

Brussels, 13/07/2010
C/2010/4795

Dear President,

The Commission thanks the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic for expressing its opinion on the Commission Communication "Europe 2020" {COM(2010)2020}, for supporting its priorities and for its positive assessment of a large number of the proposed measures. The Commission considers that the national Parliaments play a particularly important role in shaping the national responses to the "Europe 2020" strategy, fostering implementation and promoting its ownership by all stakeholders. These are key conditions for success.

Concerning the more critical views expressed in the resolution, the Commission would like to make the following comments.

As regards the negative stance of the Czech Senate on the predominantly microeconomic nature of the strategy, the Commission is convinced that both aspects of economic policy play an equally important role. Microeconomic reforms are essential to underpin structural changes in the EU economy that will make it more productive and increase its competitiveness in the global economy. At the same time, the Commission agrees that a stable macroeconomic framework is a pre-requisite for the smooth conduct of economic activity and the realisation of productive investments. That is why section 4.3 of the Communication recalls the critical role of sound public finances for restoring the conditions for sustainable growth and jobs and calls for the introduction of "medium- to longer-term reforms that promote the sustainability of public finances and enhance potential growth". In addition, in section 4.4 the Commission has outlined its ideas for a deeper and broader economic surveillance and pointed to the importance in particular for euro area countries to address macro-economic imbalances and competitiveness developments. These proposals have been further detailed in the Commission Communication "Reinforcing economic policy coordination" of 12 May.

As regards the formulation of the poverty reduction target, while insisting on the importance of reducing poverty in the EU, the Commission is well aware of the diversity of Member States situations and agrees that it calls for a flexible approach. The Commission also agrees with the important role of job creation for poverty reduction. It would, however, like to point out that the presence in the EU of a large number of

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children, elderly people as well as employees living below the poverty threshold demonstrates that providing further job opportunities cannot be the only solution.

Finally, the Senate believes that the strategy insufficiently addresses the importance of nuclear energy as a significant source of clean energy. In this context, the Commission recognises that nuclear energy is an important low emission energy source for a number of Member States, but would like to recall that it is up to each Member State to decide whether it wants to use it or not.

I hope that these clarifications satisfactorily address the concerns expressed in your submission.

Yours sincerely,