**Czech Republic – Lower Chamber (Chamber of Deputies)**

1. Website:

<http://public.psp.cz/en/sqw/hp.sqw>

2. Locating Relevant Documents/Files On-line:

*A.RULES OF PROCEDURE*

**1. Name:** Rules of Procedure of the Chamber of Deputies

**2. URL**:

<http://public.psp.cz/en/docs/laws/1995/90_index.html>

**3. What is the date for the most recent revision on the rules of procedure?**

2015

**4. Is there a section of the rules of procedure that covers voting rules? If so, indicate the section.**

Yes.

Rule of Procedure of the Chamber of Deputies: Part Eight Voting in the Chamber of Deputies and its body.

Appendix 1: Article 7 Voting

**5. If available, please list the rules governing the use of roll call votes.**

1. The Commission decides on every proposal through a ballot. The particular method is proposed by the Commission’s chairperson. The vote may be open or secret, with the Commission’s members voting by raising their hands or by using voting papers.
2. After entering the Chamber, each Deputy shall log on through its voting system. When leaving the Chamber, each Deputy shall log off through its voting system.
3. Except when otherwise provided by the law or unless the Chamber of Deputies approves another form of polling, the Deputies votes through the Chamber’s voting system or by raising their hands.
4. If not using the Chamber’s voting system, the Deputies usually vote by raising their hands. The result of such voting is recorded by scrutinizers appointed by the Secretary General. Any and all objections concerning the scrutinizers shall be resolved by the Chamber of Deputies without debate.
5. When the voting takes place by names, individual Deputies are called in alphabetic order, starting with a name drawn by the chairperson. Each Deputy whose name is read should say “for the proposal”, “against the proposal” or “abstaining”. Every answer is repeated by the chairperson. All other actions of the Deputies are regarded as abstention.
6. The results of a vote shall be made public in electronic format. This provision does not apply to meetings or their parts that are closed to the public.
7. The Chamber’s voting system shall print a configuration showing how the individual Deputies voted.

**6. If the documents are available in multiple languages, does it seem like the same number of documents/files are available in the different languages?**

The official language of Czech Republic is Czech, which is similar to Russian and Polish. However, by selecting the language option, the rule of procedure does have an English version for reference purpose.

**7. How exactly did you locate these files? (i.e. if you were going to write instructions for someone else to find them, what would that look like?)**

1. Google “Czech Chamber of Deputies”

2. Go to <http://www.psp.cz/en/sqw/hp.sqw>

3. Select ‘Rules of Procedure’ on the third column under the ‘The chamber of Deputies’ on the top menu bar

4. Click on it and you will see the document

**8. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required to code information of interest from them? If so what are these?**

The official language of Czech Republic is Czech. However, the rule of procedure does have an English version for reference purpose.

**9. Is there anything else you think we should know?**

N/A

**10. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file for previous versions of the rules of procedure? If so, repeat questions 2-8.**

N/A

*B.RECORD OF LEGISLATIVE VOTING*

**1. Please indicate the terminology for the type of votes as reported in the working language of the legislature (e.g., scrutin public ordinaire).**

The vote shall be taken by either private or public voting. The public voting includes roll-call vote, raising hands, and electronic voting if applicable.

The voting will be administrated in either public or secret ballots.

When using the Chamber’s voting system, each Deputy votes for or against the relevant proposal by pressing a button at any time during the specified voting interval and raises his hand. All other actions are regarded as abstention.

**2. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required? If so what are these?**

The official language of Czech Republic is Czech. The original document is written in Czech. However, the rule of procedure does have an English version for reference purpose. In addition, Google translation is needed if we look into the voting records and plenary minutes.

If move your cursor on the menu bar, you may see several tiles followed by a Czech flag, indicating that the content in this tile is only available in Czech. (Translation is required)

**3. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file covering the voting record online (separate from the plenary minute)?**

Yes!

