



The Czech Republic Review

Background of Czech Politics

Volume 1, Number 2, October/November 2012

Czech Republic – October/November 2012

The most important event in Czech politics seems to be dealing with the inner conflict in the ODS (Civic Democratic Party) and its influence on the stability of the governing coalition.

Inner conflict of the Civic Democratic Party

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The Civic Democrats were successful in discrediting themselves on the state and regional level even before the regional elections. The replacement of Petr Nečas as prime minister had been at stake for a while, with the possible demission of the cabinet. Nevertheless, the situation was stabilized and these tendencies were reversed. The split in the Civic Democratic

Party had been the main initiator of this chaos, which had an understandable impact on the coalition government stability as a whole. Some groups within the Civic Democrats have been universally dissatisfied with their leader. However, it has become evident that it is only Petr Nečas who can really be the leader of this political party. Also, the groups of these dissatisfied members had realised this fact, due to the fact that none of them wanted to take up the reins after their unpopular leader. And because there was no one to become the leader of these rebellions, the destiny of this group was its failure. The rebellion group had chosen Ivan Fuksa as an opponent of Nečas just because of the necessity of the group, but the only one with the strong support and assistance to gain the post of leader was Martin Kuba. But no one, not even him, wanted to begin his career as the leader of the Civic Democrats with the label of rebel

and lose the parliamentary elections afterwards.

The ministers from the Civic Democratic Party had realized the replacement of Nečas would endanger their posts, the coalition would fall apart and they would be the ones suffering the most, altogether with their hidden allies. President Václav Klaus had been the first to realize that their efforts to replace Nečas would inevitably fail and he was also the first to hide all the evidence about his role as a co-architect in this inner-party crisis.

According to the results of the congress, it is possible to state that the real winner of the congress is Minister, and also the vice-chairman of the Civic Democrats, Martin Kuba. Kuba received more votes than Nečas did, however the result wasn't so overwhelming (Nečas absolutely dominated at the last congress, this time he was glad to "survive"). The loyalty of his men isn't something Nečas can count on in the future, while the competent and workable politicians such as Kuba will gain a lot of experience with the central administration of the party. The leadership of the Civic Democrats behaved instinctively and they expelled the majority of discredited names (Tluchoř etc.) from the executive council of the party (with the key decision-making competence), so the party strengthened noticeably.

Only those politicians without any scandals remain in the party executive council. The core of the rebels has been

defeated and the others, also well known as the observers of the interest groups, were on time to defect to the side of Nečas. Civic Democrats are now in the period of unprecedented stability (even in their parliamentarian club). There are also some growing signals that the golden age of these "godfathers" is slowly declining and some of them are already losing their influence.

Agreement within the coalition

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This new era of Civic Democrats inner stability impressed the representatives of the coalition and the coalition was able to agree on key laws, including the church restitution (despite the previous objection of the Liberal Democrats – LIDEM). The government's parliament majority has been getting thinner during the year from the previous number of 118 MPs and there was a possibility for the opposition to override the coalition. The inner strength and viability was validated after the Civic Democrats congress and the coalition and the parliamentary majority is now stabilized somewhere between 102 – 104 MPs due to some coalition MPs with a strong influence on other parliamentarians. So the possibility that the next elections will be held on the regular date in 2014 has risen and the coalition stabilized its position, after being affected by bad results in regional elections. The next few weeks and months should be relatively stable. This stability may be endangered mainly by the effective activi-

ty of the state's attorney and the likelihood of the outbreak of new scandals and prosecutions, which may potentially affect anyone from the MPs or the ministers of the coalition.