENF and a part of EFDD voted against redistributing refugees.

Despite the overall support in the EP for the proposed scheme, none of Czech MEPs voted in favour of the system of relocation of refugees.



As many as 17 MEPs voted against it. This shows that, on this issue, most Czech MEPs are at odds with their political groups. Only 2 MEPs from TOP 09 did not vote against the proposal and abstained: Luděk Niedermayer and Jaromír Štětina, whereas the other member of TOP 09, Jiří Pospíši, also joined the opposition to the report.

## Should refugees be allocated across Europe?

The vote of MEPs elected in Czech Republic\*

### Against

Dita CHARANZOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Martina DLABAJOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Petr JEŽEK



ANO 2011

ALDE

Pavel TELIČKA



ANO 2011

ALDE

Evžen TOŠENOVSKÝ



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Jan ZAHRADIL



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Petr MACH



Party of Free Citizens

EFDD

Stanislav POLČÁK



Mayors and Independents

EPP

Jiří POSPÍŠIL



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Michaela ŠOJDOVÁ



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Pavel SVOBODA



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Jaromír KOHLÍČEK



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Kateřina KONEČNÁ



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Jiří MAŠTÁLKA



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Jan KELLER



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Pavel POC



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Olga SEHNALOVÁ



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

### Abstain

Luděk NIEDERMAYER



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Jaromír ŠTĚTINA



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

### Absent

Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Miroslav POČHE



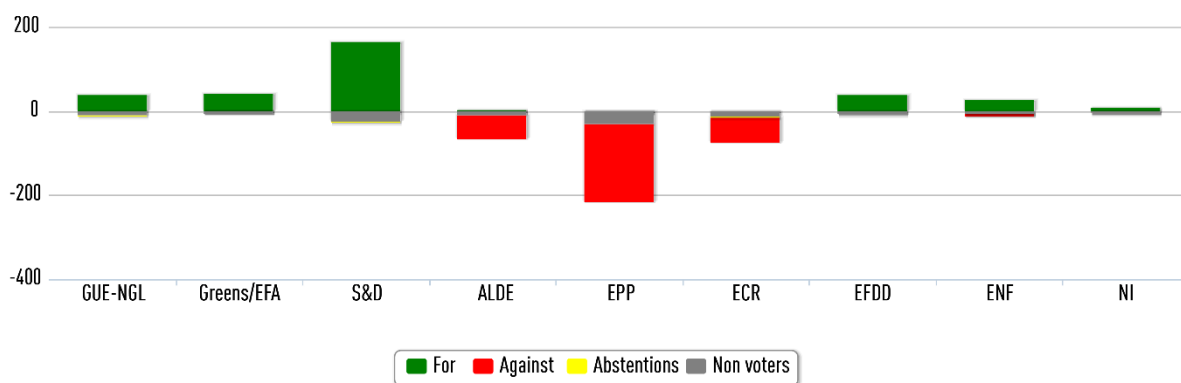
Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D



## Should the EU focus more on public investment rather than focusing on budgetary discipline?

The vote of the MEPs

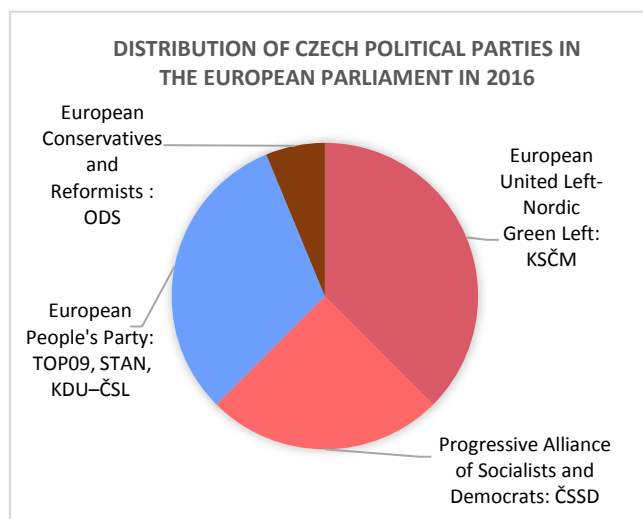


Although, over the last year, the economic crisis in the EU has been foreshadowed by other urgent matters (terrorism, refugee crisis, political instability), the debate between the promoters of more public spending and the defenders of austerity policies is still ongoing.