**If so:**

**-Where can one find these documents? Please provide instructions for how someone would find them.**

1. Google “Czech Republic Chamber of Deputies”

2. Go <http://www.psp.cz/sqw/hlasovani.sqw>

3. Click ‘Negotiation and documents’ tab on the top menu bar

4. Select ‘Voting’ and the corresponding voting record will show up

5. On the right corner of the webpage, ‘other term’ will show you the voting results of previous legislature terms.

**-What types of votes are reported (e.g., the roll call vote record for individual legislators)?**

Based on my review, I noticed that most voting includes roll-call vote record at each individual legislator level. In addition, most voting is administrated by roll-call vote.

1. **If you find on-line documents, does this seem to be all the relevant documents for a specific time period? If so, what is the time period? If not, can you describe what is missing?**

The earliest voting record can trace back to 1990. (\*Czech Republic was found in 1993)

The official name of lower chamber varies in different time periods.

1. **Can one automate downloading of these files? If so, please provide any available computer code for that purpose.**

<http://www.psp.cz/sqw/hlasovani.sqw?zvo=1&o=8>

It can’t automatically download these files. However, you may view the voting results by following the instruction below You first need to select the time period. For example, we chose the eighth term, any specific date, and any subjects. Then, we may see the sub-points of each voting, result, details, and recording. In ‘HL’ **(Č. hl.)** tab, the roll-call vote record for each individual legislator is listed. In ‘date’ **(Datum)** tab, the stenographic verbatim recordings are recorded.

\*These webpages only have Czech version. Translation is required.

1. **Did we download all the information available in the sources indicated in this section? If not, please indicate which source and years we are missing.**

We can’t download but we can scrap and review all the information we need from this website.

*C.MINUTES OF PLENARY SESSION*

**1. Please indicate the terminology for the type of information as reported in the working language of the legislature:**

The Minutes is referred to the ‘Document of the Czech and Slovak Parliament’ (Dokumenty českého a slovenského parlamentu), in which it has the structured representation of Minutes on specific dates.

The other way to access the downloadable document is through the link below. In this webpage, the Minutes is referred as ‘Stenoprotokoly’ / ‘Shorthand Reports’ (Těsnopisecké zprávy)

URL: <http://www.psp.cz/eknih/2017ps/tesnopis/index.htm>

By select the legislature terms, you may have the stenographic recordings and voting results which are listed in tandem on one specific date. These two documents can be complementary for each other.

# The website also indicates that the report is documented by stenographic approach.

**2. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file covering the specific information online? If so, where (please provide instructions for how one would find them)? If an official source is not available, please list any secondary sources**.

# 1. Google “Joint Czech-Slovak Digital Parliamentary Library”

2. Go to <http://www.psp.cz/eknih/index.htm>

# 3. Click “Joint Czech-Slovak Digital Parliamentary Library” (Společná česko-slovenská digitální parlamentní knihovna) tab on the top menu bar

4. Select particular term you interested in and click on it

5. You may see “Stenographic records” (Těsnopisecké zprávy) and “Voting” (Hlasování)

6. By clicking on “Stenographic records”, you may access to downloadable PDF links.

**3. If you find on-line documents, does this seem to be all the relevant documents for a specific time period? If so, what is the time period? If not, can you describe what is missing?**

The official website provides documents from 1848 Constituent Austrian Reichstag till present. If you are only interested on the period after the modern establishment of Czech Republic, you may disregard the documentation before 1993.

**4. Can one automate downloading of these files? If so, please provide any available computer code for that purpose.**

<http://www.psp.cz/eknih/>

PDF version is available for downloading.

**5. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required to code information of interest from them? If so what are these?**

The official language of Czech Republic is Czech. The plenary minutes are all documented in Czech. Translation is needed for comprehension.

**6. Did we download all the information available in the sources indicated in this section?**

Yes.

*D. ATTENDANCE*

**1. Please indicate the terminology for the type of information as reported in the working language of the legislature:**

Quorum: The Commission constitutes a quorum if at least one-third of all its members are present. In order to become valid, each resolution must be voted for by a simple majority of all present members.

