

Security and Protection in Terms of the Assumption of the Coalition Agreement for the election period 2021-2025

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Abstract

The period in which countries around the world, including the Czech Republic, found themselves at the end of 2021 was characterized by a number of very significant political and security threats and risks. It was a period in which the next wave of the pandemic situation associated with the COVID-19 disease was manifesting itself. Even though the Czech Republic was already much better prepared for the problems associated with the outbreak of this disease, it could not be said that it was managing everything well, without problems and within the political consensus of all ruling and opposition parties. Based on results achieved in the elections to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, which took place in October 2021, the priorities of the winning parties grouped into one government coalition were set. These priorities were presented in the form of a coalition agreement to the public. A paper deals with the anticipated intentions of the Government of the Czech Republic in its implementation for the 2021-2025 electoral period in the issues of safety and security in all aspects of their perception. Among the aspects examined were the areas of security policy implementation and the broader concept of population protection. In the paper, the terms “security” and “protection” are frequented in the number and form in which they appear in the text of the coalition agreement. The paper presents the occurrence of these terms in the documents that became the basic and initial documents for establishing mutual pre-election cooperation between political parties and movements. Last but not least, it also presents changes in the approach to these concepts in relation to coalition agreements concluded in 2013 and 2017. Other aspects of coalition agreements are deliberately not mentioned.

KEY WORDS: *Czech Republic, government coalition, coalition agreement, security, protection, integrated rescue system*

1. Introduction

The security problems and realities of our times show that it is impossible to rely on a permanent state of relatively peaceful coexistence between nations, even though it has been built on long-term and often contractual foundations. Parties that represent their constituents and voter base in the implementation of their policies must be able to respond flexibly to very dynamic changes in the security environment, which has often been shaped over decades. The need to adapt to the dynamics of the evolving security environment is heightened when parties form government coalitions and take control of a particular country after elections.

It is important to remember that the elections that took place in European countries in 2021 necessarily had to address the problems associated with dealing with the pandemic situation in their campaigns. These have had a very intense impact on the level of national indebtedness and have often undermined citizens' confidence in politics and politicians themselves. Politicians and the political parties they represented were confronted with completely new situations that modern Europe had not experienced for a long time. In many cases, decisions had to be taken that were very unpopular and affected the whole of society. On the basis of these facts, it is possible to believe that trust in politics was undermined by the restriction of citizens' freedom as a perfectly logical response to the problems created by the spreading pandemic.

On the other hand, however, it is necessary to highlight the fact that in the context of the pandemic situation, a number of procedures were tested to create conditions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and thus minimize the impact of this disease on the lives of the population. This consequence of the pandemic situation has shown that

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political parties and political movements can rely on a very solid basis for the implementation of their own security policy, which was established in the past. The same situation has been followed in the environment of the Czech Republic (CR), where there has been a rather significant change in the perception of politics, not only on an economic but also on a security basis.

In October 2021, the CR held elections to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the CR, which marked several historic milestones. Among the most significant ones are those connected with the exclusion of traditional and long-established political parties from the Czech political scene. After the elections, the political spectrum was deprived of representatives of the Czech Social Democratic Party (Česká strana sociálně demokratická) and the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (Komunistická strana Čech a Moravy) for the first time since the Velvet Revolution in 1989.

For practically the first time, the winning parties and political movements did not enter the electoral battle and the elections themselves independently, but as part of electoral coalitions. The parties and movements that surpassed the threshold for entering the CR Parliament addressed the voters within these coalitions:

- a) the SPOLU coalition, of which it has become a part:
 - Civic Democratic Party (Občanská demokratická strana, hereinafter “ODS”);
 - Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People’s Party (Křesťanská a demokratická unie – Československá strana lidová, hereinafter “KDU-ČSL”);
 - TOP 09;
- b) the so-called “PirSTAN” coalition, of which included:
 - Czech Pirate Party (Česká pirátská strana, hereinafter “Piráti”);
 - Mayors Movements (hnutí Starostové, hereinafter “STAN”).

