



CDE

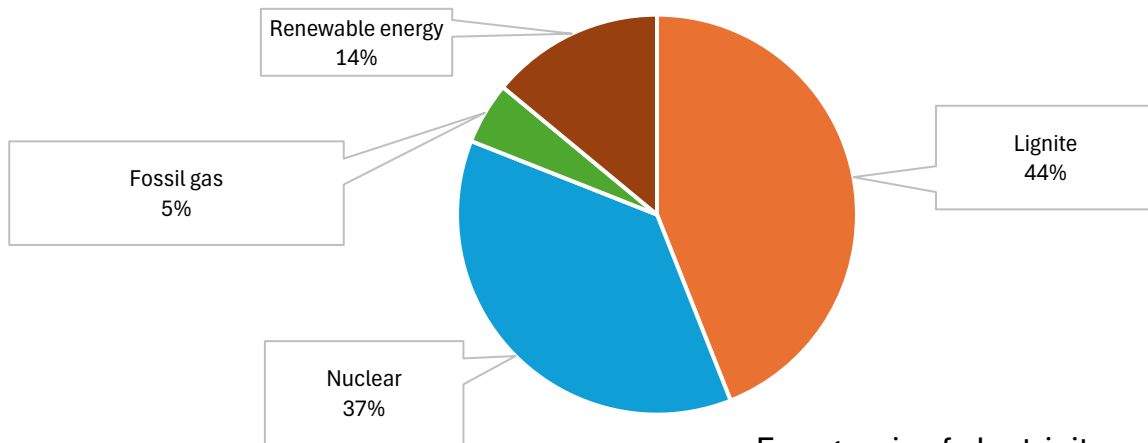
Centrum
pro dopravu
a energetiku

Implementation of the new methane regulation in Czechia

Aleš Jeník, Centre for Transport and Energy, 26.9. 2025

Setting the scene: Czechia and Methane

- Czechia joined the Global Methane Pledge at COP27 in 2022
- Energy mix: lignite (brown coal) 44 %, nuclear 37 %, fossil gas 5 %, renewable energy 14 %
(mostly biomass and biogas, some photovoltaics, very little wind)



Energy mix of electricity production in Czechia

Setting the scene: Czechia and Methane

- Czechia covers only about 1-2% of its oil and natural gas consumption with its own extraction, almost all of the oil and gas is imported, small production facilities in the south



Exploration probes, South Moravia; author Theophile Humann (CATF)

Setting the scene: Czechia and Methane

- The situation is different with coal, with relatively large coal mines associated with a historical tradition; their production covers tens of percent of consumption (especially lignite)
- In the past, energy system was even more dependent on coal (which means we now have huge number of closed and abandoned mines)
- Coal mining is gradually being phased out, but the coal sector is (and will be) a significant source of methane emissions in Czechia



Bílina lignite mine, North Bohemia; MAKY.OREL / Wikimedia Commons / CC BY-SA 4.0

Setting the scene: Czechia and Methane

- Oil and gas production is insignificant, but methane leaks occur in the processing chain, during transportation and storage
- Major oil and gas storage facilities are concentrated in Southern Moravia, with relatively large methane emissions, including venting and flaring and unabated leaks



Compressor station and collection tank, South Czechia / Moravia; author Theophile Humann (CATF)

CDE and its role

- **Centre for Transport and Energy** is a non-profit non-governmental organisation founded in 1998 which focuses on the environmental impacts of transport and energy production
- We strive to act on both national and international levels in relation to methane emissions and their reduction
- Our key priority is the adaptation of the European methane regulation into Czech legislation

Methane regulation in the Czech context

- The regulation, although legally directly applicable, needed to be implemented into Czech legislation through a completely new law
- The body responsible for the implementation is the Ministry of the Environment (despite the fact that the Ministry of Industry and Trade negotiated primarily on the EU level)
- The Ministry prepared a draft law, but this was preceded by long preparation and negotiations with the participation of a wide range of stakeholders from business, state and public administration
- In May of this year, the draft was officially issued and the comment procedure was initiated

Obligations set out in the Regulation

- **Registry and reporting of measured methane emissions (oil, gas, coal)**
- Submission of a leak detection and repair program (**oil, gas**)
- Ensuring the limitation of venting and flaring (**oil, gas**)
- Registry of inactive and closed wells (oil, gas) and closed and abandoned mines (coal)
- Ensuring the restoration, regeneration and permanent liquidation of inactive and shut-down wells (oil, gas)
- **Registry and reporting of measured methane emissions from fossil fuels imported into the EU (oil, gas, coal)**

Competent Authorities

Ministry of Environment

- Registry of inactive, closed and abandoned wells (oil, gas) and closed and abandoned mines (coal)
- Registry and reporting of measured methane emissions from fossil fuels imported into the EU (oil, gas, coal)

District mining offices

- All obligations in the area of exploration and production of oil and gas, underground gas storage, inactive, decommissioned, and abandoned wells; active mines (coal)

Ministry of Industry and Trade

- All obligations regarding closed and abandoned coal mines
- Restoration, regeneration and disposal of inactive, decommissioned and cassetted wells (oil, gas) where it's impossible to identify the operator or when the operator demonstrates lack of finances

State Energy Inspection

- All obligations in the area of transportation and distribution of fossil gas and LNG processing facilities

Corrective measures and penalties

- 3 levels of fines (in case issues are not dealt with or the company doesn't comply with other obligations)

5% of net annual turnover (min. CZK 2,500,000 ~ EUR 100,000)

e.g., failure to submit emissions records, failure to report emissions or flaring

10% of net annual turnover (min. CZK 5,000,000 ~ EUR 200,000)

e.g., failure to provide emission records for imported fuels

20% of net annual turnover (min. CZK 10,000,000 ~ EUR 400,000)

e.g., failure to perform inspections or repairs

What's next for the implementation?

- The draft has been passed through initial interdepartmental review and the comment procedure, and the comments are still being processed by the Ministry of Environment
- It is now certain that the entire process will not be completed before the elections, which are happening next week – the original goal was to push the bill through at least to the Government Legislative Council (so that the new government could just pick it up where the previous one left off), but this is now off the table as well
- A relatively straightforward bill, but starting from scratch could be problematic, especially considering almost certainty that the new government will be populist, closely connected with non-progressive business and largely against environmental policies