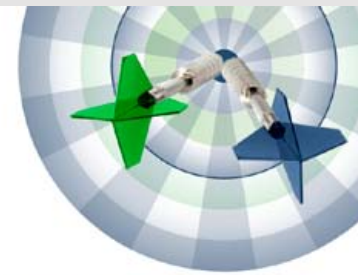


Corruption apologists

Karel Janeček of the Endowment Fund against Corruption told [Patria](#) that Václav Klaus has had an extremely negative impact on the welfare of the country by sanctioning corruption in the 1990s, making light of it and covering up theft to this day. We went so far last year as to call Klaus the "[corruption facilitator in chief](#)," but we see a new trend emerging. Harsh critics of Klaus, like Janeček (on [TV Prima](#)), Jiří Pehe of CESTA (on [ČT24](#)) and Jan Macháček (of [Respekt](#)), risk becoming "corruption apologists." They are willing to take at face value the claims of people like Andrej Babiš, Tomáš Chrenek, Zdeněk Bakala and Petr Kellner that they want to do something about corruption in the country. Before believing these businessmen, shouldn't anyone truly concerned about the welfare of the country first demand that they at least halt all their ongoing questionable deals? If such moral authorities as Janeček, Pehe and Macháček don't demand this, they risk looking very much like the very Klaus they so harshly criticize.



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