The EP is clearly divided on the matter: when the Eurosceptic group tabled an amendment to the report on the European Semester in 2015, asking for less austerity measures and more public spending, 325 MEPs voted in favour of the amendment, whereas 315 of them voted against.

Interestingly, MEPs mostly voted according to their political groups' lines. Center to the right groups in the EP voted against more public spending (ALDE, EPP and ECR), whereas a strange bed-fellows made up of S&D, Greens, GUE-NGL, EFDD and ENF supported the call for a shift from austerity policies.

In tight vote on austerity policy vis-à-vis public spending, Czech MEPs put their weight behind the former. In fact, only 4 MEPs backed the amendment calling for a radical shift from austerity measures.



That means that only the MEPs from the Czech Social Democratic Party supported the amendment against austerity, whereas all the other Czech MEPs defended the budgetary discipline policies. The position of the Czech Communist is unknown, as all their members were absent during the vote.

## Should the EU focus more on public investment rather than focusing on budgetary discipline?

The vote of MEPs elected in Czech Republic\*

### For

Jan KELLER



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Pavel POC



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Miroslav POČHE



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Olga SEHNALOVÁ



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

### Against

Dita CHARANZOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Martina DLABAJOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Petr JEŽEK



ANO 2011

ALDE

Pavel TELIČKA



ANO 2011

ALDE

Evžen TOŠENOVSKÝ



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Luděk NIEDERMAYER



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Stanislav POLČÁK



Mayors and Independents

EPP

Jiří POSPÍŠIL



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Michaela ŠOJDROVÁ



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Jaromír ŠTĚTINA



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Pavel SVOBODA



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

### Absent

Jan ZAHRADIL



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Petr MACH



Party of Free Citizens

EFDD

Jiří MAŠTÁLKA



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Miloslav RANSDORF



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

### Documented absence

Kateřina KONEČNÁ

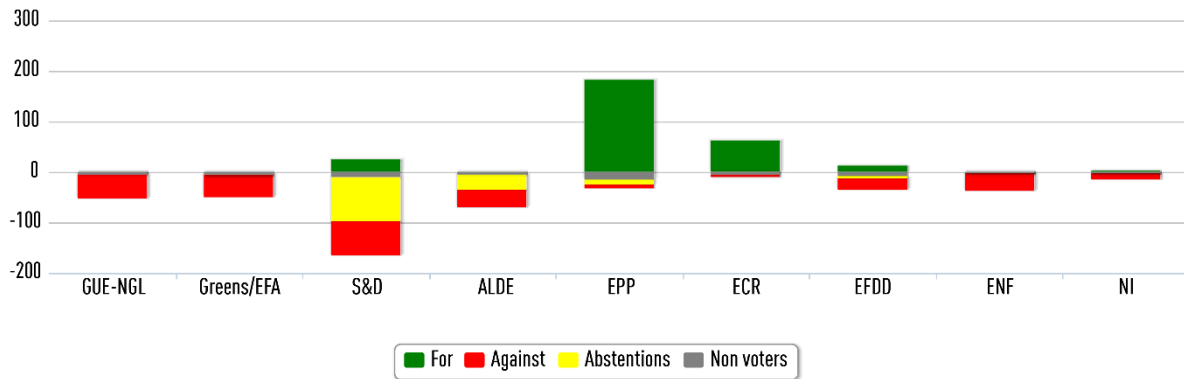


Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

## Should the EU renew the authorization for glyphosate for 7 years?

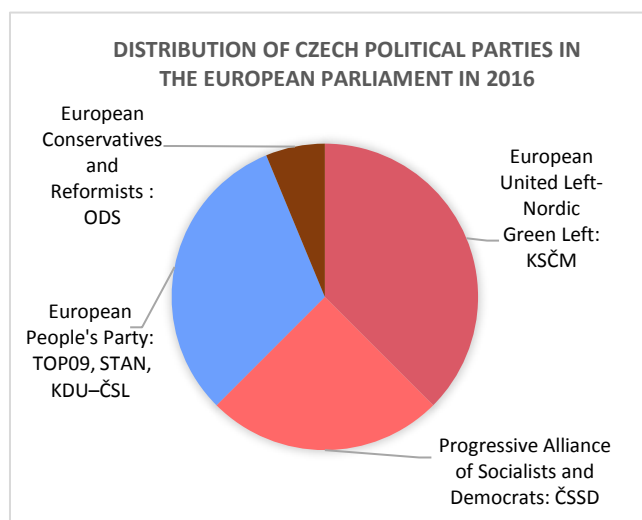
The vote of the MEPs



