THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC SENATE



7th term

596th RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 24th session held on 3 November 2010

on Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the Use of Security Scanners at EU airports

(Senate Press no. K 119/07)

The Senate

I.

1. Notes with approval

the opening of the discussion on security scanners which should embrace issues such as the protection of personal data, human rights, health and security of civil aviation;

2. Supports

further evolution of the discussion within the expert academic and scientific sphere and among the public at large;

II.

1. Demands

that the Commission before a possible submission of a draft legislative proposal:

- wait until the results of the operation trials of security scanners at European airports are compiled and evaluated;
- convene an impartial interdisciplinary panel of experts assembling radiologists, oncologists, biophysicists and other relevant experts to examine all potential impacts of various scanners' technologies on human health, in particular from the long-term perspective;
- consider the effectiveness of the use of security scanners taking into account the extent of the invasion of passengers' privacy;

2. Points

to methodological limits of comparing radiation doses emitted from the X-ray backscatter scanners and cosmic radiation, for the irradiation from scanners is deposited mainly in the

skin and adjacent tissues and thus, it is not distributed throughout the entire body as in the case of naturally existing radiation;

3. Emphasises

the basic principle of the radiation protection policy in the Czech Republic which stems from the assumption that there is no radiation dose innocuous to health, for any radiation dose can lead to stochastic effects including carcinogenesis and genetic mutation; this premise is the basis of the Czech national law which precludes intentional exposure of persons to ionising radiation other than for medical purposes;

4. Draws attention

to risks of high reliance on technological solutions with mass coverage, use of which might be counterproductive, creating an illusion of security and decreasing vigilance levels of those responsible, weakening their intuition and so giving the opportunity to individuals and organised groups to overcome such technological obstacles;

5. Supports

the development and sharing of information on technologies using psychological knowledge of individuals, for instance profiling;

6. Expresses concerns

about overall costs related to the installation of security scanners, especially for medium and small international airports because these costs will be passed on passengers through increasing of airport (security) charges;

7. Deems it

necessary to keep alternative methods of security controls for vulnerable groups of inhabitants (pregnant women, children, disabled people etc.) whereas recalls the risk of abuse of such groups;

III.

1. Requests the Government of the Czech Republic

to inform the Senate about the way it took the Senate's view into account and about follow-up initiatives;

2. Authorizes

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

Přemysl Sobotka sign manual President of the Senate

> Jana Juřenčáková sign manual Senate Verifier