Based on a mandate from the CR’s, the parties of ODS, KDU-ČSL, TOP 09, Piráti and STAN started negotiations on the formation of a majority government coalition. The basic aspects of cooperation between the winning parties grouped in the two pre-election coalitions appear in the Coalition Agreement for the 2021-2025 electoral period. The government formed based on this coalition agreement, which was signed on 8 November 2021, declares that it will be ready to overcome differences in society and unite society. In the document, the government commits itself to be representative of all people and to work in regular dialogue with local governments, civil society, employee, and employer representatives [1]. To preserve the originality and authenticity of the text of the coalition agreement, the text in Chapter 3 is in the first plural.

2. Definition of The Terms Safety and Protection

The definition of the terms is a necessary condition for understanding the text of the coalition agreement for the 2021-2025 electoral period. The aim of the text in this chapter is not to present a comprehensive overview of the definitions of terms “security” and “protection”, but rather to recall them. It is necessary to note that these two terms appear in the text of the coalition agreement not only in connection with their classical understanding in the areas typical of their occurrence, but also in those areas of human life in which there is no a priori threat to life. Therefore, these words have been searched for in their broader grammatical and contextual definitions in the format of “safe” and “protection” respectively. Only those parts of the documents that dealt with the actual textual content of the text became of interest to the authors, that is, parts of the documents such as the content were omitted.

2.1 The concept of safety

The concept of security is not uniformly defined in current legislation or literature. Security in the typical sense is understood as the protection of a system against threats and risks. For example, it can be a social, technical, or natural system. Improving security requires costs to be devoted to it, which will then not be invested elsewhere. Increasing security often leads to a reduction in the reliability of the system or a reduction in freedoms. It is obvious that security is fundamental to the functioning of the state and the existence of man as an individual. In terms of human existence and needs, security is the second most felt need [2]. While maintaining a maximum level of generality, the term security can be understood as the ability to prevent a specific risk from exceeding a tolerable limit, as defined and therefore guaranteed by society (the state). In order to ensure security, thus, to limit existing and potential threats, the responsible entity, for instance a state or an international organisation, effectively prepares to deal with possible threats. The notion of security is often associated with the categories of threat and risk, the definition of which stems from the understanding of the population protection, especially in the part that focuses on the preparation for the management of crises arising precisely in connection with the existence of predefined threats. In international relations, which may concern the implementation of foreign policy, security can be understood as the establishment of a regional or global

system designed to maintain peace and security and to ensure that one state is not attacked by another.

Given the breadth of the application framework of the coalition agreement, it should be noted that safety can be understood as the fact that the materials, product and its components do not endanger the producer, the user and the environment [3].

2.2 The concept of protection

Act No.239/2000 Coll., on the Integrated Rescue System and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended, defines the Integrated Rescue System (IRS), establishes the components of the IRS and their competences and the authority of state bodies and bodies of territorial self-government units, the rights and obligations of legal and natural persons in preparing for emergencies and in rescue and liquidation work and in population protection before and during the declaration of a state of danger, a state of emergency, a state of national emergency and a state of war. It defines the term protection of the population as the performance of civil protection tasks, in particular warning, evacuation, sheltering and emergency survival of the population and other measures to ensure the protection of their life, health and property.

The basic concept of population protection is based on the scheme shown in Figure 1. The above scheme shows that the population protection must be understood as a complex system, which puts the word “protection” in a very clear application context related to actual security threats and risks. The notion of protection of the population is linked to the provisions of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, specifically Article 61. This Protocol uses the term civil defence instead of the term civil protection and integrates a number of specific activities that are linked to the activities of state and local government. In essence, these are measures designed to create the conditions for the population to have an information base and other practical applications aimed at preventive and follow-up action for their survival in the event of emergencies. Within the complex of activities related to warning, evacuation, sheltering, emergency survival and other measures, which may include, for example, the provision of individual protection equipment or the implementation of decontamination measures, it is also possible to talk about problems related to the security of life, health and property of the population.

