

Entrepreneurs looking for a replacement for anonymous bearer shares

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Leaving for lower taxes and predictable legal environment are still the most common reasons why businesses establish international holding companies. But as indicated by ČEKIA data for the first half of 2011, almost half of entries of a foreign owner into a Czech company take place because the owner does not want to be directly associated with their property.

According to these statistics, a total of 147 Czech companies with foreign owners were added in the first half of 2011. If a Czech company is owned by a foreign company, there is an international holding company which has many benefits, according to its setting. These include tax optimization, ensuring the anonymity of the beneficial owner or the allocation of risks associated with the business. Over half of the companies (77 companies, 52%) has a new owner in onshore countries that allow tax optimization and offer a stable regulatory environment. The most popular include Cyprus, the Netherlands or the USA. New owners of 70 Czech companies (48%) are located in offshore destinations that offer a very high degree of anonymity of ownership. In relative terms, the number of Czech firms controlled from offshore destinations by rose 4.99%, while the number of owners of onshore companies increased by only 0.76%.

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