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The Klaus factor

Václav Klaus hasn't had the level of influence on coalition-building that many had expected. He's been more a lagging than a leading indicator, reacting more to what the political parties are doing than guiding them. This could theoretically change next week, when Klaus gets a progress report from Petr Nečas. No one knows to what extent Klaus is communicating with VV and the Žluté lázně clique or whether they will make trouble before the ODS congress, giving Klaus a chance to stab a knife in Nečas. Klaus presumably still prefers a grand coalition, not only because it would be good for "byznys," but also because it would decrease the political divisiveness and help keep the masses under control. However, it seems slightly more likely today that Nečas will be confirmed as ODS chair, that the three-party coalition will be created, and that the push for a grand coalition will be postponed until next year.



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