

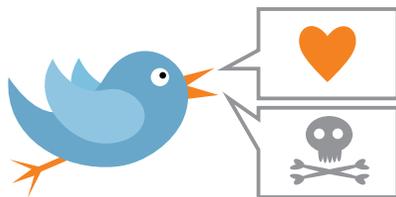
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Gender rigging



Something just isn't right about this ČSSD referendum, which was deemed a great success yesterday by ČSSD Chair Bohuslav Sobotka. Even if we overlook the question of whether gender rigging is desirable in a democracy, there is still the question of who will do the rigging. According to Referendum Question No. 1, party members will make the *final* decision about candidate lists by voting in primary elections. This sounds reasonable enough, but Question No. 2 states that at least 40% of the final candidates for regional and parliamentary elections *must* be women. Doesn't Sobotka realize that these are potentially mutually exclusive? The ČSSD members might vote for 75% men in the primaries, but the statutes allow only 60% of the final candidates to be men. How, in this case, will ČSSD avoid violating one of the referendum questions? Or is the plan to require some of the male candidates to undergo sex-change operations?

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