



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

209TH

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 8th session held on 4 May 2011

**on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – The CAP towards 2020: Meeting the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future
(Senate Press no. K 018/08)**

The Senate

I.

Considers

it fundamental, in agreement with the Commission, that the Common Agricultural Policy contributes to viable food production, supports sustainable management of natural resources and climate action, as well as aims for a balanced territorial development;

II.

1. Assesses positively

the significance of agriculture in providing public goods (such as maintenance of rural landscapes, biodiversity, water quality and availability, sustainable land management, greater resilience of landscape to natural disasters, air quality and rural vitality) to the EU citizens;

2. Is of the opinion,

that the future CAP should focus on enhancing real competitiveness of the European agriculture, i.e. increasing productivity of all factors of production through innovation and technological progress, taking into account sustainability of land use and impacts of agricultural activity on the environment;

3. Regards

targeted support of projects aimed at a balanced territorial development and climate protection and landscape maintenance on the basis of specific needs of individual regions (including less favourable areas for agriculture) as an appropriate supplement to the Common Agricultural Policy;

4. Is of the opinion,

sharing the position of the Committee on EU Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic and the Committee on National Economy, Agriculture and Transport of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, that

- the reformed CAP after 2013 should remain a strong common policy structured around two pillars that will ensure equitable treatment among farmers within the whole EU, including equitable and fair allocation of direct payments among Member States;
- the tendencies towards co-financing of the first pillar of the CAP at the national level cannot be supported;
- capping direct payments on the basis of farms' size is unacceptable;

5. Identifies,

to a decisive extent, with the position of the Agricultural Association of the Czech Republic, and, above all,

- agrees that farmers shall remain entitled to subsidies from the first pillar, subsidies shall not be co-financed from national resources and shall be targeted at active farmers;
- rejects a transition period after 2013 for the implementation of an equitable system of direct payments allocation among Member States on the basis of objective criteria;
- disagrees with setting base rates by regions; a single rate for farmland should be applied within the EU;
- supports keeping the current size of the EU budget for the CAP, with 80 % going to the first pillar and 20 % to the second one, and recommends allocating 80 % of the first pillar to subsidies for active farmers and 20 % to "greening";

6. Supports

reducing administrative burden of the future CAP, especially with regard to limited capacities of small farmers;

III.

1. Requests

the Government to inform the Senate about the way this position was taken into account and about further negotiations regarding the Common Agricultural Policy after 2013;

2. Authorises

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

Milan Štěch
sign manual
President of the Senate

Soňa Paukrtová
sign manual
Senate Verifier