

# **(In)effectiveness of the legislative process in the Czech Republic**

## **Abstract**

This thesis analyzes obstructive techniques used in the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, focusing on the ninth electoral term and comparing it with the previous seventh term. The aim is to identify the most common obstructive practices, examine the rules of procedure that enable them, and propose solutions to limit them in order to increase the efficiency of the legislative process. The analysis is based on verbatim records of proceedings and focuses on issues such as unlimited debate on the agenda, granting breaks without voting, unlimited speaking time for deputies, overuse of factual remarks, and submission of unlimited amendments.

The goal is not only to describe the current state of obstructive techniques but also to propose specific measures that could lead to improved efficiency of the parliamentary process while preserving democratic principles and opposition rights. The thesis does not aim to criticize legitimate tools of the parliamentary opposition, but rather to seek a balance between the opposition's right to express dissent and the need for effective functioning of the legislature.

The analysis examines specific examples of obstructive behavior, such as the debate on the amendment to the pandemic law, where the discussion on the agenda lasted more than 31 hours. Such examples demonstrate how obstructions can significantly slow down the legislative process and reduce the Chamber's ability to act.

The thesis also includes a comparison with the previous seventh electoral term, when the Chamber of Deputies held 61 sessions and spent a total of 71 hours debating the agenda. In the ninth electoral term, the number of sessions increased to 126, and the time spent debating the agenda rose to 313 hours. This increase demonstrates a growing tendency towards obstructive behavior.

Proposed measures include formalizing procedures for agenda debates, strengthening the role of the presiding officer, and adjusting the rules of procedure to limit the overuse of obstructive techniques. The goal is to find a balance between opposition rights and legislative efficiency, allowing the Chamber of Deputies to function as an effective legislative body.

**Keywords: obstruction, Chamber of Deputies, legislative process, Rules of Procedure**