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Vodafone vs. PPF



Vodafone is fighting for its life in the CR, yet the man trying to keep the noose from tightening around its neck is an Indian, GM Balesh Sharma, who doesn't speak Czech and has never before worked in Central Europe. Foreign investors often have a dilemma: Appoint a foreigner who knows little about the local market, or risk hiring a Czech who knows perhaps too much about how things work and is more susceptible to doing a deal with the locals. The worst of both worlds is the foreigner who adapts to the bad side of the local culture, which is apparently what O2 ended up with. Even under the Spaniards, "Český Telecom" was able to persuade the regulator to see things its way and continued to have great success in selling ICT services to the government. Only when a stronger player, PPF, got involved did the tide start turning. But with PPF now in charge at O2, Sharma of Vodafone is talking in [HN today](#) about an effort to create a monopoly (not a duopoly, mind you, but a monopoly). Does Sharma really have a chance against Petr Kellner?

Read this later today in [Czech](#)



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FORECASTING

DINNER 2014

13 February 2014 at 17:30

Under the Auspices of Czech National
Bank Governor, Miroslav Singer

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Miroslav Singer

Governor, Czech National Bank

Anatole Kaletsky

Chairman, Institute for New Economic Thinking
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