

## Democracy Minute: New portal will ease communication between citizens and political leaders

**Prague 14 March 2016 – Reconstruction of State presents a new tool to facilitate the interaction between the general public and political leaders. Click on [www.minutademokracie.cz](http://www.minutademokracie.cz) and gain instant access to Democracy Minute appeals concerning transparency and good governance.**

Of the nine bills pursuing better transparency and good governance, supported by Reconstruction of State (REST), only three have been passed thus far. [In this election period](#) only one has become applicable, namely the “rider-less” code of procedure at the Chamber of Deputies. *“The government coalition has ceased to push the reform bills through the lower house of parliament, has not pressed vigorously enough to install [instruments of control of public funds](#) and remains incapable of offering a coherent explanation as to how it wants to set the rules that would tackle [conflicts of interests of its members](#),”* says Reconstruction of State project coordinator **Martin Fadrný**. Therefore this platform of nongovernmental organizations intends to enable citizens to be much more often in touch with their lawmakers, and to remind them of their election promises. In the course of autumn debates on the contract register bill, public concern proved to be a sine qua non for passing it.

*“Public participation by way of so-called ambassadors has always been an important facet of the Reconstruction of State project. Now we’d like to help even those pressed for time help enhance the transparency of Czech politics,”* **Fadrný** adds.

Today, Reconstruction of State unveils a new **website** and a **spot** featuring **actor Ondřej Cihlář**, the component parts of the campaign we call **Democracy Minute**. Designed primarily for promotion at the social media, the campaign primarily targets young people and local opinion makers interested in public affairs. The initial Minute Call invites the public to contact the members of three parliamentary committees and urge them not to include any further opt-outs for state companies, except for the Budvar case, in the draft amendment to the bill on contract register. *“In the autumn, public pressures were instrumental to the passing of a two-years-overdue bill that can lend transparency to as much as 500 billion crowns’ worth of public spending. We trust there will again be those who do not want to see the bill portioned even before the payments begin,”* notes **Václav Zeman** from Reconstruction of State. Further calls will be published on this website within the next few weeks.

Reconstruction of State is a joint project of 18 nongovernmental organizations, hundreds of concerned citizens, business associations and experts. Its mission is to promote legislation which would improve the control of public economic management and clientelist networks.

For additional information please contact:

**Václav Zeman**, Reconstruction of State

Phone: +420 734 202 656

E-mail: [vaclav.zeman@frankbold.org](mailto:vaclav.zeman@frankbold.org)

**Spending 20 minutes a day on Facebook**

**Spending 11 minutes in queues**

**Spending 5 minutes every day complaining of time pressures**

**How many minutes of your working day are spent on behalf of democracy and public affairs?**

► **Democracy Minute website:** [www.minutademokracie.cz](http://www.minutademokracie.cz)

► **Ondřej Cihlář spot:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tswc9V0aCB8>

► **Two years of government: How they help to promote REST bills**

<http://www.rekonstrukcestatu.cz/cs/archiv-novinek/9561-dva-roky-vlady-jak-si-vede-pri-prosazovani-rekonstrukcnich-zakonu->

Zákony Rekonstrukce státu			
Zrušení anonymních akcií			přijato ✓
Služební zákon	1 čtení ve Sněmovně		přijato ✓
Zákony bez přílepků	1 čtení ve Sněmovně		přijato ✓
Zveřejňování smluv	1 čtení ve Sněmovně		přijato ✓
Rozšíření pravomocí NKÚ		v Senátu	
Financování politických stran	projednávání ve výborech Sněmovny		
Majetková příznání politiků	projednávání ve výborech Sněmovny		
Nezávislost státního zastupitelství	návrh		červen 2014
Odborné nominace do dozorčích rad	návrh		leden 2016

**REST BILLS:**

Abolition of Anonymous Shares

Service Act

Rider-less Legislation

Disclosure of Contracts

Extending the Powers of the Supreme Audit Office

Transparent Financing of Political Parties

Declaration of Assets upon Taking up an Office

Independent Public Prosecutor

Expert Nominations to Supervisory Boards