



European
Social
Charter

Charte
sociale
européenne



– The Czech Republic and the European Social Charter –

Signatures, ratifications and accepted provisions

1961 European Social Charter: ratified on 03/11/1999, 51 paragraphs (initially 52) accepted out of 72 (Article 8, paragraph 4, initially accepted, was denounced on 25/03/2008).

1988 Additional Protocol to the Charter: ratified on 17/11/1999, all 4 articles accepted.

1991 Amending Protocol to the European Social Charter: ratified on 17/11/1999.

1995 Additional Protocol providing for a system of Collective complaints: ratified on 04/04/2012.

1996 Revised European Social Charter: signed on 04/11/2000, not ratified yet.

The Charter in domestic law

Article 10 of the Constitution: "The ratified and promulgated international treaties on human rights and fundamental freedoms, by which Czech Republic is bound, shall be applicable as directly binding regulations having priority before the law."

Table of accepted provisions

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------------------------|------|------|------|----------------------------|------|------|-------|
| 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.3 |
| 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 5 | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6.3 | 6.4 | 7.1 | 7.2 |
| 7.3 | 7.4 | 7.5 | 7.6 | 7.7 | 7.8 | 7.9 | 7.10 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 |
| 9 | 10.1 | 10.2 | 10.3 | 10.4 | 11.1 | 11.2 | 11.3 | 12.1 | 12.2 | 12.3 | 12.4 |
| 13.1 | 13.2 | 13.3 | 13.4 | 14.1 | 14.2 | 15.1 | 15.2 | 16 | 17 | 18.1 | 18.2 |
| 18.3 | 18.4 | 19.1 | 19.2 | 19.3 | 19.4 | 19.5 | 19.6 | 19.7 | 19.8 | 19.9 | 19.10 |
| AP1 | AP2 | AP3 | AP4 | AP= Additional Protocol | | | | Grey = Accepted provisions | | | |

Monitoring the implementation of the European Social Charter [±]

I. Collective complaints procedure²

Collective complaints (under examination)

European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) v. Czech Republic (Complaint No. 220/2023)

The Committee declared the [complaint admissible](#) on 12 September 2023.

European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) v. Czech Republic (Complaint No. 191/2020)

The Committee declared the [complaint admissible](#) on 9 December 2020.

European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) v. Czech Republic (Complaint No. 190/2020)

The Committee declared the [complaint admissible](#) on 9 September 2020.

Collective complaints (proceedings completed)

1. Complaints inadmissible or where the Committee has found no violation

a. Inadmissibility

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b. No violation

Validity v. Czech Republic (Complaint No. 188/2019)

The Committee declared the [complaint admissible](#) on 9 September 2020.

- No violation of Article 11§1 of the 1961 Charter;
- No violation of Article 4§3 of the 1988 Additional Protocol.

[Decision on the merits of the Complaint No. 188/2019](#) on 17 October 2023.

[Resolution CM/ResChS\(2024\)1 adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 14 February 2024](#)

2. Complaints where the Committee has found a violation which has been remedied

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3. Complaints where the Committee has found a violation and where progress has been made but not yet examined by the Committee

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4. Complaints where the Committee has found a violation and where progress has been made but which has not yet been remedied.

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¹ The European Committee of Social Rights ("the Committee") monitors compliance with the Charter under two procedures, the reporting system and the collective complaints procedure, according to Rule 2 of the Committee's rules: "1. The Committee rules on the conformity of the situation in States with the European Social Charter, the 1988 Additional Protocol and the Revised European Social Charter. 2. It adopts conclusions through the framework of the reporting procedure and decisions under the collective complaints procedure".

Further information on the [procedures](#) may be found on the [HUDOC database](#) and in the [Digest of the case law of the Committee](#).

² Detailed information on the Collective Complaints Procedure is available on the [relevant webpage](#).

5. Complaints where the Committee has found a violation which has not yet been remedied

International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) v. Czech Republic (Complaint No. 148/2017)

- Violation of Article 17 (right of children and young persons to social, legal and economic protection)

[Decision on the merits of 20 October 2020.](#)

Follow up:

[Recommendation CM/RecChS\(2021\)15](#) of the Committee of Minister of 16 June 2021

European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) and Mental Disability Advocacy Centre (MDAC) v. Czech Republic (Complaint No. 157/2017)

The Committee declared the [complaint admissible](#) on 23 January 2018.

