

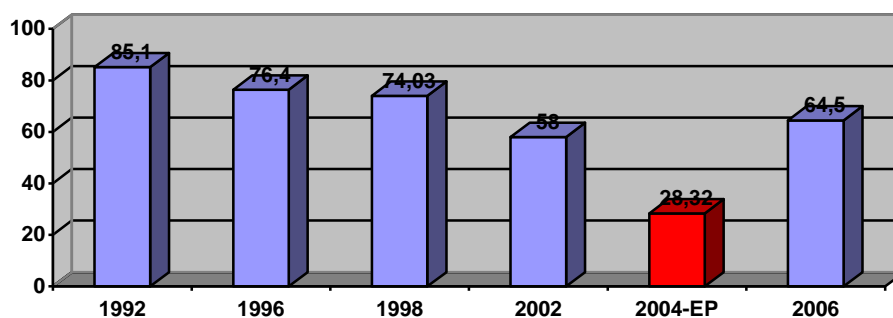
The Accession Hangover? Czech Politics since May 2004

Czech parties – a relatively stable five-party multiparty system (moderate pluralism):

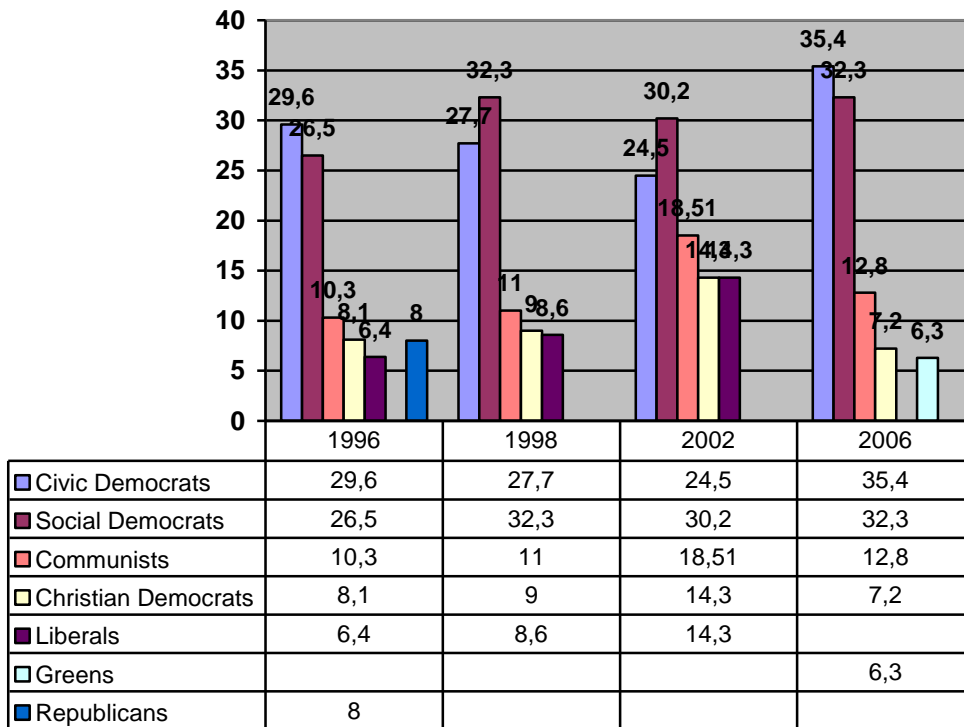
- Major parties:
 - **ODS – Civic Democrats: right-wing, neo-liberal, eurosceptic**
 - Vaclav Klaus; currently PM Mirek Topolánek
 - **CSSD – Social Democrats: left-wing, genuine social democrats**
 - formerly Milos Zeman, Vladimir Spidla, Stanislav Gross; currently Jiri Paroubek
- Smaller parties:
 - **KDU-CSL - Christian Democrats: center Christian party**
 - various leaders; currently Jiri Cunek
 - **KSCM: (Post)communists: unreformed communists**
 - Miroslav Grebenicek; currently communist with a „human face”
Vojtech Filip
 - **Greens: right-wing with a green agenda**
 - Martin Bursik – entered the Czech parliament in 2006
 - **US-DEU: liberals**
 - in the parliament only until 2006
 - **SPR-RSC – Republicans: right wing extremists**
 - Miroslav Sladek; in the Czech parliament only 1992-1996