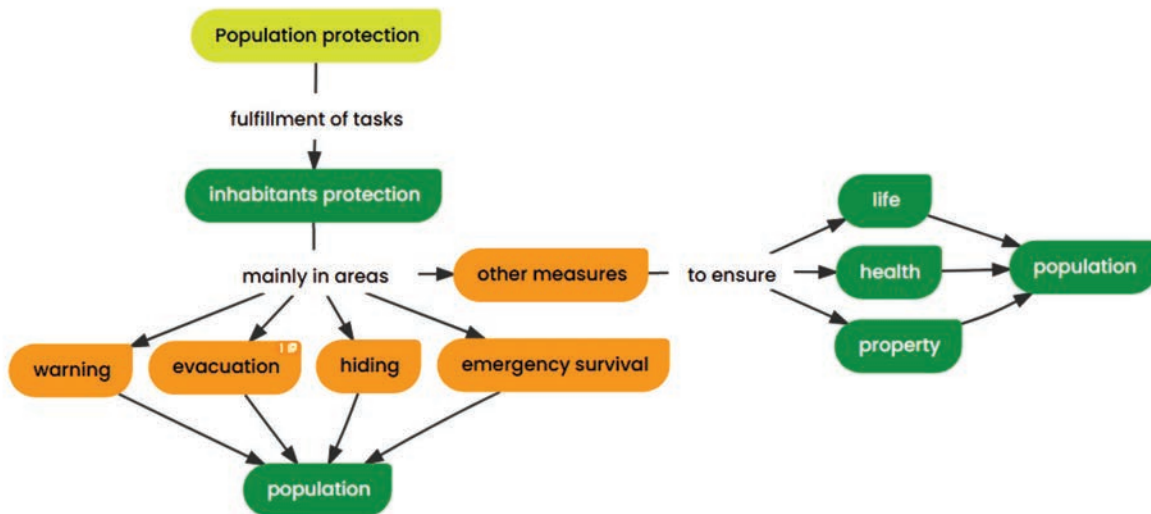


Fig. 1. Basic concept of population protection [source: own elaboration].

Protection as a concept in general terms can be understood especially in relation to social issues, especially in relation to fundamental human rights, which include human security, and also in relation to the protection of the ecosystem and the protection of the population. For example, one possible answer to addressing the protection of society globally may be the theory of sustainable development. In the context of the above approaches, this concept needs to be understood in terms of its use in the Coalition Agreement.

3. A Brief Overview of the Definition of the Terms Security and Protection in the Coalition Agreements of the Past Government Coalitions

3.1 Coalition agreements of past (former) governments

The coalition agreements of the governing coalitions that participated in the governance of the CR will be presented in a historical context from 2013 to the present without a deeper analytical approach.

The coalition agreement between the Czech Social Democratic Party (hereinafter “ČSSD“), the ANO 2011 movement (hereinafter “ANO 2011“) and the KDU-ČSL for the 2013-2017 electoral period was concluded on the basis of the results of the elections to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, which took place on 25-26 October 2013 [4]. The term “security” appears 20 times in this agreement, and the term “protection” is coincidentally also represented 20 times.

The cooperation between the government parties involved in the governance of the CR in the period from 2017-2021 was based on the principles of coalition cooperation between ANO 2011 and ČSSD [5]. The key word “safe” does not appear in the document entitled Principles of Coalition Cooperation between ANO 2011 and ČSSD. The keyword “protections” is represented once [6]. It should be noted, however, that this document deals more with competitive issues of the functioning of cooperation and does not deal much with the actual programmatic specifics. The minority government that emerged at the beginning of this period was based on the mutual tolerance of the opposition left parties. This tolerance was based on the Agreement between ANO 2011 and the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia on support for the formation and tolerance of the existence of a minority government of the ANO and ČSSD after the 2017 elections. Keywords of interest do not appear in the text of the Agreement. Here too, it can be stated that mutual aspects of cooperation and tolerance were defined more than the programmatic and visionary directions of the CR’s development.

3.2 Coalition agreements before the 2021 elections

The SPOLU coalition proceeded to run together based on the declaration that: “This will be a better future for the Czech Republic”. The Coalition Agreement [7] states that: “The current political and social situation requires, more than ever before, extraordinary cooperation between democratic parties.” The agreement further states that: “They stand together to preserve and deepen the basic parameters of a functioning democratic free society with an emphasis on the direction of the Czech Republic as a solid part of the Euro-Atlantic area of civilization, where enforceable law and unwritten rules prevail.” This statement seems to be somewhat vague in view of the fact that the key word “safe” appears only once in the agreement. The key word “protection” appears twice in the treaty, but not once in connection with the understanding of the meaning of this word in the context of population protection.