[Decision on the merits of 17 June 2020.](#)

Follow up:

[Recommendation CM/RecChS\(2021\)16](#) of the Committee of Ministers of 16 June 2021.

University Women of Europe (UWE) v. Czech Republic (Complaint No. 128/2016)

- Violation of Article 4§3 (right to a fair remuneration - non-discrimination between women and men with respect to remuneration)
- Violation of Article 1 of the 1988 Additional Protocol (right to equal opportunities and treatment in employment and occupation without sex discrimination)

[Decision on the merits of 6 December 2019.](#)

Follow up:

Recommendation [CM/RecChS\(2021\)5](#) (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 17 March 2021 at the 1399th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies).

- [Assessment of the European Committee of Social Rights on the follow up \(February 2023\).](#)

Transgender-Europe and ILGA-Europe v. the Czech Republic (Complaint No. 117/2015)

- Violation of Article 11 of the 1961 Charter (the right to protection of health).

[Decision on the merits of 15 May 2018.](#)

Follow up:

- [Resolution CM/ResChS\(2018\)9 of 24 October 2018.](#)

- [Assessment of the European Committee of Social Rights on the follow up \(February 2023\).](#)

European Roma and Travellers Forum (ERTF) v. the Czech Republic (Complaint No. 104/2014)

- Violation of Article 11 of the 1961 Charter (the right to protection of health)
- Violation of Article 16 of the 1961 Charter (right of the family to social, legal and economic protection)
- No violation of Article 11 of the 1961 Charter (the right to protection of health)

[Decision on the merits of 17 May 2016.](#)

Follow up:

- Resolution Res / CM ChS (2017) 2 du 22 February 2017.

- Assessment of the European Committee of Social Rights on the follow-up (31 January 2020).

- 2nd [Assessment of the European Committee of Social Rights on the follow up \(February 2023\).](#)

Association for the protection of All Children (APPROACH) Ltd. v. the Czech Republic (Complaint No. 96/2013)

- Violation of Article 17 of the 1961 Charter (the right of mothers and children to social and economic protection)

[Decision on the merits of 20 January 2015.](#)

Follow up:

- Resolution Res/CM ChS (2015)11 on 17 June 2015 of the Committee of Ministers.

- Assessment of the European Committee of Social Rights on the follow-up (20 May 2016).

- 2nd Assessment of the European Committee of Social Rights on the follow-up (19 September 2017).

- 3rd Assessment of the European Committee of Social Rights on the follow-up (31 January 2020).

- 4th [Assessment of the European Committee of Social Rights on the follow up \(February 2023\).](#)

II. Reporting system³

Reports submitted by the Czech Republic

Between 2001 and 2024, the Czech Republic has submitted 21 reports on the application of the 1961 Charter.

The [20th report](#), which was submitted on 30/12/2022, concerns the accepted provisions relating to thematic group 4 "Children, families and migrants" (Articles 7, 8, 16, 17 and 19).

Conclusions with respect to these provisions have been published in March 2024.

On 4 January 2024, an [ad hoc report on the cost-of-living crisis was submitted by the Czech Republic](#)⁴.

³ Detailed information on the Reporting System is available on the [relevant webpage](#). The reports submitted by States Parties may be consulted in the [relevant section](#).

⁴ In accordance with the [decision of the Ministers' Deputies](#) adopted on 27 September 2022 concerning the [new system](#) for the presentation of reports under the European Social Charter, the European Committee of Social Rights and the Governmental Committee have decided to request an *ad hoc* report on the cost-of-living crisis to all State parties.

Situations of non-conformity ⁵

Thematic Group 1 “Employment, training and equal opportunities” - Conclusions XXII-1 (2020)

► *Article 1 of the 1988 Additional protocol – Right to equal opportunities and treatment in employment and occupation without sex discrimination*

The obligation to make measurable progress in reducing the gender pay gap has not been fulfilled.

Thematic Group 2 “Health, social security and social protection” - Conclusions XXII-2 (2021)

► *Article 12§1 – Right to social security - Existence of a social security system*

The minimum level of pension benefit is manifestly inadequate.

► *Article 13§1 – Right to social and medical assistance - Adequate assistance for every person in need*

- The right to social assistance to all persons in need is not guaranteed as it can be withdrawn as penalty for having refused a job offer or not registering with an employment office;
- The level of social assistance is manifestly inadequate.

