

Prague 5 up close



Even by the primitive standards of post-Communist politics, Prague 5 is a strange beast. It's run by a notorious ODS henchman, Milan Jančík, with the direct blessing of Prague Mayor Pavel Bém and ČSSD Chair Jiří Paroubek, who happens to be the ČSSD [chapter chairman](#) in the city district. A grand coalition of ODS and ČSSD rules in Prague 5, but - as strange as it may sound - members of both parties are also in the "grand opposition." Not everyone, it seems, wants to be implicated when the unholy Jančík-Paroubek alliance fractures. This could happen either as a result of an attack on Paroubek by the Zeman-Šlouf crowd, or as a side effect to an attack on Bém. The "Bém system" as overseen by Jančík and Paroubek in Prague 5 has spun completely out of control and is now meaning "settlements" of even eight or nine digits. Milan Jančík is a very big man, and both ODS and ČSSD will want to run for the high ground once his boat starts rocking.

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