



Open letter for the Czech Republic's biggest insurance companies Allianz, Generali Česká pojišťovna and Kooperativa:

Dear Mr. Quis, dear Mr. Juráš, dear Mr. Diviš,

we would like to approach you on behalf of citizens we represent with a plea to join us in dealing with the climate crisis which devastates our country and with the related issue of air pollution that is responsible for more than ten thousand premature deaths in the Czech Republic. We are specifically referring to the coal industry whose outdated power plants are mostly responsible for these issues.

The COVID-19 pandemic has largely accentuated our society's vulnerability to risks such as those resulting from the climate crisis. As it is the mission of your business to protect us from risks, we are pleased to notice you have recently been willing to contribute to solutions to the climate crisis and keeping the level of global warming under the acceptable limit of 1.5° C as stipulated in the Paris Agreement. We appreciate the fact you have implemented policies restricting your support to new coal projects.

Nevertheless, we are alarmed by loopholes which make these policies insufficient. In particular, we are disconcerted by your support to extending operation of the most polluting coal-fired power plants including Počerady and Chvaletice, as well as by your ongoing collaboration with corporations such as Sev.en Energy owned by Pavel Tykač, EPH owned by Daniel Křetínský and ČEZ which have not been able to present any viable Paris-compatible plans for their business.

In order to mitigate the climate crisis, it is not enough to prevent building new coal-fired power plants. A rapid coal phase-out is needed. In developed OECD countries including the Czech Republic, coal must – and can – be ended by 2030. It is also necessary to replace it with clean renewable energy sources rather than fossil gas which produces unacceptable amounts of emissions. In other words, no new fossil infrastructure is compatible with climate crisis solutions.

We are therefore appealing to responsibility resulting from your position in the economy, and we would like to ask you to adopt at least these **minimum necessary measures**. If you are serious about protecting climate, you should:

- Immediately cease to insure the most polluting and unnecessary Czech coal-fired power plants such as Počerady and Chvaletice, and thus stop giving support to their prolonged operation.
- Pledge to cease insuring coal mining and combustion without delay. Discontinue collaboration with coal companies such as Sev.en Energy, EPH and ČEZ unless they present viable Paris-compatible phase-out plans which would enable meeting the 1,5°C goal (i.e. phase-out before 2030).

Let's stop + = dirty money

- Commit not to insure or fund any new fossil projects, namely in fossil gas extraction and combustion. No new fossil infrastructure is compatible with climate crisis solutions.

It must be clear by now that the use of coal in the Czech Republic is about to end. The question is how quickly it is going to happen and how it will be replaced. Coal companies and politicians connected with them are trying to postpone the inevitable end and they are thus jeopardizing our future and the future of our children. On the other hand, numerous scientists, civil society organizations and citizens from regions impacted by coal industry's – many of them undersigned under this letter – are calling for rapid phase-out.

Your companies are facing a vital decision about which side to take. We are asking you to give preference to public health and responsibility for future generations. We would like to propose that you use your resources and public influence to support a direction of post-pandemic recovery that will help the Czech Republic take the path towards a more just and sustainable economy.

Signatories:

Arnika
Berounská Zeleň
BEZUHLI.CZ
Centrum pro dopravu a energetiku
Doctors for Future
Ekumenická akademie
EUROSOLAR.cz
Extinction Rebellion
Feministické umělecké instituce
Fridays for Future Česká republika
Greenpeace Česká republika
Hlavou proti Turówu
Hnutí DUHA
Chebsko za klima
Iniciativa Stop přehradám
Klimatická koalice
Limity jsme my
Na Mysli
NESEHNUTÍ
Re-set: platforma pro sociálně-ekologickou transformaci
RFK
Rodiče za klima Liberec
Spolek Živá voda
Trast pro ekonomiku a společnost
Univerzity za klima
Zastavme elektrárnu Chvaletice
Zelená pro Pardubicko
Zelená pro Ústecko
Zelený kruh
Žít Laudato si