



THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC SENATE

8th TERM

159th

Resolution of the Senate

delivered on the 6th meeting held on 17th March 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 – An Agenda for new skills and jobs: A European contribution towards full employment
(Senate Press no. K 020/08)**

The Senate

- I.**
- 1. Considers**
the Communication from the Commission An Agenda for new skills and jobs to be a continuation of the discussion on the strategy Europe 2020 and follows therefore its Resolution No. 465 from the 22nd April 2010 on this strategy in which the Senate, among other, positively assessed the flagship initiatives and measures that contribute to higher competitiveness of the economies of the Member States, reduction in transaction costs of business activities within the EU and, in general, to the creation of better business environment, strengthening and improving of the system of higher education and the modernization and higher flexibility of labour markets;
 - 2. Reminds**
that the adoption of various measures in the area of social security which are discussed in the Communication from the Commission An Agenda for new skills and jobs falls according to Article 153 Paragraph 4 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU under the competence of national legislators, and in this regard, points to Resolution of the Senate No. 590 of 3rd November 2010 adopted on the Green Paper towards adequate, sustainable and safe European pension systems;
 - 3. Draws attention to**
the pitfalls related to the Open Method of Coordination which is used in the area of economic, labour and social policy and refers to Resolution of the Senate No. 43 of 11th December 2008 on the Communication A renewed commitment to social Europe: Reinforcing the Open Method of Coordination for Social Protection and Social Inclusion;
- II.**
- 1. Supports**

job creation by means of reduction of administrative and legislative obstacles in labour policy and by creation of new business and self-employment, furthermore by means of decreasing non-wage labour costs and support for the transition from informal or undeclared work to regular employment;

2. Is of the opinion

that improvement of the quality of labour conditions should also be accompanied by improvement of labour efficiency;

3. Deems nevertheless important

to develop targeted approach towards specific groups, mainly to unqualified workers, people with disabilities, older people and parents taking care of a child and returning to the labour market;

4. Stresses

that in the area of education the Union supports, in accordance with the Article 165 Paragraph 1, the cooperation between Member States, or supports Member States' action, while the determination and achievement of national objectives regarding the quota of university graduates remain, in accordance with the competence framework set by the Lisbon Treaty, subject of independent decisions by the Member States;

5. Is convinced

that better linking of education system and the labour market helps the diversification of tertiary education which will lead to separation of programmes and institutions preparing students for highly qualified professions and institutions oriented towards research and classical education;

6. Express its concerns

that excessive preoccupation of tertiary education with current market needs may lead to the decline of classical university education which is primarily oriented towards knowledge;

7. Is of the opinion

- that it is not feasible to anticipate the development of demand for specific professions for the whole productive age of an individual, i.e. in the following 45-50 years;
- that too narrow specialisation is limiting for an individual as well as for the society in the long term and risky with respect to the dynamic development of markets;
- that the main output of tertiary education should be highly developed ability to think critically;

III.

1. Invites the Government

to inform the Senate about the way this position was taken into account and about follow-up initiatives;

2. Authorizes

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

Milan Štěch
sign manual
President of the Senate

Jaromír Štětina
sign manual
Senate Verifier