



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear Mr Sobotka,

The European Commission would like to thank the Czech Senate for its opinion on the Commission proposal COM (2009) 338 for a Council Framework Decision on the right to interpretation and to translation in criminal proceedings and has taken note of the position adopted by the Committee on EU Affairs of the Czech Senate.

The Commission welcomes the broad support for the Commission's proposal expressed in the Senate's resolution. It also wishes to reassure the Committee on EU Affairs that the Framework Decision will be fully in conformity with the rules of the European Convention on Human Rights, also with regard to the States' obligation to assume costs deriving from interpretation and translation. This issue is under further examination at the Council, in order to take account of Member States' concern about public expenditure.

The Commission shares the Committee's view that ambiguous wording should be avoided as much as possible, so as to avert difficulties at the stage of implementation of the legislation at national level.

As concerns the Committee's remark on the provisions of the proposal providing for a right of appeal, the Commission wishes to clarify that this provision does not require the introduction of new cumbersome procedural requirements, and may be satisfied by a sufficiently broad general right of appeal already existing in domestic legislation.

I am looking forward to further developing our policy dialogue,

Yours sincerely,

Margot WALLSTRÖM
Vice-President of the European Commission

Mr. Přemysl Sobotka
President of the Senate
of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

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