<i>Year</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>PM</i>	<i>Size of Coalition</i>
1992-96				Majority
1996-97 ⁱ				Minority
1998-2002	Left	Social Democrats	Zeman	Minority (“tolerated”)
2002-2006	Left-Center	Social+ Christian Democrats + Liberals	Spidla, Gross, Paroubek	Majority (one seat)
2006-present	Right-Center	Civic + Christian Democrats + Greens	Topolánek	Minority (100:100) to Majority (2 defectors)ⁱⁱ

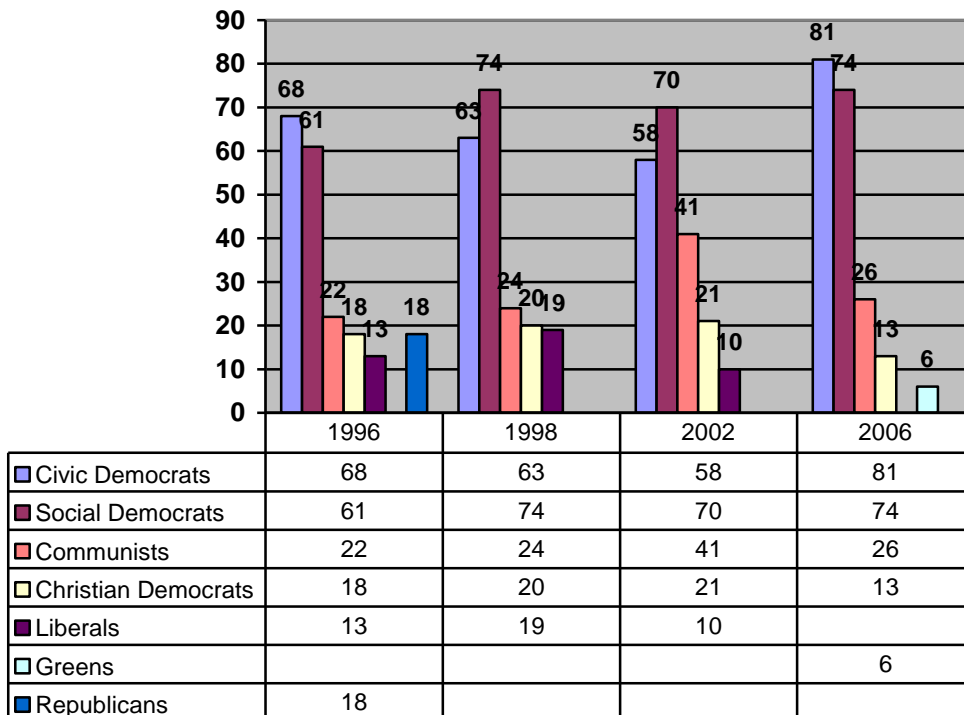
Turnout in the Czech Parliamentary Elections from 1992 (Czech National Council) to 2006 in %ⁱⁱⁱ



Results of the Czech Parliamentary Elections 1996-2006 in %^{iv}



Results of the Czech Parliamentary Elections 1996-2006 in seats^v



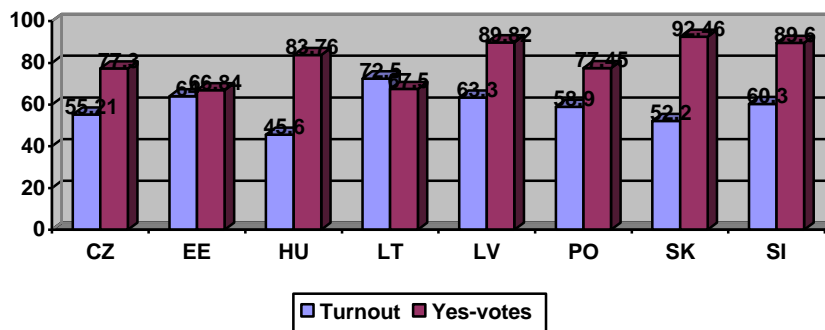
Contested Issues:

