

the **fleet sheet's final word**

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Confidence game



It's funny that the one time the opposition has the best chance of bringing down the Topolánek government, the reason for the no-confidence vote is the least clear. It's like the old joke about two lawyers and three legal opinions: Everyone seems to have his or her own reason (or two) for wanting to oust the current government. Take your pick from what is being said: The government has been interfering in the judicial process; it's mishandling the economic crisis; its healthcare reform has gone amok; the Lisbon treaty must be buried; Topolánek is a dirty rotten scoundrel; and so on and so forth. Less vocal are those attributing the attempt to the ambitions of Václav Klaus, Pavel Bém and Martin Pecina (why so many interviews with Pecina all of a sudden?). Others are whispering about ČSA, Prague Airport, ČD Cargo, Temelín or Lukoil. As usual, the most important reasons are probably the least obvious. And as the lead character in "Brotherhood" said, "Politics is always about money; and if it's not about money, it's about money."

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Mr. Mirek Topolánek
Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

Mr. Victor Yushchenko
President of Ukraine

Mr. Zdeněk Tůma
Governor of the Czech National Bank

Mr. Charles L. Evans
Governor of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

Mr. Grigori A. Marchenko
Governor of the National Bank of Kazakhstan

Mr. Pier Carlo Padoa-Schioppa
Deputy Secretary General, OECD

Mr. Alexandr Vondra
Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs of the Czech Republic

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