

# Builders welcome anti-crisis plan

Author: SF / pb | Published: 24.02.2009

“Building industry was not forgotten!” - this is the comment of Václav Matyáš, the President of the Union of Businessmen in Building Industry (Svaz podnikatelů ve stavebnictví - SPS), on the governmental package of anti-crisis measures which should be discussed by the Parliament in next days. Matyáš appreciated in particular higher budget expenses on building of transport infrastructure (90 billion CZK, an increase by 8 billion), as well as expansion of the “thermal insulation” programme Panel (from 1.5 billion last year to 4.7 billion CZK this year) and at the same time extension of its focus also to buildings from bricks and others. In this area, another 25 billion CZK is involved which should be earned through sale of emission permits. President Matyáš stated at the same time that the SPS proposal to decrease VAT for housing construction was, in the end, rejected by the Government, but the National Anti-Crisis Plan admits this possibility “for a limited period”. In this context, SPS President mentioned examples from the Western Europe - for example Belgium decreased the rate last year from 21 to 6%. According to SPS, all those measures should stimulate demand for building works while another stimulus should come from towns and municipalities whose investment budgets reach a record amount thanks to the inflow of money from the EU funds. According to Matyáš, the Czech building industry has sufficient capacity to implement the demand generated in this way. He, however, pointed out that the investor’s preparation of projects, including also city-planning permit and building permit, is excessively long in this country which can negatively influence the results of the sector in spite of all incentives. SPS expects that the total amount of production of the Czech building industry, recording only a minimum increase last year (0.6%) will follow development of VAT - this could mean even a decrease.

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24.02.2009 09:32, SF / pb