Members of the Piráti and STAN cooperated prior to the elections to the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament based on a Coalition Agreement for the Chamber of Deputies elections to be held in 2021 [8]. The preamble of the agreement states, among other things, that: “We do not want to weaponize past wars”. This proclamation is likely to be taken very seriously, as the key word “safe” appears a total of 10 times in the text. The second keyword “protection” appears 14 times in the text, and in about half of the cases it has a closer or more distant bearing on the issue of population protection.

4. Safety and Security and the Intention to Implement them in the Coalition Agreement for the 2021-2025 Electoral Period

4.1 Intention to implement security

The term security in all its forms as a result of a search for the keyword “secure” appears in the text of the coalition agreement in 49 cases. It is first mentioned in the context of the leadership of the House of Commons, when the parties agreed that the chairman of the Committee on Security would be a representative of SPOLU/ODS. It is also mentioned in connection with:

a) orientation towards the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

The Government of the CR is committed to the CR playing an active role in addressing security and other issues within the EU and the NATO, thus North Atlantic Alliance. It commits that the CR will not only play the passive role of a “stowaway”, i.e. a state that only benefits from the advantages of membership in international groups, but also the role of an active, prepared and proactive state that will be able to participate in the common affairs of these very important groups. A permanent campaign of persuasion must be waged in favour of these issues, which will

provide the citizens of the CR with clear evidence of the advantages of a common contribution to European and global economic and security issues. The Government's programme declaration implies that foreign policy will also be conducted towards these issues in the spirit of an unquestionable Euro-Atlantic orientation. This approach should emphasise stable partnerships with democratic countries around the world and the protection of human rights and democracy. The period of the current government is linked to the Presidency of the Council of the EU. There is no doubt that this Presidency will be characterised by the security problems associated with the war activities in Ukraine. It must also be remembered that the problems of the pandemic situation associated with the spread of the COVID-19 disease will not disappear from the EU and the CR. The controversy between the implementation of measures aimed at protecting health and freedom of travel at a time of well-deserved holidays may also bring with it a whole series of problems that will very likely have to be addressed at EU level. All this and undoubtedly a whole series of other security and strategic challenges await the CR and its government during the Czech Presidency of the EU Council.

b) digitisation

We will speed up the process of opening data (open data) and updating open data in all public administration offices. Strategic and other materials commissioned or produced by the State and not subject to classification (national security and defence) will be available to other public authorities and, to the greatest extent possible, to the public.

c) cyber security

- We will focus on strengthening cybersecurity in both the public and private sectors. We will create an effective platform for sustained public-private cooperation to protect the shared cyberspace.

- We will strengthen the importance and coordination of information and cybersecurity in the security policy of the state (National Cyber Security Authority, Ministry of the Interior, Czech Armed Forces, intelligence services) while preserving the right to privacy and individual freedom.

- We will work with the EU, NATO and other international partners to ensure that the Internet remains open and secure.

- We will provide synergies with the EU in addressing algorithmically driven platforms and social networks.

- At the level of the regulators, the Czech Telecommunications Authority and the Broadcasting Council, we will assess licensing policy in the light of the new need for a concept of information and cyber security to ensure a predictable legal and market environment.

- Critical infrastructure will be based on secure, open and auditable technologies open to scrutiny by the professional community for finding security holes (for instance using bug bounties). Of course, licensing rights, privacy rights and free market rules are preserved.

- In order to implement modern ICT services, it is essential to facilitate the sharing of experts, knowledge and experience between public authorities (establishment of a national competence centre or multi-agency competence centres). We will define precisely and transparently the scope of activities of the competence centres and of the state enterprises and organisations providing ICT services in such a way as to preserve the principles of competition.

