

For the chemical industry as an energy-intensive sector, the fight against climate change will require a very costly transformation, and the necessary measures will mean billions in additional investment for the chemical industry, while remaining competitive with the rest of the world.

It is important that employers in the chemical industry, despite major problems with high energy prices, lack of input raw materials for production and a substantial decrease in demand for their products, have not agreed to lay off their core employees, with a few exceptions.



Odborový svaz ECHO

Chemical section

On 9 December 2022, Addendum No. 1 to the Higher-Level Collective Agreement for 2022 – 2025 for the Chemical Section was signed.

Project completion:

Dialogue on social peace and employment in Czech chemistry on 30.6.2023

A new project:

The pyramid of social dialogue in the chemical sector

The project is scheduled to start on 1 July 2023 and end on 30 June 2026. As part of this project, a total of 59 events within 7 key activities are expected to be implemented within 3 years.



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Energy section

The energy sector, and not only in the Czech Republic, is still influenced by political decisions, both at the EU and national level.

Unfortunately, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has had a significant impact on the entire energy sector, including energy security and the resulting electricity price for all consumers. Companies are facing a massive increase in energy prices, which is weighing on them negatively.

We are trying to accelerate efforts to provide alternative sources of energy supply as well as critical raw materials and components. In addition, we also need to respond to other challenges and challenges in the energy sector, such as digitalisation.

The massive development of renewable sources, especially photovoltaics, not only large sources, but especially so-called micro sources, which are connected from the low-voltage network, without the need for a license newly up to 50kW, brings a significant impact on the transmission and distribution system of electricity distributors, especially in terms of security of supply to end customers.



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Energy section

Europe's green transition means massive changes for our businesses and societies, both in terms of electricity generation, energy sources and management.

The aim is to move away from fossil fuels in the energy sector, yes, but let us ask ourselves the question: are these decisions entirely economic when, on the other hand, we do not have adequate substitutes for these resources and, above all, stable sources.

In addition, we must realise that these changes have and will have an impact on employees, both in terms of their current qualifications and the number of jobs.

The current situation in the Czech Republic is similar to that in neighbouring countries and perhaps within most EU countries.



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Energy section

Social dialogue and collective bargaining continues to be at a good level and the sectoral collective agreement is concluded, with an amendment for 2023 at the level of an increase in tariff grades by 9.5%. In individual companies in the sector, we managed to conclude amendments to the collective agreements at the level of a 10% increase in wages and other certain financial compensations, which were different in individual companies.

A significant contribution to this result was the joint declaration of trade unions and sector organisations that they will demand compliance with obligations arising from applicable collective agreements and the preservation of real wages for energy employees.

OS ECHO is preparing for 4. the ECHO Congress
held on 24 – 25 May 2023 in Prague

new leadership of OS ECHO will be elected for the next five-year period.