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## Measuring damage by the Babiš scale



As part of the debate on amending the Constitution, Andrej Babiš is pushing the idea of allowing or requiring a minister to give up his seat in Parliament for the time he or she is in the cabinet. Babiš said he needs this so that he can do his work as minister. In Babiš's case, it would also resolve the problem of his conflicts of interest as an MP, but what about his conflicts as a minister? His tentacles are spreading so wide as industrialist, media mogul, lumberjack, pharma king and biofuel baron that sometimes not even he knows when to report a conflict before a cabinet vote. With more people of his ilk entering politics, perhaps the Constitution should also provide for replacing *ministers* who attain a certain level of conflict. It could be called the Babiš scale, similar to the Richter scale. Any minister above 6 would only have to declare when he *doesn't* have a conflict of interest. Anyone at 7 would have to be replaced. Babiš is at about 7.4.

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