Sometimes technical topics manage to hit the headlines of the newspapers. This is the case of the renewal of the approval of the use of glyphosate in pesticides despite accusation of having damaging effects on the health of consumers of products treated with this substance. However, the debate highlighted strong divisions between the Member States, which put the Commission into an awkward situation given some irreconcilable positions. For instance, the French government was vehemently against the renewal. In the end, the Commission decided to temporally renew the authorization for the glyphosate.

In the European Parliament, an amendment advocating for a 7-years renewal of the substance passed by a very slim margin (only 16 votes of difference). Although the final resolution advocated for its renewal, other parts of the report called for the limitation of its use. The amendment was supported by the EPP and ECR, whereas a majority of the Greens/EFA, GUE-NGL, ENF and EFDD voted against it. ALDE group was split between the abstention and the opposition, although the most divided group was S&D.

In the case of The Czech Republic, there has been quite a split in regard to the initiative, as from the total 20 present MEPs 9 voted in favor and 9 of them abstained while 2 voted against. All the ALDE members from the Czech party Ano 2011, a centre-right oriented party, abstained on the compromise. Also, the members of ANO 2011's coalition partner Czech Social Democratic Party, abstained as well.



They were joined in the abstaining vote by the member of TOP 09, Jiří Pospisil who was not on the same line with the his party's colleagues, as the other members of TOP 09 followed the group line in supporting the renewal. The MEPs from TOP 09, the Civic Democratic Party and Christian and Democratic Union - Czechoslovak People's Party, endorsed the renewal, as well as Petr Mach from the Czech Free Citizens Party. The votes against the motion only came from the representatives of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia.

## Should the EU renew the authorization for glyphosate for 7 years?

The vote of MEPs elected in Czech Republic\*

For

Evžen TOŠENOVSKÝ



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Jan ZAHRAĐIL



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Petr MACH



Party of Free Citizens

EFDD

Luděk NIEDERMAYER



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Stanislav POLČÁK



Mayors and Independents

EPP

Michaela ŠOJDROVÁ



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Jaromír ŠTĚTINA



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Pavel SVOBODA



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Against

Jaromír KOHLÍČEK



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Kateřina KONEČNÁ



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Abstain

Dita CHARANZOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Martina DLABAJOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Petr JEŽEK