- economics/social affairs – market vs. state (reforms of public welfare e.g. health care; taxation)
- EU – euroscepticism vs. eurooptimism
 - incl. increasing nationalism, populism
 - euro
- corruption – leaders, regions, privatization
- civil society
- communism – what to do with KSCM
- “anti-politics” – new style of politics, clean fresh hands

Current Issues:

- welfare reform esp. health care, new taxation system since Jan 2007
- presidential elections – Klaus
- governmental stability – defectors, Cunek
- radar basis in Brdy

Results of the Referenda on the Eastern Enlargement of the EU in the CEE Candidate Countries

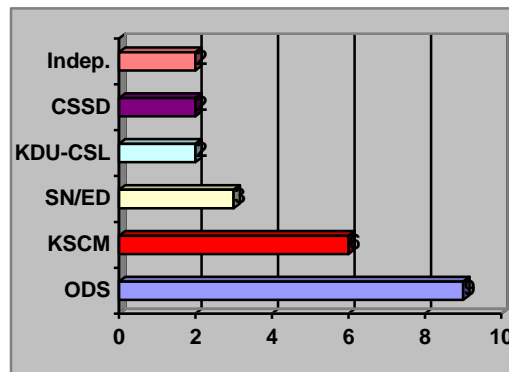
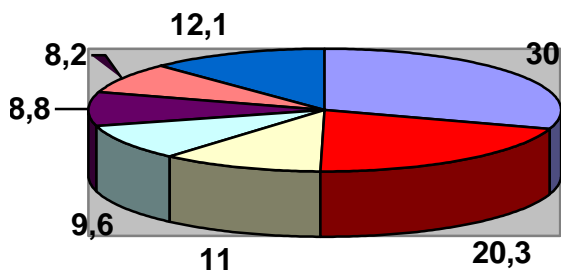


Source: http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/negotiations/accession_process.htm (August 1st, 2006)

Results of the Elections to the European Parliament in the Czech Republic (according to parties),

a) in % of votes

b) in # of seats



Source: <http://www.elections2004.eu.int/ep-election/sites/en/results1306/countries/cz/results/index.html>
 (September 3rd, 2006)

