

## Public funds, private profits: EP Group and Sev.en Energy pocket billions in public subsidies

PRAGUE, September 16, 2025

Across Europe, EP Group, owned by Czech billionaire Daniel Křetínský, has received **approximately EUR 10.3 billion** in public funds over the past decade, while Sev.en Energy, owned by billionaire Pavel Tykač, **collected EUR 0.95 billion**. These findings come from a new report published today by Re-set. The study details how two of Europe's largest fossil fuel corporations profit from subsidies, compensations, and other forms of public funding.

The new publication, ***Freeloaders: How Public Money Endows Coal Tycoons' Private Profits***, reveals the mechanisms by which EP Group and Sev.en Energy benefit from capacity payments, biomass subsidies, modernization funds, and state contracts across several European countries.

One of the most striking findings is EP Group's domination of capacity mechanisms: it has been promised up to EUR 4 billion, making it the single largest beneficiary of these payments among all European energy companies. Sev.en Energy has received EUR 843 million through the same scheme. Debates about introducing capacity mechanisms are also ongoing in the Czech Republic and Germany.

Biomass subsidies represent another major source of public money for EP Group. The report recalls scandals involving the felling of healthy, sometimes even protected forests to fuel its supposedly "green" power plants. These subsidies amount to hundreds of millions of euros in public funding, flowing from the United Kingdom, France, Italy, and the Czech Republic.

Within the Czech Republic alone, EP Group has collected CZK 14.2 billion (EUR 582 million) from public sources in the past decade, while Sev.en Energy received CZK 2.1 billion (EUR 86 million) and secured a number of key state contracts. The companies also tap into major funding streams such as the Modernisation Fund and the Just Transition Fund, meant to support climate action and energy transition.

"Let us recall that it was precisely the large energy companies that recorded record profits during the recent energy crisis. It is deeply unjust that fossil giants EP Group and Sev.en Energy have, on the one hand, raked in hundreds of billions through inflated energy bills, while on the other hand siphoning off tens of billions more from public budgets. Public money that flows into the accounts of these oligarchs is then missing in areas such as community energy development, education, or healthcare. European states should immediately stop this practice of handing over common wealth to the richest elite. And they should also end the access of fossil fuel lobbyists to political decision-making. Without the influence of the fossil lobby, the current

situation could never have come about,” said Radek Kubala, author of the report and researcher at Re-set.

In addition to detailed information on subsidies in the Czech Republic, the report also includes country-specific data for Germany, France, Italy, and Slovakia, mapping the scale of public support that continues to flow into fossil fuel companies despite governments’ commitments to a fair energy transition.

The full report is available online here:

<https://re-set.cz/download/freeloaders.pdf>

### **Contacts:**

#### **Radek Kubala**

Researcher, author of the report

Re-set: Platform for Social-Ecological Transformation

✉ [radek.kubala@re-set.cz](mailto:radek.kubala@re-set.cz)

#### **Veronika Dvorská**


Communications Coordinator

Re-set: Platform for Social-Ecological Transformation

✉ [veronika.dvorska@re-set.cz](mailto:veronika.dvorska@re-set.cz)

### **About us:**

Re-set: Platform for Social-Ecological Transformation is an organization that supports and develops initiatives striving for a new economic model based on cooperation instead of competition, care instead of exploitation, and democratic forms of ownership. It supports ecological and social movements and initiatives working towards a good life for all.

 <https://re-set.cz/>