► *Article 14§1 - Right to benefit from social welfare services - Promotion or provision of social services*

It has not been established that equal access to social services is guaranteed to nationals of all States Parties lawfully residing on Czech territory.

► *Article 4 of the 1988 Additional Protocol – Right of the elderly to social protection*

The level of the minimum pension is inadequate.

Thematic Group 3 “Labour rights” - Conclusions XXI-3 (2018)

According to the applicable rules, Conclusions XXII-3 (2022) only refer to the information submitted by the Government of the Czech Republic on the follow-up given to the relevant decisions of the European Committee of Social Rights in the framework of the collective complaints procedure (see above).

For the most recent Conclusions adopted concerning the relevant Articles, see Conclusions XXI-3 (2018).

► *Article 2§1 - Right to just conditions of work - Reasonable working time*

The daily working hours may be extended up to 16 hours in a number of activities.

► *Article 2§5 - Right to just conditions of work - Weekly rest period*

Agricultural workers may, pursuant to collective agreement or individual contract, postpone weekly rest, resulting in an excessive number of consecutive working days.

► *Article 4§2 - Right to a fair remuneration - Increased remuneration for overtime work*

An increased compensatory time-off for overtime hours is not guaranteed.

► *Article 4§4 - Right to a fair remuneration - Reasonable notice of termination of employment*

- The two months' notice period provided for dismissals on grounds of long-term incapacity, unsuitability for the post and breach of obligations related to the prescribed regime for temporary incapacity and permitted leave, is not reasonable for employees with more than 10 years of service;
- No notice period is provided for dismissals during the probationary period or in case of termination of employment upon death of the employer if the business is discontinued.

► *Article 5 – Right to organise*

Members of the SIS are prohibited from forming any type of professional association for the protection of their economic interests.

⁵ Further information on the situations of non-conformity is available on the [HUDOC database](#).

► *Article 6§2 - Right to bargain collectively – Negotiation procedures*

The promotion of collective bargaining is not sufficient.

► *Article 6§4 - Right to bargain collectively - Collective action*

- The percentage required for calling a strike in disputes regarding the conclusion of collective agreements is too high;
- There is an absolute prohibition on the right to strike for members of the police, fire and rescue service, prison service and the Office for Foreign Relations and Information.

Thematic Group 4 “Children, families, migrants” - Conclusions XXII-4 (2023)

► *Article 7§4 – Right of children and young persons to protection – Working time for young persons under 16*

The duration of working time for young workers under 16 years of age is excessive.

► *Article 7§5 –Right of children and young persons to protection – Fair pay*

The apprentices' allowances are not gradually increased throughout the contract period.

► *Article 16 – Right of the family to social, legal and economic protection*

- Equal treatment of nationals of other States Parties regarding the payment of family benefits is not ensured due to the excessive length of residence requirement (one year);
- Family benefits do not constitute a sufficient income supplement for a significant number of families;
- The housing conditions of Roma families are not adequate.

► *Article 17 – Right of mothers and children to social and economic protection*

- Not all forms of corporal punishment are prohibited at home and in institutions;
- The measures taken to deinstitutionalise the system of early childhood care are inadequate;
- Children below the age of criminal responsibility do not benefit from alternatives to formal judicial proceedings.

The Committee also considered that the failure to provide requested information on Articles 8§1, 8§2, 16 and 17 amounts to a breach by the Czech Republic of its reporting obligations under Article 21 of the 1961 Charter.

The Committee has been unable to assess compliance with the following provisions:

Thematic Group 1 "Employment, training and equal opportunities"

- ▶ Article 15§2 - Conclusions XXII-1 (2020)
- ▶ Article 15§2 - Conclusions XXII-1 (2020)

Thematic Group 2 "Health, social security and social protection"

- ▶ Article 3§2 - Conclusions XXII-2 (2021)
- ▶ Article 11§1 - Conclusions XXII-2 (2021)
- ▶ Article 11§2 - Conclusions XXII-2 (2021)
- ▶ Article 11§3 - Conclusions XXII-2 (2021)
- ▶ Article 12§4 - Conclusions XXII-2 (2021)
- ▶ Article 13§4 - Conclusions XXII-2 (2021)

Thematic Group 3 "Labour rights"

- ▶ Article 2§3 - Conclusions XXI-3 (2018)
- ▶ Article 4§3 - Conclusions XX-3 (2018)
- ▶ Article 4§5 - Conclusions XX-3 (2018)

Thematic Group 4 "Children, families, migrants"

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III. Examples of progress achieved in the implementation of rights under the Charter (*non-exhaustive list*)

Thematic Group 1 "Employment, training and equal opportunities"

▶ Adoption of an anti-discrimination legislation on 17 June 2009, which bans discrimination in areas including access to employment, business, education, healthcare and social security on the grounds of sex, age, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality, sexual orientation, religious affiliation and faith.

