

Czech Republic showing interest in Slovak experience with PPP projects

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Slovak Transport Minister Ján Figel' discussed with his Czech counterpart Pavel Dobeš in Bratislava about the development of transport infrastructure and cross-border connections, and about experience with functioning of the toll system in both countries and regional co-operation within the V4. The new Czech Transport Minister was interested in the greater Slovak experience in preparation and implementation of public-private partnerships in motorway construction and line works. Mr Figel' informed his Czech partner about the positive but also negative experience with this type of financing infrastructure construction. "PPP in Slovakia is a reality in the form of unfulfilled, fulfilled and planned new investments," Mr Figel' said at a news briefing after the meeting.

No PPP project at national level has been done in CR so far, there were only projects at regional level. "PPP project is something extra, not the central pillar. It can never be something to replace the national or European sources. It is a complementary part. I think we definitely agree that if a PPP project is to be successful, both public and private sectors need to bear some degree of risk," Mr Dobeš said adding that both sectors should share not only profits but also losses. According to him, it is impossible to privatize profits and to socialize the state and vice versa.

Slovakia wants to use Czech Republic's better experience with construction and operation of combined transport terminals. These are, according to the Slovak minister, very important for the integration of different transport modes. CR is ready to lend Slovakia a hand in information and communication technologies (ICTs).

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