
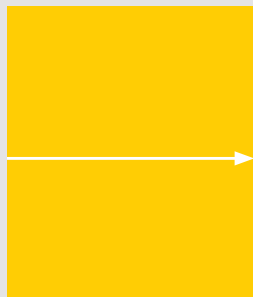


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Trojan horses at Nokia, CME and IPB

Some Finns are incensed that the handset part of their national treasure, Nokia, is being sold off to Microsoft. Part of the problem, in their view, is that CEO Stephen Elop arrived at Nokia from Microsoft and will now return to it. There had been speculation for years that he was a Trojan horse working for Microsoft, and the terms of this deal tended to confirm it for some of them. This will sound familiar to people who have been wondering for years why Adrian Sarbu was kept on as president of CME, given its huge losses during his tenure. Stories about how he was a plant for Time Warner were a dime a dozen in Prague. There was also the case of Milan Tománek, who left as ČSOB's press spokesman to join the CNB in late 1999, just as plans for taking over IPB were revving up. After the deal was done, Tománek returned to ČSOB. Czech business is no slouch either when it comes to Trojan-horse takeovers.

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