**2. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file covering the specific information online? If so, where (please provide the URL)? If an official source is not available, please list any secondary sources**.

There is official list of members in attendance on a given day since most voting is taken by roll-call vote. The presence and absence of each individual legislature will be recorded.

<http://www.psp.cz/eknih/>

**3. What years are available on this source?**

2015

**4. Can one automate downloading of these files? If so, please provide any available computer code for that purpose.**

It isn’t automatic downloadable since this is a webpage.

URL: <http://public.psp.cz/en/docs/laws/1995/90_index.html>

**5. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required to code information of interest from them? If so what are these?**

The official language of Czech Republic is Czech. However, the rule of procedure does have an English version for reference purpose.

**6. Did we download all the information available in the sources indicated in this section?**

Yes.

*E. ROLL CALL VOTE REQUEST*

**1. In the available on-line documents, can you identify a request for a roll-call vote? If so, are there specific words or other indications that systematically identify the requester?**

The results of a vote shall be made public in electronic format. This provision does not apply to meetings or their parts that are closed to the public. The Chamber’s voting system shall print a configuration showing how the individual Deputies voted.

According to that, most voting is administrated by public ballot, so we may assume roll-call voting is used. For each voting record in the plenary minutes, it has an external link which can take you to the individual voting records.

**2. Do the available on-line documents report a justification for a request for a roll-call vote? If so, are there specific words or other indications that systematically identify the justification?**

Since public ballot is standard voting procedure in this legislature, there is no need to explicitly call a roll-call vote.

**3. How is the decision to accept or deny the roll-call vote request made (this may be found in the rules of procedure)?**

Since public ballot is standard voting procedure in this legislature, there is no need to explicitly call a roll-call vote. Roll-call votes should be automatically adopted.

1. **In the available on-line documents, can you identify whether the request was accepted? If so, are there specific words or other indications that systematically identify this?**

Yes! Through the link below, you can find whether each request was accepted or not. Roll-call vote is used as a standard voting procedure and each legislator’s vote is recorded.

URL: <http://www.psp.cz/eknih/>

*F. DISCUSSION BEFORE THE VOTE*

1. Roll-call votes:

1. **In the available on-line documents, can you determine the names of participants who participated in discussion before a vote? If so, where can this be found?**

All the speeches, debates, and dialogues taken before or after voting are recorded in the Stenographic Reports (Těsnopisecké zprávy), for which you can find in the link below. The names of interlocuter are also included.

URL: <http://www.psp.cz/eknih/>

(\*First, you need to select the time period. Then, click on the Stenographic Reports to get the downable PDF version document.)

1. **In the available on-line documents, can you determine the length (in words) of a participant’s speech? If so, where can this be found?**

All the speeches, debates, and dialogues taken before or after voting are recorded in the Stenographic Reports (Těsnopisecké zprávy), for which you can find in the link below. The names of interlocuter are also included.

The length of each speech should be easily counted.

URL: <http://www.psp.cz/eknih/>

(Instruction for accessing the information is the same as above)

2. Indication Votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the names of participants who participated in discussion before a vote? If so, where can this be found?**

For most cases, indication vote is barely utilized in this legislature. As we may see from the voting records, most of the voting results include individual voting records.

All the speeches, debates, and dialogues taken before or after voting are recorded in the stenographic records, for which you can find in the link below. The names of interlocuter are also included.

URL: <http://www.psp.cz/eknih/>

(Instruction for accessing the information is the same as above)

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the length (in words) of a participant’s speech? If so, where can this be found?**

All the speeches, debates, and dialogues taken before or after voting are recorded in the Stenographic Reports (Těsnopisecké zprávy), for which you can find in the link below. The names of interlocuter are also included.

The length of each speech should be easily counted.

URL: <http://www.psp.cz/eknih/>

(Instruction for accessing the information is the same as above)

*G. VOTING*

1. Roll-call votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the subject of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

The procedural types and subjects of the vote are recorded along with the results in the voting records.

