

Statement on the Constitutional Court's ruling
of 24. 01. 2024

Note: As we had informed in July 2023, Czech government had indexed the pensions after law; later, however, they cancelled it, arguing with “lack of money”. One of Parliamentary opposition parties, the ANO movement, although a right-wing one, sued the decision in the Constitutional Court of Czech Republic. The Court, nevertheless, took a decision to agree with the government’s decision – they confirmed the right to bend the law...

We express our disappointment and indignation at the Finding of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic by which 24. 01. 2024 rejected the proposal to repeal the adjustment of the indexation of old-age pensions.

We are of the opinion that the Constitutional Court has not dealt with the issue of the legitimate expectations of beneficiaries of old-age pensions in a substantive or impartial manner. This was based on the fact that inflation would be taken into account in the indexation of old-age pensions under the legislation in force at the time. It did not happen. The Constitutional Court gave a majority in favour of the government and the approved retroactive bill changing the pension indexation system.

The ruling of the Constitutional Court gave priority not to legal certainty, but to purposeful political interpretation, conforming to the current five-coalition government and its parliamentary majority. Nothing else is the bulk of the explanatory memorandum of the Finding. The opening of the scissors between poverty on the one hand and the accumulation of wealth by a narrow economic ruling class has thus been sanctioned by a constitutional institution.

So, the time has come when there is an urgent need to ask what further restrictions the current government is preparing, after impoverishing the elderly, for most of its citizens, employees and other workers. We therefore reject the considerations about the liberalisation of the pension system and labour law in the Czech Republic, which foreign multinational capital is calling for. It is not acceptable that the effects of inflation and government debt should be borne primarily by those who live on their wages, salaries or pensions.

We call on all trade unions to act decisively against government’s further reforms.

In Prague, Jan 27 2024.

Trade Union Association of Bohemia, Moravia & Silesia