- We will implement the concept of eGovernment Cloud in both the state and commercial parts and adopt more flexible rules for purchasing cloud services in line with EU standards. We will ensure that the personal data of citizens is stored in secure data centres in the CR or in EU countries.

d) transport - in the infrastructure section

Following an expert assessment of the impact on traffic safety, we will increase the speed limit on motorways to 150 km/h where possible.

e) transport - in the safety section

- We will advocate the systematic implementation of the measures of the National Road Safety Strategy with the aim of achieving road safety for our citizens at the level of developed European countries. We will translate the BESIP safety measures into practice.

- We will focus more on the prevention of safety on the railways and strengthen their control and inspection. We will set a clear timetable and funding instruments for the deployment of the single pan-European ETCS and other safety measures on the railways.

- We will involve the CR in the European Space Programme. Prague as the headquarters of the European Union Space Programme Agency brings opportunities for Czech companies and start-ups. We will include transport research in the list of research priorities.

f) local development - in the concept section

- Based on thorough data work, we will develop recommended levels of amenity for different types of communities (for example education, medical and social care, public transport and other mobility, high speed internet, sport and leisure, affordable housing, safety, business support, retail, circular economy, water management).

- This allows us to target aid according to real needs. We will link the necessary funding to the recommended

level - creating a comprehensive Our Countryside programme to fund the recommended level of facilities for different types of communities.

g) defence

– The basis of the CR's defence is its membership in NATO. We must fulfil our commitments. The CR will give 2% of its gross domestic product to defence already in the 2025 budget. We will push for this limit to be enshrined in legislation.

– We will introduce a multiannual budgetary framework that will stabilise and streamline the defence budget.

– We will work to ensure that NATO continues to retain political coherence and the ability to unite the West geopolitically against external threats (especially Russia), in addition to its military capability.

– In ensuring collective security, the EU must act in line with NATO and the United States. We will further strengthen the transatlantic link.

– We will support the involvement of the Czech defence industry in projects funded by the European Defence Fund and the NATO Innovation Fund.

– We will strive to ensure that the Alliance strengthens the defence capability of its eastern flank, where we will adequately increase the involvement of the Czech Armed Forces.

– We will strengthen the funding of science and research projects in the field of defence and security.

– We will implement the Concept for the Construction of the Czech Armed Forces 2030 and implement key armaments modernisation projects.

– We will focus on building resilience to hybrid threats.

– We will further enhance the attractiveness of the Active Reserves. We will work to systematically prepare citizens for crisis situations.

– We will support the development of domestic production capacities and know-how for the supply of equipment, armaments and services for the Czech Armed Forces and security forces. We will require the active involvement of Czech industry in foreign acquisitions and will adjust legislation to increase support for the export of products and services of the Czech security and defence industry, including assistance with guarantees, financing, and government-to-government sales.

– We will amend legislation in the area of critical infrastructure protection, crisis preparedness and crisis management so that the domestic security and defence industry can be more involved in crisis preparedness.

– We will not allow non-democratic states access to the CR's key infrastructure.

h) business and energy

We take the upcoming energy transition to renewables seriously, but we refuse to give up on energy security, self-sufficiency and independence. We see the future of the Czech energy sector in a combination of nuclear power, decentralised renewables, especially photovoltaics on rooftops, whose energy will be stored in batteries, and increasing energy efficiency.

i) justice - in the field of prisons

We will support the appropriate use of probation houses, open prisons and other measures to reduce the huge recidivism of offenders, improve security and save taxpayers' money on the record number of prisoners in the CR compared to the European average. We will launch analytical tools to measure effectiveness in terms of recidivism and costs.

j) Interior - in the field of security

– Establish the position of "National Security Advisor" as a cross-departmental platform for coordination and communication between security policy actors within the Office of the Government. This will ensure closer cooperation between intelligence and security agencies and effective action against disinformation and hybrid threats.

– We will introduce rules for more transparent media operations: listing publishers, owners, major sponsors and disclosure of financial statements.

– We will adapt to the evolving security environment and promote a more professional approach to defence in the information space. Defending against misinformation must be fast and scalable. Following the example of proven adaptations from abroad, we will prepare changes that will make it possible to better defend against harmful disinformation without undermining freedom of speech.

