

## Week 33/2009 in CzechNews

18.8.2009 - **HAVEL GOES GREEN**. He will not be seen much but he will be there. Czech former president Václav Havel will support the **Green party in the upcoming October** early elections, according to the Greens leader Ondřej Liška.

Havel is adamant that the Greens' presence in the Chamber of Deputies is in the interest of the Czech public. But Havel will not appear in billboards or TV spots calling on Czech voters to vote for the Greens. That is just simply not his style.

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**ILLEGAL COLLECTION OF INFORMATION**. It was one of the biggest projects in the Czech health care sector: The State Institute for Drug Control (SÚKL) was to collect information about all Czech patients and put it on the internet.

The data was collected in pharmacies when patients picked up prescriptions. A huge database of all medicines that patients have ever swallowed started to emerge. It was possible to find out who suffers from what disease and what medicines doctors prescribed them.

The project has cost roughly CZK 170 million to date. The institute was to pay a further CZK 90 million a year for operating the database.

Now, after eight months of work, the institute must halt work on the project and immediately destroy the data it has collected.

Collecting the information turns out to have been illegal, Aktuálně.cz learnt from a report on the central electronic prescriptions register issued by the Office for Personal Data Protection.

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The six-month fall in home prices is over. Data from some real estate agencies and property portals show that prices of flats and houses are slowly starting to grow again. All of them agree that waiting for yet a better price is pointless.

"For a few months now we have been registering a slow increase in flat prices in Brno, and Prague has joined it in the past two months. These cities generally serve as indicators of future development. We expect prices will gradually start rising in other regions, too," said Michal Pich of **EuroNet Media**, which runs the real estate portals [www.realitycechy.cz](http://www.realitycechy.cz) and [www.realitymorava.cz](http://www.realitymorava.cz).