Results of the Standard Eurobarometers:^{vi}

62: fieldwork in October-November 2004, published in May 2005

63: fieldwork in May-June 2005, published in September 2005

64: fieldwork in October-November 2005, published in June 2006

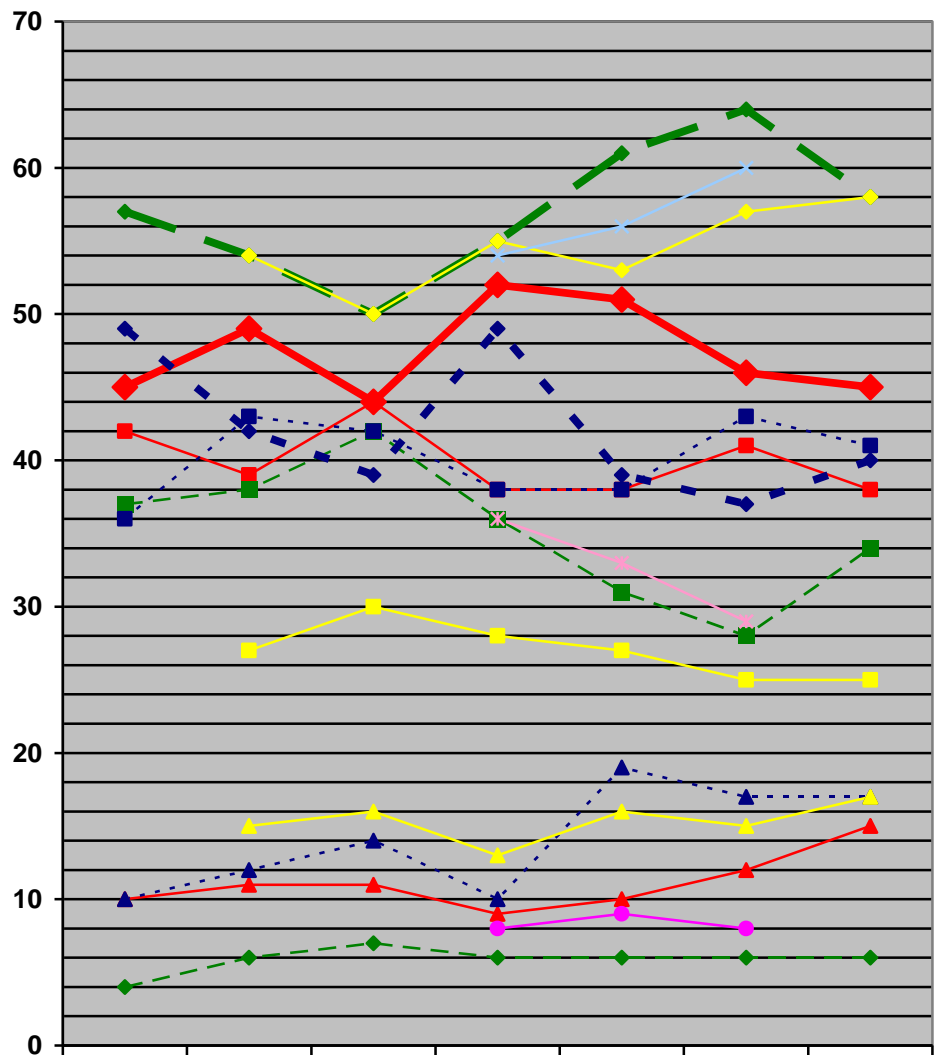
65: fieldwork in March-May 2006, published in January 2007

66: fieldwork in October-November 2006, published in December 2006

67: fieldwork in April-May 2007, published in November 2007

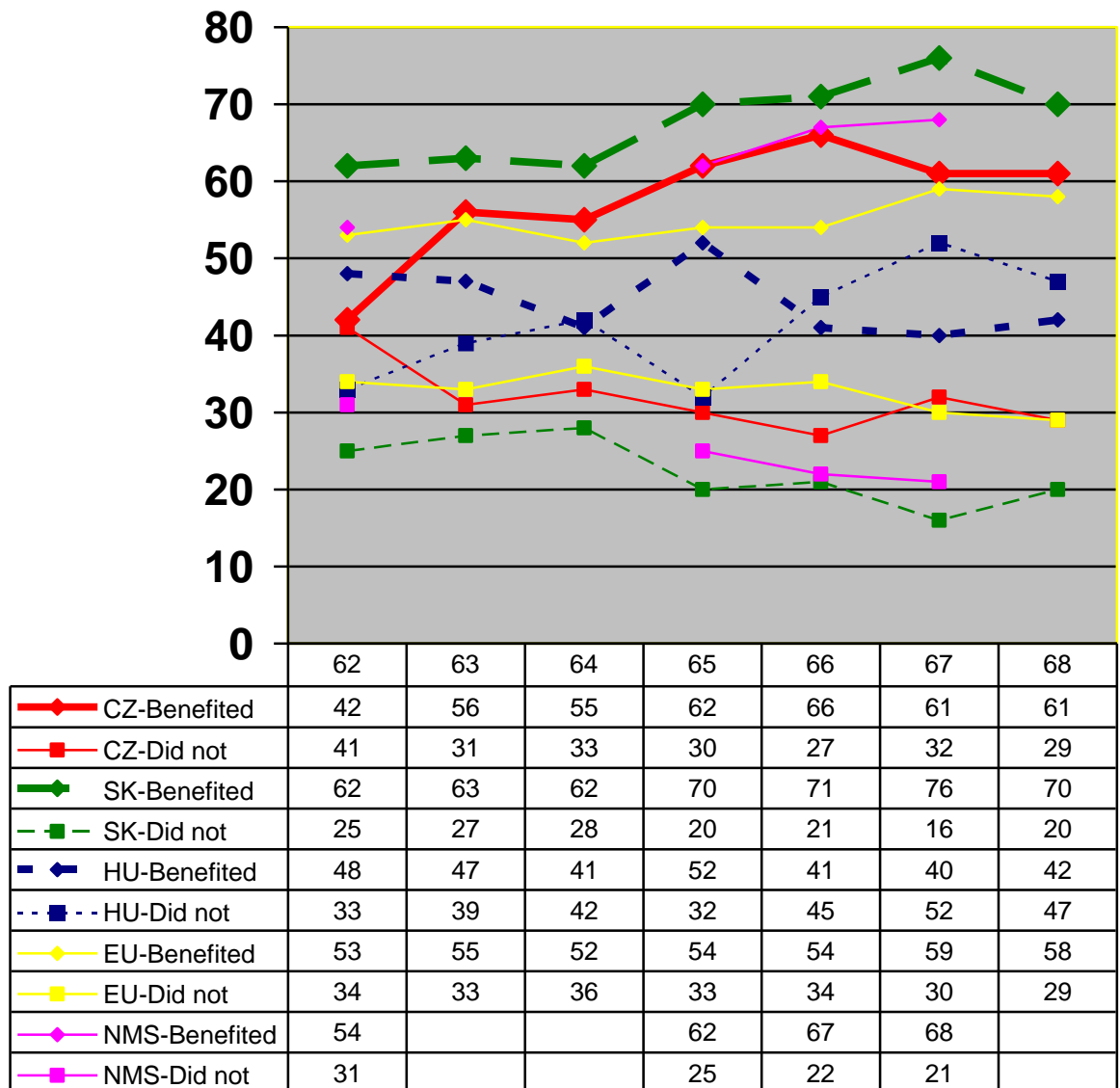
68: fieldwork in October-November 2007, published in December 2007