ANO 2011

ALDE

Pavel TELIČKA



ANO 2011

ALDE

Jiří POSPÍŠIL



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Jan KELLER



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Pavel POC



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Miroslav POČE



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Olga SEHNALOVÁ



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Absent

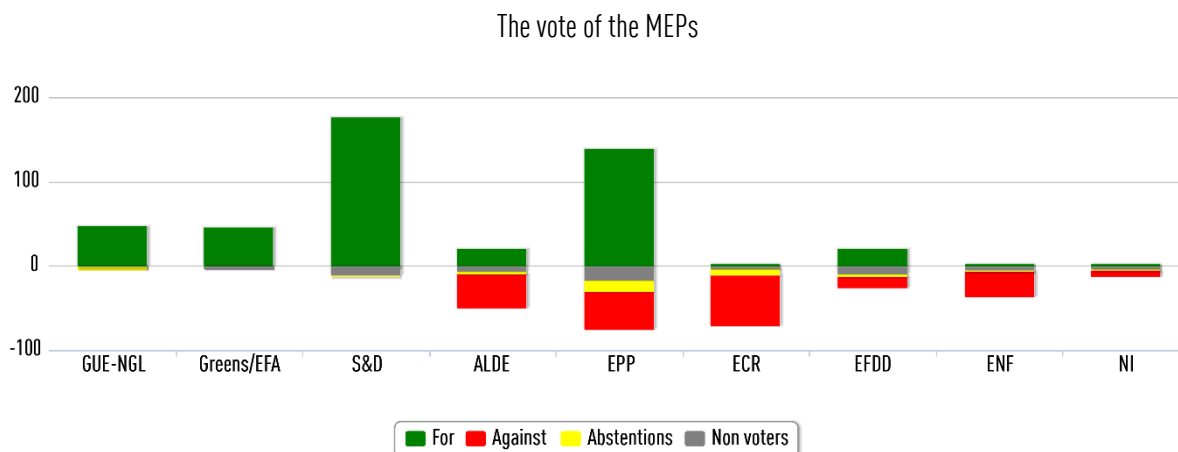
Jiří MAŠTÁLKA



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

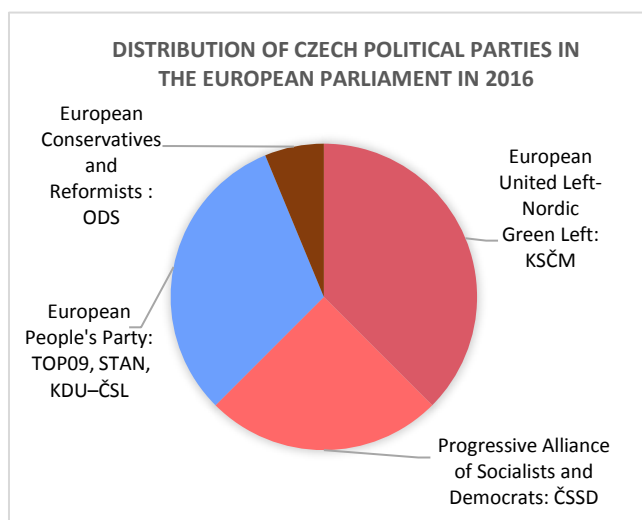
## Should the EU harmonise the social benefits charges and wages of posted workers according to local standards?



Companies often send their employees to work in another EU country. Yet, the labour standards (e.g. minimum wage of the country) of the hosting country are often higher than the country of origin's ones. The use of "posted workers" often allow companies to undercut the competition by paying the workers less than the minimum standards in the hosting country. At the moment, some EU governments are lashing out against this practice given its harmful effects on local companies and workers alike. To prevent the so-called social dumping, the European institutions are calling for more even wage standards for the same job, even if in a different place.

In this regards, a report drafted by the Employment and Social Affairs Committee gathered a comfortable support of 66% of MEPs for more intervention on social dumping. The majority was formed by GUE-NGL, Greens/EFA, S&D, the EPP and most EFDD's members. On the other hand, ALDE, ECR and ENF opposed the initiative.

Not surprisingly, Czech MEPs rejected the calls for stepping up measures to counter social dumping. In fact, the status quo incentivize companies into using posted workers coming from countries with lower wages in countries with higher wages.



Among the political parties, only the Social Democrats and the Communists voted in favour, whereas all the other MEPs voted against the proposed reform to the use of posted workers, with the exception of Michaela Sojdrova (Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party) who supported the report.

# Should the EU harmonise the social benefits charges and wages of posted workers according to local standards ?

The vote of MEPs elected in Czech Republic\*

For

Michaela ŠOJDOVÁ



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Jaromír KOHLÍČEK



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Kateřina KONEČNÁ



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Jiří MAŠTÁLKA



Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

GUE/NGL

Jan KELLER



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Pavel POC



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Miroslav POČE



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Olga SEHNALOVÁ



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Against

Dita CHARANZOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Martina DLABAJOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Petr JEŽEK



