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Mercenaries in Parliament

When PM Petr Nečas spoke about the [mercenaries](#) who are running ČEZ, he forgot to mention the hired guns ČEZ has in Parliament. As [Transparency Int.](#) pointed out, MPs Milan Urban of ČSSD and Petr Bendl of ODS are sponsors of an amendment to the public-procurement bill that would exclude regulated utilities such as ČEZ, EPH, RWE Transgas and Veolia from the law. This is just the kind of evisceration of the procurement bill that many people had been expecting. To his credit, Development Min. Kamil Jankovský opposes the idea from Urban's economics committee. If the bad publicity helps kill the bill, ČEZ will presumably revert to Plan B and simply ignore the public-procurement law where possible. There's a precedent: The Supreme Administrative Court ruled in 2009 that ČEZ is a "public" institution and therefore subject to the freedom-of-information act, but ČEZ refused to respect the ruling.

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