

Seznam's 'wrong' choice



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told the [Czech Senate](#) yesterday that, "The CCP [Chinese Communist Party] initiates retaliation against innocent parties when crossed." Other governments also of course reward their allies and punish their adversaries. Conspicuously absent during Pompeo's visit at the U.S. residence with [five tech companies](#) was Seznam.cz. By nearly any measure, it is one of the leading Czech tech companies and deserves a seat at the table. But "when faced with the [decision about authoritarianism or democracy and freedom](#)," to use Pompeo's words, it made the "wrong" choice. It chose to push for a [digital tax](#) against Google, Facebook and Amazon and to enter into an [app partnership with Huawei](#). Pompeo's ability to use economic leverage to stifle Seznam's freedom is limited so far, but this could change if PM Andrej Babiš gets his way. He wants the Huawei/5G agenda to be moved to the EU level. If this happened and member states decided to cross Pompeo by embracing Huawei, Seznam would be vindicated. If Pompeo won in Brussels, though, Seznam could become a pariah in the EU.

Read this later today in [Czech](#)



If you are wondering what the effect of the last six months has had on the real estate and hospitality sectors in the Czech Republic, the annual IBF Residential Real Estate Seminar, this year with a bit of a twist, should help to give you some answers.

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Pobřežní 648, 186 00
Praha 8-Karlín



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info@ibforum.cz