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Savov goes for Bakala's jugular

Of the heads of the Five Families, the odd man out is Zdeněk Bakala. To quote one of his employees, Jan Macháček, he didn't steal in coupon privatization like most of the shady characters. (No, he arranged to buy under duress from those who did steal.) One of the theories for Bakala's purchase of Economia publishing house was the perceived need to defend against those who put him in the same category as PPF, J&T, Penta and KKCG. Economia has served well in this respect by cultivating journalists and cohorts who dare not speak of the origin of Bakala's money. However, Economia's place on the market is now being challenged by František Savov's Mladá fronta, which owns E15 and Euro. By putting Bakala on the [cover of Euro](#) this week, Savov seems to be declaring war. Such a war will be good for readers, because if Bakala wants to fend off Savov, he'll have to make his fine publications all that much better.

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