– We will review the legislation for crisis management and critical infrastructure and, where appropriate, amend the law on competences. We will amend and complete crisis plans to better prepare the state for emergencies (pandemics, floods, droughts, blackouts, industrial accidents, cyber-attacks, soft targets...).

– We will introduce systematic preparation of citizens and associations for crisis situations (courses for high school students and, on a voluntary basis, for the public).

– We will create a new Security Strategy for the CR, based on the results of the newly conducted national security audit, the new NATO Strategic Concept and the EU Strategic Compass. The Security Strategy will update

security threats and better define the responsibilities of the different components of the system, including the role of the National Security Advisor.

- We will create a standard environment for the work of the intelligence services and implement the law on the establishment of the Independent Intelligence Review Authority.

- We will develop strategic materials that will contribute to the development and long-term concept of the security forces, with emphasis on resource, material, personnel and organisational stability. We will remove unnecessary bureaucratic burdens.

- We will ensure quality legislation for purchases and acquisitions by the security forces and the IRS, with an emphasis on supporting domestic industry, science and research.

- We will look for ways to improve the existing system of the IRS (for example by integrating the mountain service, other rescue organisations and state material reserves).

- We will support recruitment incentive programmes for security forces. We will work to maintain the competitiveness of the IRS in the labour market. We will ensure social security for new, existing and retiring security forces personnel.

- We will financially and materially support volunteer firefighters, including in cooperation with the Fire Rescue Corps of the CR.

- We will support quality and functional cooperation between the emergency services and the municipal police.

- We will preserve the rights of legal gun owners. We consider the current legal regulation to be adequate and balanced.

- We will create a sufficient financial and organisational framework for the prevention of crime and socially pathological phenomena.

- We will reduce unnecessary bureaucracy in the Police of the CR (for example by recording interventions and simplifying the file service).

- Legislation will precisely define the functioning of private security agencies.

- We reject the solution of migration crises through a policy of mandatory quotas.

- In cooperation with the EU and its Member States, we will increase support for migration camps outside the EU.

- We will enforce a transparent residence card system that allows for a flexible response to market needs (digital work and residence card).

- We will remove unnecessary bureaucracy from foreigners' procedures using modern information technology.

k) foreign affairs - in the foreign relations section

We will develop our traditional strategic partnership with Israel, particularly in the areas of security, science, research and innovation.

l) foreign affairs - in the EU section

In the framework of the regular review of the current EU Multiannual Budgetary Framework, we will actively seek to ensure sufficient resources, for security and defence, digitalisation, environmental protection, post-pandemic economic recovery.

m) agriculture - in the agriculture section

For commodities where it makes sense in our circumstances, we want to increase food security. Equally, we will encourage organic food production and be steadfast in promoting our national interests in the area of dual quality. We will support food banks to reduce waste.

4.2 Intention to implement protection

The term “protection” appears as a key word in the text of the coalition agreement in a total of 29 cases. It first appears in the preamble, where it is stated that the coalition parties subscribe to the principles of the Czech constitutional order, which is based on the separation of powers, parliamentary democracy based on free competition of political forces and respect for human and civil rights and the protection of minorities. This concept is further mentioned in connection with:

a) the programme part - in chapter 2. Orientation towards the EU and NATO

The CR must be an active member of the European Union and NATO, defending the interests of its citizens. Foreign policy will have an unquestionable Euro-Atlantic orientation, an emphasis on stable partnerships with democratic countries around the world and on the protection of human rights and democracy. We consider membership of the EU to be crucial and beneficial for the CR and we are ready to successfully assume the Presidency of the Council of the EU in the second half of 2022.

b) the programme part - in Chapter 8. Family and housing

We do not turn a blind eye to the problems that people have in our country. And housing is one of them. We will deliver solutions to help both owner-occupied and rented housing, including social housing. The most important thing at the moment is to fundamentally speed up the building process while protecting other interests and supporting local authorities.

c) digitisation - in the section on cyber security

We will focus on strengthening cybersecurity in both the public and private sectors. We will create an effective platform for sustained public-private cooperation to protect the common cyberspace.

