

Abstract

The paper compares the relationship between Andrej Babiš and Emmanuel Macron. In the first part it compares their entry into the political arena using the Genetic Model by Angelo Panebianco. Both politicians, Babiš and Macron, tried to present their political movements as emerging from the bottom up, but in reality, it was a process of diffusion from the leadership to the periphery. Babiš's *ANO* is financed directly by himself and his business concern, which legitimises it internally, while Macron's *En Marche!* relies on donors, which legitimises it externally. Both politicians displayed a situational charisma when they entered the political arena which played a key role in the growth of their political movements. Using Klaus von Beyme's Theory of the Party Family, I compare the ideologies of the two politicians, who share certain liberal elements, especially on economic issues. Both politicians advocate running the state like a business, rejecting the labels of right or left and preferring professional solutions to political ones. They reject political labels and refuse to align themselves with one ideological spectrum. We thus identify elements of technocracy and populism. While Macron's position remains consistent, Babiš is changing his position. The biggest differences, however, can be found in their attitudes towards the European Union as members of the *Renew Europe* faction. While Babiš shows ambivalence in his positions on European integration and key policies, Macron is a firm supporter of deeper European integration and a common European policy. These differences reveal a strong disagreement and incompatibility between their European positions.