ANO 2011

ALDE

Pavel TELIČKA



ANO 2011

ALDE

Evžen TOŠENOVSKÝ



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Jan ZAHRADIL



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Petr MACH



Party of Free Citizens

EFDD

Luděk NIEDERMAYER



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Stanislav POLČÁK



Mayors and Independents

EPP

Jiří POSPÍŠIL



Top 09 and Mayors

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Jaromír ŠTĚTINA



Top 09 and Mayors

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Pavel SVOBODA



Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ



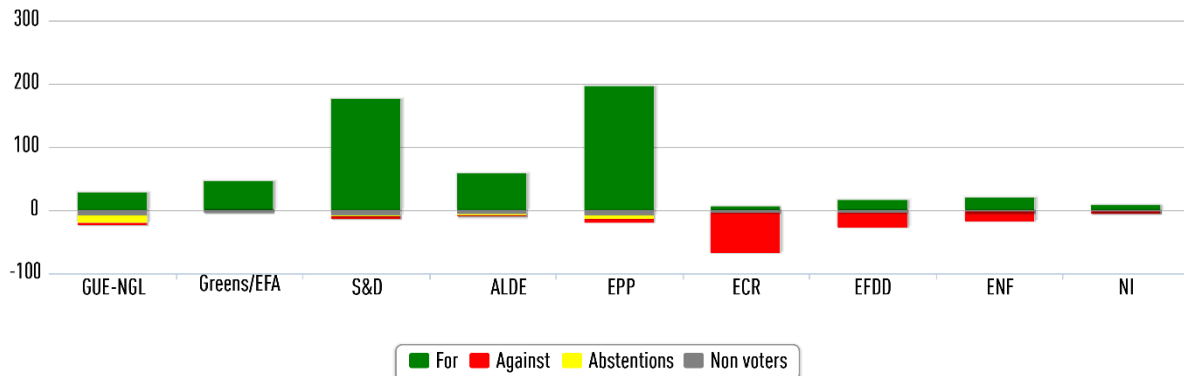
Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP



## Should EU Member States increase tax coordination and convergence within the internal market?

The vote of the MEPs

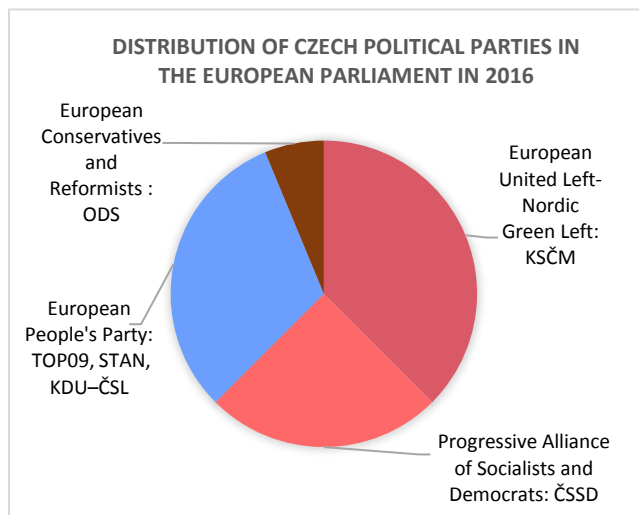


Disparities among the taxation policies of different Member States are often source of controversies, as several tax decisions adopted by some Member States are deemed to harm the tax bases of other Member States.

In the report on Competition policy approved by the European Parliament last December, MEPs called on the EU to do more than simply fighting tax havens and closing loopholes: all forms of harmful tax competition within the internal market should be countered by increasing coordination and convergence of tax policies in the EU.

At the time, a high majority of MEPs backed this move (about 79%) and considerable opposition came only from Irish and UK's MEPs. The majority was formed by MEPs from Greens/EFA, GUE-NGL, S&D, as well as ALDE, EPP and ENF.

Also the Czech representatives in the European Parliament were in favor of the annual report on EU competition policy. Support came from the members of ANO 2011, the Czech Social Democratic Party and the Christian Democratic Union- Czechoslovak People's Party.



However, on the right side of the spectrum, opposition to tax coordination was higher: Evzen Tosenovsky and Jan Zahradi (Civic Democratic Party), as well as Petr Mach (Party of Free Citizens) opposed the initiative. Also the members of TOP 09 decided to abstain, with the exception of Luděk Niedermayer, who was the only member of the party voting in favor of tax convergence. Finally, the Communists Czech opted for the abstention.

