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Why should Hladík go?



Ex-PM Mirek Topolánek got angry near the end of the [OVM debate on Czech TV in March](#) when MEP Marcel Kolaja of the Pirates called him a lobbyist for the fossil-fuel industry. Topolánek said that he considers this an insult, but he eventually acknowledged that he works for [Eustream natural-gas transmission company of Slovakia](#), which is controlled 49% by Daniel Křetínský's [EP Infrastructure](#). Topolánek's friend Miroslav Kalousek is an ex-finance minister with significant influence in politics who refuses to say publicly whether he too works for a Czech oligarch. He told [Czech Radio](#) yesterday (at 14:35) that if he were the PM or the party chief of Environment Min. Petr Hladík of KDU-ČSL, he would consider replacing him. Perhaps Kalousek merely considers Hladík to be incompetent, but there's also the possibility that he's bothered more by KDU's support for higher taxes on gaming/gambling. Some of the most effective lobbyists are those who go at things in a [roundabout way](#).

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