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Too big to jail

When a Czech court needs to condemn a president for an ugly comment, justice in a civil suit can flow like the Vltava, as witnessed yesterday by the ruling against Miloš Zeman in the "Hitler is a gentleman" case. When Czech law-enforcement agencies need to address criminal cases involving the nation's top sitting politicians, justice usually flows like molasses. It will probably take an investigation by the EU Commission's OLAF anti-fraud office to bring resolution in the Stork's Nest subsidy-fraud case. A just resolution to the OKD privatization involving Bohuslav Sobotka or the Agrotec case involving Andrej Babiš and Jaroslav Faltýnek will likely never come, partly because it could mean the collapse of the government. Just as "too big to fail" is a defining principle in international banking, "too big to jail" is increasingly the reality in the business of politics. One of the biggest public secrets is that justice wears political blinders.

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