## Should EU Members States increase tax coordination and convergence within the internal market?

The vote of MEPs elected in Czech Republic\*

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S&D

Olga SEHNALOVÁ



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

### Against

Evžen TOŠENOVSKÝ



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Jan ZAHRADIL



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Petr MACH



Party of Free Citizens

EFDD

### Abstain

Jiří POSPÍŠIL



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Jaromír ŠTĚTINA



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Jiří MAŠTÁLKA



Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

Miloslav RANSDORF



Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

Kateřina KONEČNÁ



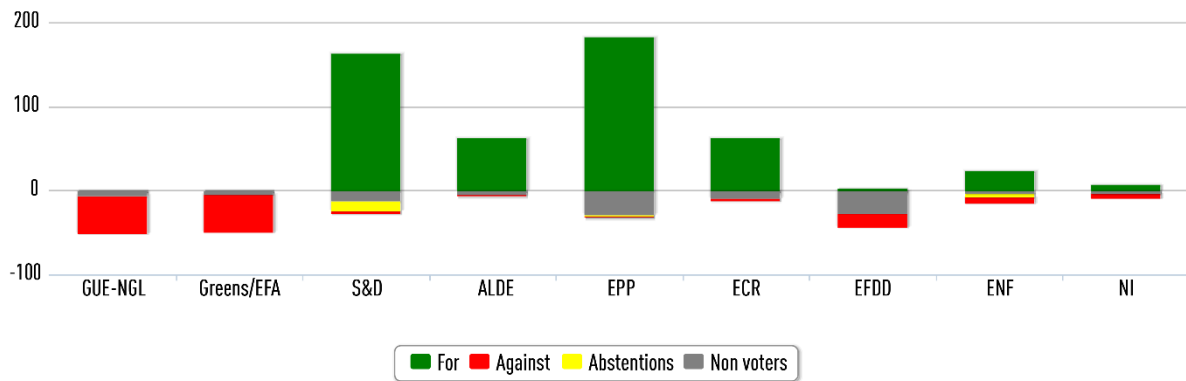
Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

### Documented absence

## Should trade secrets be protected?

The vote of the MEPs

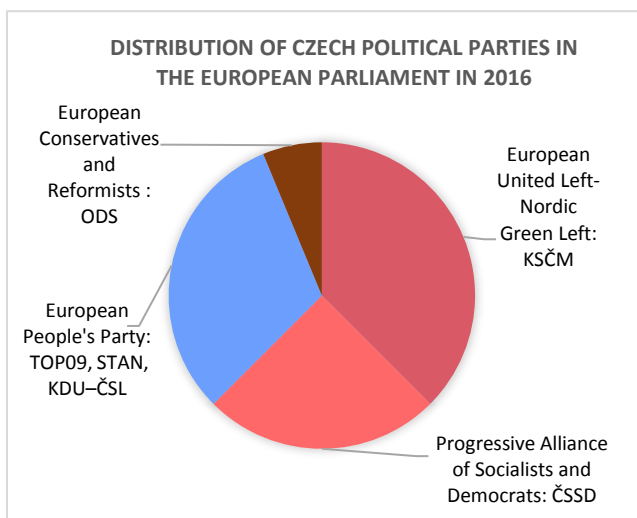


Constance Le Grip, a Republican MEP from France drafted a legislative report on the harmonisation of the definition and protection of know-how and business information across all Member States.

The EP approved her report by a large majority (77%) made up of the S&D, ALDE, EPP, ECR and ENF. On the other hand, the other political groups, namely the Greens/EFA, GUE-NGL and the EFDD, opposed the report.

The directive was first drafted in 2013, when the European Commission provided a common definition of business secrets, as well as a framework for the victims of business secrets' thefts to claim compensation. However, the text was also criticised for its alleged negative consequences on freedom of information.

In this case, Czech MEPs voting choices followed the same pattern as with the rest of the plenary. A clear majority of Czech MEPs were in favor of it. In particular, TOP 09, ANO 2011, the Civic Democratic Party and the Christian Democrats supported the legislative resolution regarding the protection of trade secrets against their unlawful acquisition, use and disclosure.



