

Why Czechs need the Chinese

The next [China Investment Forum](#) is coming up soon in Prague, and Czech politicians, byznysmeni and hangers-on are already polishing their kowtows in preparation. Nervousness is mounting because of the situation in the world. Czech foreign policy is for sale to those who pay the highest bribes, and it's always good to have healthy competition driving the prices up, but the sanctions against Russia make China almost the only player currently on the field. The Westerners have nearly been soaked for all they're worth, and deals with Russia will have to be put on hold indefinitely. Take the Temelín enlargement, for example.

Just as a plan was being formulated for restarting the tender and spinning off the nuclear business into an even less transparent entity than ČEZ, along came MH17, putting everything in limbo. Those who were pushing so hard four weeks ago for a new Temelín tender have now gone silent. Rigging the contest to the advantage of the Russians just won't fly now. Hmm, maybe the Chinese would be interested in taking their place.

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