

Rationale for Government Resolution No. 207 of 26 February 2021

Because some crematoriums in the Czech Republic are already at the limit of their capacity, the validity of the crisis measure which increases the capacity of crematoriums to the maximum is extended. Hence, it will not be possible to “import” bodies from neighboring countries and the restrictive limits for crematorium operation stipulated by municipalities will not be observed.

The reason for the measure is the expected increase in the number of deceased in the next two months and the related borderline capacity of certain crematorium facilities. Concurrently, the burden will be monitored and coordinated across the country in order to avoid problems as in the case of the Moravian-Silesian region.

The standard capacity of crematoriums in the Czech Republic is about 700 cremations per day. The ideal maximum capacity, which the government hopes to achieve with this measure, is approximately 800 cremations per day. There are around 30 burials per day, and the capacity can be increased even here.

Hence, the “import” of bodies from neighboring countries (especially Poland, Austria and Germany), which was a lasting commercial custom for crematoriums near the border, will continue to be banned. This does not affect the right to bury these bodies in the ground. In particular, it does not affect the repatriation of deceased Czech citizens.

Furthermore, no restrictive limits on the operation of crematoriums stipulated by municipalities will be taken into account.

There are 6000 cemeteries and 27 crematoriums in the Czech Republic. The crematoriums are not evenly distributed across the country - there are fewer of them in Moravia. This is one of the reasons why the capacities in the Moravian-Silesian, Olomouc and Zlín regions have reached their limits. The capacities in the Karlovy Vary, Hradec Králové, Plzeň and Pardubice regions are also reaching their limit. On the contrary, the highest capacity is available at crematoriums in the Vysočina region, Prague, Liberec and Ústí nad Labem.