However, opposition was higher on the left: if, on the one hand, the opposing vote of the Communist party is not particularly surprising, two members of the Czech Social Democratic Party did not follow the line of S&D. In fact, Jan Keller abstained on the report, whereas Pavel Poc was the most opposed to the new measures to protect trade secrets. Instead, the other two members of the Social Democratic Party, Olga Sehnalová and Miroslav Poche, supported the new directive.

## Should trade secrets be protected?

The vote of MEPs elected in Czech Republic\*

For

Dita CHARANZOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Martina DLABAJOVÁ



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ALDE

Petr JEŽEK



ANO 2011

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Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Abstain

Jan KELLER



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Absent

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Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

Jiří MAŠTÁLKA

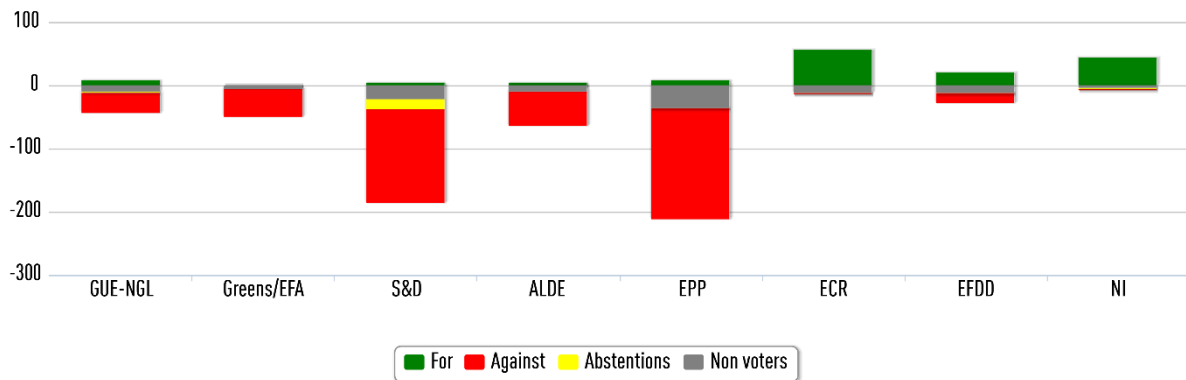


Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

## Should the EU oppose the introduction of minimum standards for the implementation of the youth guarantees?

The vote of the MEPs

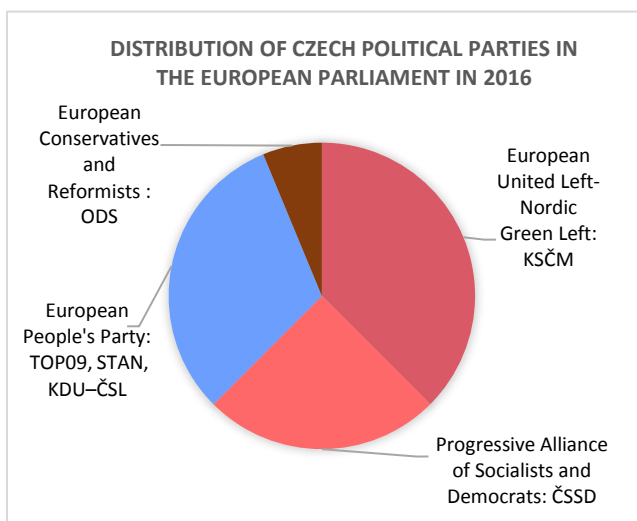


Social policy mostly remains a competence of the Member States of the European Union. However, in some occasions, the European Commission managed to set common frameworks for labor and social standards in the EU.

A resolution approved by the European Parliament called on the European Commission to propose a European legal framework introducing minimum standards for the implementation of the youth guarantees, including the quality of apprenticeships, decent wages for young people and access to employment services.

However, the Conservative and Eurocritic group ECR rejected this proposal and tried to delete this provision from the text. Ultimately, most MEPs supported the call for a common European framework on this matter and only ECR, ENF and part of EFDD supported the amendment against the minimum standards.

A striking majority of Czech MEPs voted against deleting the call for the introduction of minimum standards on youth guarantees.



The only votes in favor came from the members of the Civic Democratic Party: Evzen Tosenavsky and Jan Zahradil. In addition, two MEPs abstained, one of them being a dissident Social Democrat, Jan Keller, and the other the representative of the Party of Free Citizens, Petr Mach.

