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Czech president and German interests



The Castle, Constitutional Court and opposition parties saw yesterday what happens when a "weak" prime minister is backed into a corner. Andrej Babiš, sometimes referred to by the opposition as "Slabiš" (Weak Babiš), pounced at Pres. Petr Pavel and Josef Baxa's Court for the [preliminary injunction](#) requiring him to allow Pavel to attend the Nato summit. Babiš will [comply](#), but in minimalist or perhaps even malicious mode. He'll provide Pavel with a government airplane and let him roam the halls in Ankara but won't give him any substantive role. Babiš based this mainly on his government's opposition to a proposal from Germany for €70bn in annual funding for Ukraine. As in the past, Babiš said, Pavel's position on this could be different. It's the [second time](#) in recent days that Babiš has highlighted the difference in policy of Germany and his own government. The undertone, not yet fully uttered, is that Pavel's presence in Ankara might better serve Friedrich Merz's interests than those of the Czech people.

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