d) digitisation - in the section on connectivity and network development

We will focus on VENDOR LOCK-IN (proprietary lock-in). We will analyse existing cases, propose a way to end them and prevent VENDOR LOCK-IN in the future. The software created on contract will be open source (the source code will be usable by other entities while preserving the rights and protection of intellectual property).

e) defence

We will amend legislation in the areas of critical infrastructure protection, crisis preparedness and crisis management to allow greater involvement of the domestic security and defence industry in crisis preparedness.

f) education, universities, science and sport - under education part

We will subject it to a careful review to ensure that it truly reflects the needs of pupils and the capabilities of schools. We will reform the child protection system with a particular focus on supporting parental care.

g) justice

- We will apply a conservative approach to the Constitution of the CR and the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms. In discussion with the Senate and the Opposition, we will seek solutions to the issues discussed so far, such as strengthening the role of the Senate, the voluntary sliding mandate, the regulation of troop deployments, constitutional protection of water, and expanding the powers of the National Audit Office.

- We will reform the Office for the Protection of Competition and emphasise its methodological role. Its main function will be genuine oversight of public procurement, not the obstruction that complicates investment for all public procurers, including municipalities and regions.

- We will ensure better protection for victims of sexual and domestic violence.

h) foreign affairs - in the EU section

Our interest is in a democratic, non-bureaucratic, trade-open EU with an emphasis on respect for civil liberties. We will actively pursue European integration that does not renounce the free movement of people, services, goods and capital, effective protection of external borders and a strong transatlantic link.

i) health - under quality and accessibility of health care

We will transform the NHS into a modern public health institute and ensure a system of long-term financing.

j) agriculture - in the agriculture section

- We will strengthen the influence of owners on the condition of the land they hold. By amending the Agricultural Land Fund Protection Act, we will transfer responsibility for the condition of the countryside to those who farm it.

- We will encourage private owners, hunters, beekeepers, associations etc. to plant trees, establish landscape features and ensure that agriculture and nature conservation are in harmony.

- We will increase the budget for research and dissemination of innovations in agriculture and for research into plant nutrition and the introduction of preventive measures in plant conservation. We will improve the quality of agricultural education to better prepare young farmers for the modernisation and robotisation of the sector.

k) agriculture - in the forests section

The Government of the CR is sufficiently aware that forests and the environment for life they create are not sustainable in the long term without measures to protect them. For this reason, the Government of the CR will manage forests so that they do not become mere places for logging, but places that can be seen as cultural and natural heritage to be bequeath to future generations. These aspects of forest development and protection will be applied to the extent of the national forests. In particular, commercial policies will be pursued with an emphasis on forest protection and the development of local processing capacities. The government also declares that profits from commercial activities will not be a revenue for the state budget. The government has committed that the earnings from forestry activities will be permanently used for the restoration of the forest, its ecosystems and water conservation. Similarly, the government has committed itself to promote the use of its own productive capacities, that is, to give preference to privately owned productive assets over privately owned ones. We consider the permanent and effective fight against bark beetles, whose effects are devastating the current forest cover practically throughout the Czech Republic, to be a very necessary and undoubtedly very important issue for the future. The issue of combating the effects of bark beetle is largely influenced

by several aspects, and effective protection will be achieved through a combination of several preventive measures, which undoubtedly include the timely clearance of bark beetle outbreaks.

l) the environment

- Protecting a healthy environment, our natural resources and biodiversity is one of the cornerstones of our Liberal Conservative policy.

- The CR will be a constructive partner in global efforts to protect the climate. The CR is committed to mitigating the impacts of climate change and to contributing to achieving carbon neutrality in the EU by 2050. The Green Deal is an opportunity for us to significantly modernise the Czech economy, improve the quality of life and improve the environment by investing in sustainable development, clean and renewable resources and circular economy.

- The protection of water and its resources is a national interest, and we will enshrine it in the Constitution of the CR. We will unify the rules and competences concerning water - the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture.

- We will protect our land from encroachment and degradation. Protecting fertile land takes precedence over the construction of production and logistics centres. We will tighten up anti-erosion legislation.