## Should the EU oppose the introduction of minimum standards for the implementation of the youth guarantees?

The vote of MEPs elected in Czech Republic\*

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Party of Free Citizens

EFDD

Jan KELLER



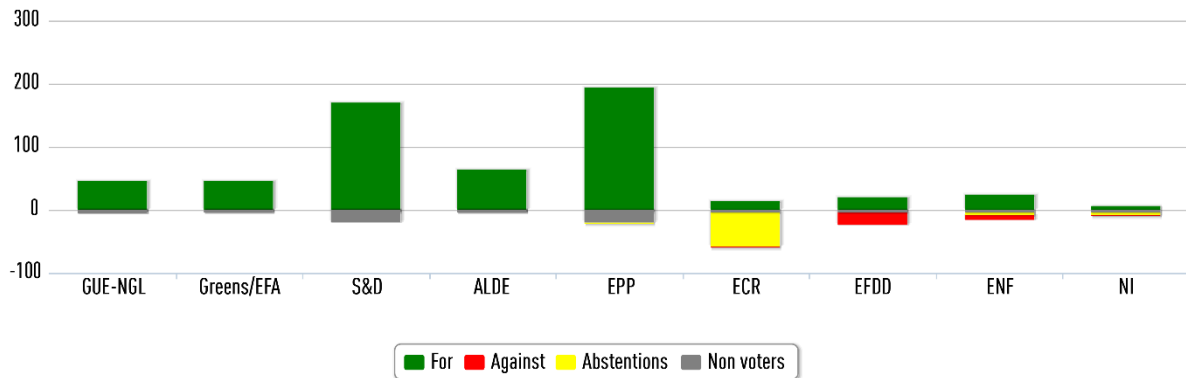
Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D



## Should access to money laundering information for tax authorities be facilitated?

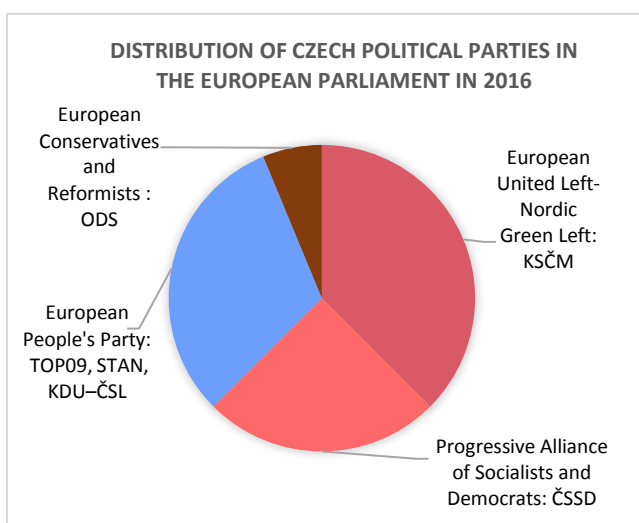
The vote of the MEPs



Within the broader EU agenda on the measures to fight tax avoidance and tax evasion, the EP approved a proposal on facilitating the access to money laundering information for tax authorities. In fact, the fight against money laundering and the one against tax evasion are often intertwined.

This initiative, also because of its specific and technical scope, was well received by the MEPs who widely approved the proposal. Even though there were some disagreements coming from some national delegations such as the British and the Polish ones, a large majority of MEPs supported the text (86%). In fact, apart from EFDD and ECR, the majority of MEPs from all other political groups voted in favor.

The Czech MEPs were largely in favor of the access to anti-money laundering by tax authorities, with only 4 MEPs not supporting the new measures. All the members of ANO 2011, TOP 09, Christian Democratic Union– Czechoslovak People's Party, Czech Social Democratic Party and Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia gave the green light to the new report, with the only exception of the Communist Jiří Maštálka, who abstained.



The vote against was expressed by EFDD member, Petr Mach, whereas the members of the Civic Democratic Party followed their political group in abstaining on the report.

## Should access to money laundering information for tax authorities be facilitated?

The vote of MEPs elected in Czech Republic\*

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Documented absence