

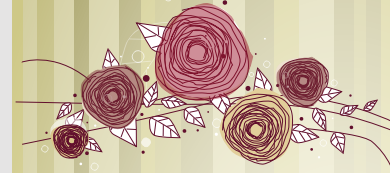
Bribery made easy

PRAHA (lol) Prague's city council approved the outline of a project for making it possible for the first time to pay bribes by SMS. Deputy Mayor Karel Květina cited a study demonstrating the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of this way of payment. He complained openly about "pesky" PR agencies and "so-called" lawyers who demand far more for acting as middlemen than telecoms companies will require for an SMS-based system. For a nominal fee, prepaid cards in amounts up to €15,000 - to avoid a clash with that silly EU money-laundering rule - will be made available at the usual outlets, he said. In accordance with the data-protection act, and thanks to an agreement with the very flexible Y&B Banka, complete anonymity to all parties will be assured. Květina praised a further advantage of the BRIBE-EZ system: The ability of the recipient to send a reverse text message when a payment is late. He expressed confidence that the project will be so popular that other municipalities, agencies and ministries will want to participate.



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