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Halfway to Moscow



PM Andrej Babiš and his delegation of politicians and businesspeople flew twice as far last week to get halfway to Moscow. A direct flight to the Russian capital would have been much shorter and much more to the point, but clearly politically unviable. The European Union is touting Central Asia, and especially [Azerbaijan](#) and [Kazakhstan](#), as key partners for its post-Russia energy security, despite [significant Russian influence](#) in the region. The risk of trying to depend on countries in the Russian (or perhaps Chinese) sphere of influence for energy is unabashedly overlooked, because the reality would spoil the EU's message of having sufficient options after falling out with Russia, Iran and increasingly the United States. The [Czech cabinet office](#) said that Babiš's trip "contributed to the search for new opportunities for cooperation in the energy sector, including the securing of stable, long-term supplies of strategic raw materials." It wasn't long ago that energy supplies from Russia were also considered stable.

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