

Fiala weakens the EU veto



PM Petr Fiala spoke repeatedly about wanting an EU consensus on energy policy but then [threatened last week to outvote Germany](#) if it didn't agree to impose a cap on the price of natural gas. A cap was agreed on Sun. after Berlin came on board, and the final result was presented as a major victory, although three countries were ultimately outvoted (Austria and the Netherlands abstained, Hungary voted No). EU Affairs Min. Mikuláš Bek went into the Czech EU presidency with the stated goal of [changing the EU voting system](#). He was prepared to give up the veto power of small countries in some key areas as a way to push through faster EU enlargement. No formal change was made in this respect, but the symbolism of a Czech EU presidency that was "[extraordinarily successful at working out compromises](#)" (in Bek's words) is significant. One of the countries that most valued the [interests of the individual member states](#) is now a leader in suppressing them for the greater good.

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