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Taxing the billionaires



A cartoon by Miroslav Kemel 11 years ago in MFD showed ČSSD Chair Jiří Paroubek at a campaign rally. "We have an easy recipe for creating a thousand millionaires," he said. "Out of one billionaire." A similar cartoon today would picture [Labor Min. Jana Maláčová of ČSSD](#) saying sarcastically, "The [cabinet agreed today](#) with representatives of the billionaires that raising taxes on their billions in income would slow down the economy. The interests of this endangered group must be protected. In a tough and uncompromising way." This gets to the very crux of the income-inequality issue. The time has never been so ripe for going after the oligarchs by imposing a tax on their assets, but who's going to do it? Billionaire PM Andrej Babiš is above 30% in the polls and is in bed with the Communists, with their 5-8%. Then there's Billionaire No. 1. No, Maláčová won't get her tax revolution anytime soon, but that doesn't mean she won't stir up some solid clash tension in the meanwhile.

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