



**THE SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
8TH TERM**

153rd

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 6th session held on 16 March 2011

on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank Conclusions of the fifth report on economic, social and territorial cohesion: the future of cohesion policy (Senate Press no. K 016/08)

The Senate

I.

Takes note

of the Conclusions of the fifth report on economic, social and territorial cohesion;

II.

1. Considers

the creation of a new strategic planning approach based on a common strategic framework and development and investment partnership contracts in the context of fulfilling the targets of EU2020 to be a necessary step, but at the same time points out that if the cohesion policy is to be effective, the goals of the cohesion policy must respect the needs of Member States and their regions;

2. Is convinced

that it is an indispensable role of the future cohesion policy to support harmonic development of the Union by means of supporting less developed regions and Member States, and, in so doing, it is necessary to focus on its integrating nature that contributes to the comprehensive development of the given region and, therefore, the Senate warns in this context against separating specific areas (such as traffic, environment, education) out of the cohesion policy framework;

3. Believes

that the future cohesion policy must remain open to all EU regions, with the level of support for the given region being graduated according to the attained level of economic development;

4. Deems

that applying the place-based approach through regional investment strategies represents an essential measure to ensure fulfilling the goals of the cohesion policy effectively;

5. Is of the opinion

that the current goal of „Convergence“ must remain central in the cohesion policy of tomorrow;

6. Supports

the principle of thematic concentration, i.e. reduction to a smaller number of clearly defined goals designed to address the needs of the region in focus, combining the use of both European and national funds;

7. Emphasizes

that the conditionality of cohesion funds in relation to meeting fiscal or macroeconomic rules can only be applied if all other expenditures of the EU budget are also subject to this conditionality;

8. Expresses its support

to the preservation of the current eligibility threshold for using structural funds and the Cohesion Fund at 75 % of the average GDP of the Union, respectively at 90 % of the average GNI of the Union;

9. Takes a positive stand

on creating a new category of transition regions, i.e. regions that slightly exceed the threshold for less developed, converging regions, for which a simple and transparent regime should be put in place that would gradually phase down the previously available funds from the “Convergence” envelope;

III.

1. Invites

the Government to devote attention, when preparing operational programmes for the following multiannual financial framework, to creating an implementing system that would be clear, transparent and effective, and that would substantially reduce the administrative burden of applicants, beneficiaries and providers of cohesion funds;

2. Requests

the Government to inform the Senate about the way this position was taken into account and about further proceedings of the negotiations;

3. Authorises

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

Milan Štěch
sign manual
President of the Senate

Josef Táborský
sign manual
Senate Verifier