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The Real Babiš



Thomas Friedman of the New York Times wrote that there are [five different Trump administrations](#). There's not a direct parallel with Andrej Babiš, partly because Babiš isn't the PM, but there is an Essential Babiš who, to borrow from Friedman, "values loyalty above all else and who thinks his followers are so stupidly loyal that they wouldn't convict him for a murder they saw him commit." Unlike with Trump, there is also a Contrite Babiš who, after assailing businesses with new rules, costs and penalties, speaks of the need for "compassion and common sense" in fining companies for minor invoice-matching violations, and promises to forgive the very fines he pushed so hard to impose. Then there is the Real Babiš, who follows up his remorseful display on TV with [14 pages of financial legalese](#) that explains, in excruciating detail, what exactly "compassion and common sense" in the forgiving of the penalties is. But Babiš loyalists don't read the fine print.

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