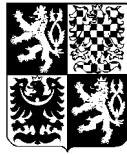


THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

SENATE



7th term

411th RESOLUTION

OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 15th session held on 18 March 2010

on Green Paper on European Citizens' Initiative

(Senate Press no. K 090/07)

The Senate

I.

Welcomes

release of the Green Paper on a European Citizens' Initiative before the submission of the proposal for an implementing regulation;

II.

1. Points out

to the tradition of dominance of elements of representative democracy in the political system of the Czech Republic in which directness of responsibility for political decisions is the undeniable and desirable attribute;

2. Believes

- that the organization of the citizens' initiative is related to a number of risks which should be anticipated by the proposal for an implementing regulation;
- that these risks include likelihood of abuse of the citizens' initiative by radical movements and extremist political groups with the aim of promotion of principles suppressing fundamental human rights and freedoms;
- that the organization of the citizens' initiative within as vast geographical area as the European Union is at the moment will require considerable financial and human resources;
- that for the sake of need to overcome the geographical distance the instruments of electronic communication will become significant for the organization of the citizens' initiative;

3. Emphasizes

with regard to the above mentioned risks and requirements for the organisation of the campaign:

- the significance of the control of admissibility of the citizens' initiative even before the registration of the initiative and before commencement of the collection of signatures;
- the need to exclude submission of the initiative in areas such as financial affairs, institutional questions, individual matters and Common Foreign and Security Policy;
- the importance of protection of personal data including personal email accounts against abuse;

4. Is of the opinion

- that with regard to the representativeness of a Union interest the minimum number of member states, from which citizens supporting the initiative must come, should not in any case be lower than one third of all member states;
- that with regard to the prevailing political tradition of the member states the minimum number of signatures per member state should not be lower than 1 % of inhabitants of the member state;
- that the minimum age of citizens' initiative supporters should be in accordance with conditions of individual member states for participation in elections into the European Parliament;
- that there should be a time limit for the collection of signatures which should start after the Commission executes the control of the admissibility of the initiative and after the initiative is properly registered;
- that the time limit for the collection of signatures should not be for the reason of feasibility shorter than one year and for the reason of keeping up-to-date longer than 18 months;
- that the verification and authentication of signatures should be carried out according to the relevant legislation of individual member states;
- that there should be a time limit for submission of the Commission's decision related to the proposal ensuing from the citizens' initiative which should not be longer than six months since terminating the collection of signatures;
- that the Commission's decision related to the citizens' initiative should include precise time schedule for following steps, or, eventually, sufficient reason in case of refusal of the initiative;
- that there should not be any restriction as to submitting initiatives on the same issue;
- that for reason of preservation of citizen-driven nature of initiatives the campaigns should not be subsidised from public resources;
- that in order to enhance transparency of financing of citizens' initiative there should be an integration of data in the Register of interest representatives with data registered on the specific internet website established for the purpose of registration of citizens' initiatives;

III.

1. Invites the Government of the CR

- to inform the Senate about the response to the Green Paper it will, after taking into account of the Senate's view, forward to the European Commission;

- to take the Senate's view into account also in the course of the subsequent negotiation about the proposal for an implementing regulation;

2. Authorizes

the President of the Senate to forward this Resolution to the European Commission.

Přemysl Sobotka
sign manual
President of the Senate

Václav Koukal
sign manual
Senate Verifier