a) Membership of the EU is....



	62	63	64	65	66	67	68
—◆— CZ-A good thing	45	49	44	52	51	46	45
—■— CZ-Neither good, nor bad	42	39	44	38	38	41	38
—▲— CZ-A bad thing	10	11	11	9	10	12	15
—◆— SK-A good thing	57	54	50	55	61	64	58
—■— SK-Neither good, nor bad	37	38	42	36	31	28	34
—◆— SK-A bad thing	4	6	7	6	6	6	6
—◆— HU-A good thing	49	42	39	49	39	37	40
—■— HU-Neither good, nor bad	36	43	42	38	38	43	41
—▲— HU-A bad thing	10	12	14	10	19	17	17
—◆— EU-A good thing		54	50	55	53	57	58
—■— EU-Neither good, nor bad		27	30	28	27	25	25
—▲— EU-A bad thing		15	16	13	16	15	17
—×— NMS-A good thing				54	56	60	
—×— NMS-Neither good, nor bad				36	33	29	
—◆— NMS-A bad thing				8	9	8	

b) Taking everything into consideration, would you say that your country benefited from being a member of the EU?



ⁱ From 1997 to the election in 1998, a caretaker bureaucratic government, consisting of primarily non-party professionals, was set up and led by a banker Josef Tosovsky. Its economic program was rather right-wing, however, with a strongly pro-European orientation.

ⁱⁱ After the 2006 elections, there was an equal balance between the Right and Left camps (100 seats each); however, it was possible to build the current coalition due to defection of two social democrats who, since then, support the government. The negotiations took seven months since the elections.

ⁱⁱⁱ Source: www.volby.cz.

^{iv} Source: www.volby.cz In 2002, Christian Democrats and Liberals ran on one common list under the name “the Coalition”; however, the Coalition later split. An extreme right-wing party, Republicans, was in the Czech parliament from the 1992 elections to 1996. Liberals are represented by the Civic Democratic Alliance in 1996 and by the Freedom Union in 1998 and 2002.

^v Source: www.volby.cz In 2002, the Coalition shared altogether 31 seats; 21 were held by Christian Democrats, 8 by the Liberals, and 2 by independent candidates.

^{vi} CZ=Czech Republic, SK=Slovakia, HU=Hungary, EU=an EU average, includes either EU25 or EU27 after 2007, NMS=New Member States. “Don’t know” answers are not shown.