
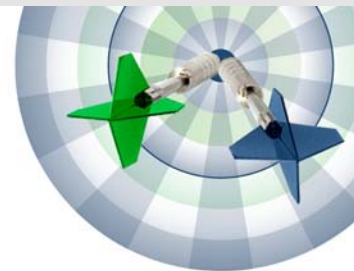


## Babiš and early elections

After the collapse yesterday of the old center-right coalition, the political parties are penning themselves into the same kind of corner with regard to early elections that they got themselves into with the law on a direct presidential ballot. Almost no party really wanted a popularly elected president, but they maneuvered around the issue for so long that they ended up with Miloš Zeman. Likewise, early elections would benefit almost no one. Bohuslav Sobotka of ČSSD would be the biggest loser, although his party as a whole would no doubt come to power sooner. Miroslav Kalousek would be stripped of his immunity and become easy prey for Zeman and his killer dogs, even if TOP 09 made inroads on the Right. SPOZ would likely make it into Parliament, as would perhaps KDU-ČSL, but the bigger winner would be ANO 2011. It is already creating buzz, with new recruits and a professional ad campaign. If Kalousek is currently the only politician who is at all a match for Zeman, early elections would hasten forth a second - Andrej Babiš.

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