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Asylum for Marty

There's little doubt that Oleksandr Tymoshenko and his wife, Yulia, made large sums of money on dirty energy deals, but the humanitarian-minded Czechs at the interior ministry certainly didn't take such tedious things into account when granting Mr. Tymoshenko political asylum. Czech officials subscribe to the EU view that Tymoshenko might be an SOB, but he's our SOB. Major economic crimes are prosecuted in Ukraine only for political reasons, goes the argument, so granting asylum to prevent political persecution is entirely appropriate. So what's next? Kiev might want tit-for-tat retaliation. This could be Martin Roman's big chance. If a direct line is shown to exist between Appian/Škoda and Ukrainian business interests, by way of Markus Büchel and ČEZ's overpriced spent-fuel storage facility, Roman could seek political asylum in Ukraine. He might be an SOB, the Ukrainians could argue, but he's our SOB.



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