

## ČEPS's position:

# Power line construction projects – authorisation procedure

Power line construction takes 1-2 years whilst the authorisation procedure often takes 8-10 years. This leads to a discrepancy between the required date of the commissioning of new power plants and their connection to the grid. ČEPS therefore supports the acceleration of the process and the harmonisation of power line and plant construction as well as proposals contained in the draft amendment to the State Energy Policy of October 2009.

### Analysis of the current situation

ČEPS has a statutory obligation to continuously upgrade and further develop the Czech transmission system. The lengthy administrative process surrounding line construction projects, however, makes the fulfilment of this obligation difficult. Though the construction proper of a power line takes 1-2 years depending on line length and ground profile, authorisation procedures may take up to 8-10 years and thus do not correspond to the length of time involved in the authorisation procedures for new power plants (including RES plants) which, together with the construction period, is 2-6 years.

Analytical data processing is followed by the planning permission procedure which includes the entry of the line construction project into the Regional Development Policy (RDP) and the Community Land-Use Development Plan fully respecting Land-Use Development Principles. The RDP, which specifies requirements related to projects with an international impact or an impact on a number of regions within the Czech Republic, should be regarded as a binding document, however, this rule is often not observed and the RDP is, consequently, not reflected in land-use planning; communities and regions enjoy the most decisive level of influence. The next stage consists of planning and building permission procedures which make up the most time-consuming and organisationally demanding elements of any construction project. In addition, an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) must be performed.

### ČEPS's proposals

ČEPS supports the acceleration of permission procedures for power line construction projects and advocates the integration of authorisation procedures for power line and power plant construction projects. The Company, as a member of the ČSRES Association (Czech Association of Regulated Power Companies), is currently involved in the drafting of an amendment to legislation concerning the acceleration of transport and technical infrastructure development.

ČEPS also supports the proposals contained in the State Energy Policy Update of October 2009 some of the proposals of which concern the integration of planning and building permission

procedures and the revision of the EIA procedure, as well as an assessment, in terms of planning and building permission procedures, of the connection to the grid of new power plants with installed capacity of more than 100MW, the assessment of large public interest construction projects by a special Building Authority, the determination of what constitutes a public interest construction project, shortened time limits for individual stages of the authorisation procedure and the introduction of new tools to be used for the determination of a fair market price for land purchased.