- In spatial and strategic planning, we will prevent the creation of heat islands. Sensitive buildings such as schools, health care facilities or homes for the elderly deserve special protection.

5. Summarizing the Findings and their Discussion

Based on the data presented above, the findings can be summarised in Table 1.

Table 1

Summarized data concerning key words frequency

Coalition agreement for the coalition governing from - to	Key word		Note
	“protection“	“safe“	
2013-2017	20	20	
2017-2021	0	1	Full text of the agreement not found
2021-2025	49	29	
SPOLU	1	2	Formed before the 2021 elections
PirSTAN	10	14	Formed before the 2021 elections

The data presented in Table 1 shows that the greatest attention was paid to safety and security issues in all aspects of the meaning of these words between 2013 and 2020. On the basis of the fact that the full text of the coalition agreement for the governing coalition governing the CR between 2017-2021 could not be traced, it can be reasonably assumed that the trends established in the previous period continued on the basis of the previous coalition agreement and that for this period it was only supplemented by some specific aspects resulting from the outcome of the elections, i.e. from the fact that the winning party ANO 2011 did not obtain the necessary majority of MPs and had to rely on the votes of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia. A significant increase in the occurrence of both keywords can be noted in relation to the incoming coalition government. The text of the coalition agreement shows that the parties and movements are clearly aware of the need to implement security issues in the context of cyber threats, security of communication and information systems, road safety and so on. In conservation issues, significant attention is paid to environmental protection as an expected consequence of climate change and the need to respond to its consequences. Furthermore, it appears that the PirSTAN coalition itself is much more favourably disposed to safety and security issues than the SPOLU coalition. It is also evident, and it is also evident from the framework comparison of the coalition agreement of the future governing coalition consisting of all five parties and the PirSTAN coalition, that many of the ideas of the PirSTAN coalition have been transferred to the coalition agreement of the newly formed government.

These data and some of their conclusions can serve as a starting point for further and more detailed study of programmatic contradictions and coincidences and their evolution over time. A more detailed analysis of these data will undoubtedly contribute to further monitoring of developments and could serve as a tool for both the ongoing evaluation of the government’s activities and for assessing the success of its mandate before the elections to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the CR in 2025.

6. Conclusion

It is difficult to assess the success of political parties and movements in implementing their government policies at a time when they are still in government. Every government builds on certain political traditions that have been formed over a long period of time. Moreover, each electoral period is associated with events that will influence it to a large extent. The period preceding the 2021 elections in the CR was characterised by the existence of very specific and significant problems linked to the pandemic situation and, therefore, the need to adopt very non-standard restrictive and restrictive measures. Any restriction of citizens' freedoms brings about a lack of hope for the implementation of new freer policies and a relaxation of the situation. However, this reasoning is only partially valid in the case of the implementation of security policy. Security is always linked to the need to implement longer-term measures and not ad-hoc decisions. Security and public protection evolve over the long term and must be linked to system readiness and not to excessive and rapid change. The war in Ukraine, which started in February 2022, has shown some problematic aspects. Although it is not directly called a war, but a peacekeeping operation, its effects are close to the reality of a military conflict. A number of European countries, not excluding the CR, have found that their capacity to implement effective, rapid and efficient measures to protect their populations has been destroyed or, at least, very significantly reduced. Within the CR, issues related to the effectiveness of the implementation of protection against nuclear weapons, discussions over the preparedness of cities and municipalities for increased needs of sheltering the population after possible accidental or planned use of nuclear, radiological or biological or chemical weapons, etc. have emerged. These issues pointed to the quite fundamental legitimacy of the ordinary population's thinking about the problems immediately related to its survival in times of national emergency and war. The urgency of these problems is all the more significant because they concern countries that are relatively close to the borders of the CR.

The coalition agreement, which de facto unites the political interests of all parties participating in the government, represents a challenge that the people of the CR should not ignore. It can serve as a tool for the ongoing and final evaluation of the success or failure of the government. Based on personality, media or party evaluations, every citizen of the CR can, in four years, independently and in his or her own interest, develop his or her own view of the activities of the government coalition and make a very realistic decision as to whether or not to allow the continued activities and governmental involvement of this grouping.

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