



# CZECH REPUBLIC

BY MARILOU FOURNIER



# PRESENTATION

. Capital : Prague

Head of state : Petr Pavel since march 2023

Prime minister : Andrej Babis since december 2025

Member of EU since 2004

# FACTORS SHAPING THE EU POLICY OF CZECHIA



# GEOGRAPHY

78870km<sup>2</sup>

10,8 M hab

Location : Central Europe

Borders : Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Poland, no access to the sea

→ Transit country between Western and Eastern Europe [economically and logistically]

→ Membership in the Visegrad Group [V4] → coordinate positions with Poland, Hungary and Slovakia on migration, national sovereignty and certain EU institutional reforms.

→ NATO membership : main pillar of national defense



# HISTORY

1918 : Independent state of Czechia was created

1948-1989 : Czechia lived under an authoritarian communist regime, integrated into the Soviet bloc

The 1968 trauma : suppression of the "Prague Spring" by Warsaw Pact troops

The Velvet Revolution of 1989

Post- 1989 transition : rapid decommunisation





# DOMESTIC POLITICS

- Parliamentary democracy
- Stable and democratic political institutions
- Highly fragmented party system, frequent coalition governments, complex parliamentary bargaining

Main political actors :

- . Centre parties
- . Populist

Key domestic political issues : cost of living and inflation, Ukraine and foreign policy

- political culture marked by low trust in political institutions and government
- Domestic politics limit the Czech's UE ambitions

## Economic model

- small, open and highly industrialized economy
- central role of manufacturing in the domestic economy
- the most economically advanced post communist, with high PIB/hab fot central U, low unemployment.
- Principal commercial partner : Germany

## Actual economic situation

Politics are :

- . Influence by : high inflation, rising energy prices and declining purchasing power
- . follows a prudent fiscal approach
- . economic dependence on the UE



## COMPARATIVE INCOME AS % OF EU AVERAGE, 2024

GDP PER CAPITA IN PPS (*Eurostat*)  
6 countries with 91%-99% EU average

**CZECH REPUBLIC** 91

## MEMBER-STATES' TRADE INTEGRATION INTO THE EU MARKET, 2023

*Source: European Economic Forecast, Spring 2025*

MEMBER-STATE	EU SHARE IN TOTAL EXPORTS (%)	EU SHARE IN TOTAL IMPORTS (%)
EU AVERAGE	61.3	61.7
BELGIUM	69.7	62.5
BULGARIA	64.3	62.4
CZECH REPUBLIC	80.2	74.8

## NATIONAL DEBT IN THE MEMBER-STATES AS % OF GDP, 2024

Figures from European Commission Economic Forecast, Spring 2025

**CZECH REPUBLIC** 43.6

## UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE MEMBER-STATES, 2024

*European Commission Economic Forecast, Spring 2025*

**CZECH REPUBLIC** 2.6

## Trade of EU Member-states with the UK 2019 & 2023

*Source: European Economic Forecast, Autumn 2020*

Member-State	2019		2023	
	UK share of exports (%)	UK shares of imports (%)	UK shares of exports (%)	UK shares of imports (%)
EU	6.1	3.9	5.3	3.0
Euro area	6.4	4.2	5.6	3.3
Belgium	7.8	4.3	6.2	3.9
Bulgaria	2.4	1.3	1.6	0.9
Czechia	4.3	1.9	3.1	1.3

## GDP GROWTH IN THE MEMBER-STATES, 2024

European Commission Economic Forecast, Spring 2025

**CZECH REPUBLIC** 1.1

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET BALANCE IN THE MEMBER-STATES, 2024

European Commission Economic Forecast, Spring 2025

<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	-2.2
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# WHY AND WHAT EUROPE ?

# WHY ENTER THE EU PROJECT ?



- The EU as a political guarantee : a normative and institutional framework providing stability for country in transition
- EU membership complemented NATO accession (1999) : strengthening national sovereignty rather than undermining it.
- Access to the European Single Market : a key level for economic modernisation.

# WHAT EUROPE ?



For the economic sector like : single market, common trade policy  
Or the security and defense cooperation , Czechia are for a highly EU  
intervention and participation.

But

For : the taxation, social policy, migration and constitutional matters,  
Czechia prefers national action.

→ The Single Market is the EU's main added value, but there is  
reluctance toward deep political integration, seen as overly  
constraining.

# UKRAINE WAR

- THE MOST IMPORTANT SECURITY CRISIS SINCE THE COLD WAR.
- HE STRONGLY SUPPORT TO THE UKRAINE DIPLOMATICALLY, MILITARY AND THROUGH EU SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA
- BUT A PART OF POPULATION IS WORRY ABOUT THE COST AND PROTEST, POPULIST EXPLOITED THIS ECONOMIC ANXIETIES

- Economic consequences : rising energy price, inflation pressure on household purchasing power, and increased public spending.
- Favorising a stronger EU coordination



# PROMISE OF THE NEW GOUVERNMENT

After the 2021 legislative elections, a new pro-European and pro-Western government came to power, marking a clear break with the policy of the previous government led by Andrej Babiš. The new government declared that it would introduce major changes to Czech policy on the war in Ukraine mainly in three ways. I. By adopting a much clearer and firmer position in support of Ukraine. II. Becoming one of the most active EU member states in providing assistance to Ukraine and III. Fully aligning itself with the positions of the EU and NATO. (Babis is now back in power and he has promised to reverse this politic)

# MIGRANT CRISIS

→ Czechia refused to apply EU refugee quotas. (In coalition with the V4)

Proof a strong preferences for national control over migration policies.

→ Public opinion surveys at the time showed widespread resistance to compulsory EU relocation policies



## EUROSCEPTICISM

→ Euroscepticism structural and persistent but generally moderate rather than radical

→ Public opinion towards the UE is ambivalent

→ Communist legacy, strong emphasis on national sovereignty, historical sensitivity to foreign domination and pragmatic political culture explain Czech euroscepticism

### SOFT EUROSCEPTICISM

*“At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction in the European Union”*

Eurobarometer 103, Spring 2025

COUNTRY	WRONG DIRECTION	RIGHT DIRECTION
FRANCE	64	21
GREECE	63	28
BELGIUM	62	31
CZECH REPUBLIC	61	31

### SUPPORT FOR AND OPPOSITION TO A EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION

WITH A SINGLE CURRENCY, 2025

*Eurobarometer 103, Spring 2025*

NON-EUROZONE AVERAGE	43	51
HUNGARY	68	28
ROMANIA	60	34
BULGARIA	43	50
SWEDEN	39	55
POLAND	35	59
CZECH REPUBLIC	31	63
DENMARK	29	64

To what extent do you agree or disagree  
with granting candidate status as a potential member of the EU to Ukraine?

Eurobarometer 103, Spring 2025

	AGREE	DISAGREE
<b>EU AVERAGE</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>61</b>



**THANK YOU!**