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Baxa sticks his neck out for Pavel

Unlike Pres. Petr Pavel, who lends his name to dozens of events each year and has a [dedicated website](#) for taking applications, Chief Justice Josef Baxa of the Constitutional Court doesn't risk becoming tied to any event that might compromise his impartiality. Until now. In his [preliminary injunction](#) on [Wed.](#), Baxa essentially vouched for Pavel's behavior at the Nato summit. Baxa stated that allowing Pavel to go under such provisional terms wouldn't constitute an excessive infringement upon the government's constitutional status as the supreme body of the executive branch. This would indeed be true if Pavel kept to his vow to abide by the mandate he is given, but he has repeatedly used international opportunities to admonish the coalition. He told [Christiane Amanpour of CNN](#), for example, that he has lots of debates with the Babiš government about behaving more responsibly on defense. Such a comment in Ankara could come back to haunt Baxa and his Court. But Pavel is clever. He'll probably behave well in Turkey and then wait until after the Court makes its final ruling in his favor to tell the world what he really thinks of the Babiš government.

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