**URL:** <http://public.psp.cz/en/sqw/hlasovani.sqw>

(\* ‘Other term’ (jiné volební období) tab is located on the right corner of the webpage. If you need these archived voting records, you need to click on that)

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the procedural type (motion/agenda/article of a bill/amendment/etc…) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

The procedural types and subjects of the vote are recorded along with the results in the voting records.

**URL:** <http://public.psp.cz/en/sqw/hlasovani.sqw>

(\* ‘Other term’ (jiné volební období) tab is located on the right corner of the webpage. If you need these archived voting records, you need to click on that)

**c. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the result of the vote (e.g., the motion passed)? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes. The result of the vote is listed along with other voting information.

<http://public.psp.cz/en/sqw/hlasovani.sqw>

(\* In the vote webpage, you can select on the number of meeting or the date of the meeting. After selecting the appropriate time frame, a table with all voting information will pop up. If you want to check the vote of each individual legislator, you need to click ‘HL’ (Č. hl.) column)

**d. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the method (electronic, calling of names, etc..) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

The standing rules of the Senate states that electronic voting, calling of names, roll-call vote by ballot, and secret voting are all valid methods. However, most voting results have the individual legislator voting records. So, we may assume that most voting is taken in the form of roll-call.

\*Methods of the vote didn’t clearly indicate in the stenographic records. However, all legislators’ voting records are included.

<http://public.psp.cz/eknih/2017ps/stenprot/index.htm>

**e. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the breakdown of the vote outcome (e.g., yes/no/abstain) in the aggregate? At the level of individual legislator? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes. We can determine the vote outcome and the breakdown of vote at level of individual legislator.

<http://public.psp.cz/sqw/hlasovani.sqw>

**f. In the available on-line documents, can you determine whether there were any arguments documented during the vote (e.g. , a protest over procedure)? If so, where can this be found?**

All speeches, arguments, and quick remarks delivered on the floor should be recorded in Stenographic Records.

<http://public.psp.cz/eknih/2017ps/tesnopis/index.htm>

2. Indication votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the subject of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

The procedural types and subjects of the vote are recorded along with the results in the voting records. According to my review, most voting is administrated by roll-call vote.

**URL:** <http://public.psp.cz/en/sqw/hlasovani.sqw>

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the procedural type (motion/agenda/article of a bill/amendment/etc…) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

The procedural types and subjects of the vote are recorded along with the results in the voting records.

**URL:** <http://public.psp.cz/en/sqw/hlasovani.sqw>

**c. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the result of the vote (e.g., the motion passed)? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes. The result of the vote is listed along with other voting information.

<http://public.psp.cz/en/sqw/hlasovani.sqw>

(\* In the vote webpage, you can select on the number of meeting or the date of the meeting. After selecting the appropriate time frame, a table with all voting information will pop up. If you want to check the vote of each individual legislator, you need to click ‘HL’ (Č. hl.) column)

**d. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the method (electronic, raising of hands, etc..) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

The standing rules of the Senate states that electronic voting, calling of names, roll-call vote by ballot, and secret voting are all valid methods. However, most voting results have the individual legislator voting records. So, we may assume that most voting is taken in the form of roll-call.

\*Methods of the vote didn’t clearly indicate in the stenographic records. However, all legislators’ voting records are included.

<http://public.psp.cz/eknih/2017ps/stenprot/index.htm>

**e. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the breakdown of the vote outcome (e.g., yes/no/abstain) in the aggregate? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes. We can determine the vote outcome and the breakdown of vote at level of individual legislator.

<http://public.psp.cz/sqw/hlasovani.sqw>

**f. In the available on-line documents, can you determine whether there were any arguments documented during the vote (e.g. , a protest over procedure)? If so, where can this be found?**

All speeches, arguments, and quick remarks delivered on the floor should be recorded in Stenographic Records.

<http://public.psp.cz/eknih/2017ps/tesnopis/index.htm>

*NOTES ON ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT COULD BE RELEVANT*