Thematic Group 2 "Health, social security and social protection"

▶ Adoption of legislation (Act No 89/2012), explicitly prohibiting discrimination on the ground of old age in the area of social security, access to health care and its delivery, access to education and its provision and access to goods and services, including housing, if they are offered to the public.

▶ Since 2019, the Ministry of Health has been implementing the project "Expanding Access and Creating Healthcare Opportunities for the Homeless" (abbreviated as "Doctor's Office for the Homeless") aimed at people living on the streets who are at risk of losing their refuge or living in socially excluded communities. Its main purpose is to provide medical assistance to target groups who do not seek medical and social care and who do not participate in preventive check-ups and programmes.

▶ Legislation prohibiting discrimination on grounds of age outside of employment was adopted.

Thematic Group 3 "Labour rights"

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Thematic Group 4 "Children, families, migrants"

▶ Restrictions on the activities prohibited to protect pregnant and nursing mothers (Order No. 261/1997 replaced by Order No. 288/2003, which lists only the activities prohibited to protect mothers).

▶ Amendments of the Criminal Code (in force in 2004) introducing protection from acts of domestic violence.

▶ Measures taken to strengthen the economic protection of the family: tax allowances concerning married couples (tax reform which came into effect in 2005), increase of the number of beneficiaries of the parental allowance for children up to the age of four (reform of the calculation's basis of the allowance).

▶ Amendment of the Criminal Code, increasing protection of young persons aged between 15 and 18 from sexual acts or other defined acts.

▶ Entry into force (1/01/2007) of a new Labour Code, which prohibits employment of children of either the age of 15, or older than 15 until completion of their compulsory school attendance. This prohibition applies to any and all types of work in any economic sector, performed within or outside the scope of employment relationships.

▶ Amendment of the Criminal Code (Article 192, Act No. 40/2009 Coll., in force in January 2010) sanctioning the possession (i.e. any type of holding) of child pornography for one's own purposes with a term of imprisonment from two to six years.

▶ An amendment to the Penal Code was adopted in 2014, which increases the protection of children against sexual assaults.

▶ Through an amendment to the School Act, which entered into force on 1 January 2012, conditions have been created for developing and subsidising company childcare facilities;

- ▶ Through an amendment to the Trade Act, other forms of childcare facilities have been promoted.
- ▶ The Mediation Act entered into force on 1 September 2012.
- ▶ New provisions governing interim measures – such as preliminary proceedings in cases of domestic violence – entered into force on 1 January 2014. The Victims of Crime Act, which entered into force on 1 August 2013, added new provisions to regulate interim measures with a view to protecting the aggrieved party, persons closely related to her, preventing the accused party from committing a crime and ensuring effective implementation of criminal proceedings.
- ▶ The new Article 971(3) of the Civil Code explicitly stipulates that “inadequate housing conditions and material situation of parents of the child cannot per se be a reason for the court’s decision on institutional care.
- ▶ Amendment No. 401/2012 also made significant changes to the Family Act No. 94/1963 (it is now explicitly prohibited for a court to order institutional care of a child solely for inadequate housing conditions or financial situation of his/her parents).
- ▶ Amendment No. 134/2006 of 14 March 2006 of the Act on Social and Legal Protection of Children imposed on the competent public authorities a duty to provide parents, after a removal of children from their care, immediate and comprehensive assistance with a view to effectively reunifying the family.
- ▶ The Labour Code provision which authorised a dismissal notice to be served on an employee on maternity leave in certain cases of relocation of all or part of the business was amended with effect from 1 January 2012 in order to align it with the requirements of the Social Charter. As a result, Section 54 of the Labour Code henceforth explicitly provides for a prohibition of dismissal on the grounds of organisational changes of pregnant employees, employees on maternity leave as well as male employees on parental leave taken within the period during which a woman employee is entitled to be on maternity leave.