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When chairmen betray their parties

Karolína Peake's swan song as chair of LIDEM was to betray her party's position on confirmation for the Rusnok cabinet, apparently because she had her own little side deal going. After Bohuslav Sobotka of ČSSD flipped in the opposite direction on the confirmation vote, some revisionists came up with the shallow explanation that he didn't actually betray his own stated mission of saving the party from Miloš Zeman, because he is now plotting to take the initiative away from Zeman with early elections. Acting Chair Martin Kuba of ODS also has something up his sleeve. He talks of wanting to return ODS to the position of a 30%+ conservative party that defends the interests of the Right, yet he also wants to throw in with Václav Klaus, who is helping Zeman to consolidate power in a Putin-like "power vertical." Alas, Czech politics is replete with parties that can't trust their own chairman to do what is best for the party.

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