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We are all bloodsuckers now



One week after Miloš Zeman spoke about godfather mafias that parasite on the body of Czech society and suck blood from it, ČSSD Shadow Finance Minister Jan Mládek said that self-employed people are parasiting on employed people by paying lower social taxes. If Mládek had qualified his words and said that *some* self-employed people are doing this, it would be hard to argue with him. For many high wage-earners - even some mini-godfathers - trade licenses are merely another tax-planning tool, just like offshore companies or licensing contracts with related entities. Putting restrictions on this tax-planning function is a legitimate political decision that would alienate only a limited number of voters. But lumping together small tradesmen who are barely scraping by with these opportunists devalues the concept of bloodsucker. Doormakers and translators aren't the godfather mafias Miloš Zeman had in mind.

Read this later today in [Czech](#)

**NEVER MIND
THE BALKANS**
HERE'S

CEZ Unplugged

CANDOLE published its ground breaking study ČEZ unplugged in February 2010. At that time, we dismissed the firm's foreign acquisitions as marginal, arguing that future value required an efficient execution of domestic CAPEX and an accountable management. Neither has been achieved in the intervening three years.