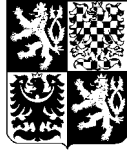


THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
SENATE



7th term

465th RESOLUTION

OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 18th session held on 22 April 2010

on the Communication from the Commission Europe 2020 – A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth /Senate Press no. K 097/07/

The Senate

I.

1. **Got acquainted**
with the Communication from the Commission Europe 2020 – A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth;
2. **Expresses its support**
to the general setting of the priorities in the new strategy, the concentration of its goals into a smaller number and their measurable nature, as well as to the focus on strengthening of economic growth and enhancing the employment;
3. **Is of the opinion**
that the strategy correctly identifies the main structural and global challenges such as a rapid build-up of public debt, insufficient labour market flexibility, problems arising from the demographic change, the fundamental shift in the global economy and the relatively low productivity growth in the EU;
4. **However, voices its concern**
that the above mentioned challenges are not reflected in the strategy in a sufficient manner;
5. **Regards**
the strategy as a predominantly microeconomic programme whereas the macroeconomic issues, the tackling of which is essential for the successful outcome of the strategy, are markedly less elaborated on;

II.

1. **Takes note**

of the individual headline targets of the Strategy Europe 2020 but it does not consider the goal of reducing poverty suitably formulated as it is convinced that poverty reduction is best achieved through fostering favourable conditions for job creation together with corresponding work-related motivation measures;

2. **C o n s i d e r s i t n e c e s s a r y**

to respect the starting conditions of the individual Member States when setting concrete national targets;

3. **A s s e s s e s p o s i t i v e l y**

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;
- ensuring technological progress through investment into research and development;
- setting up a single European Research Area that would ensure the so called 5th freedom in the EU, i.e. the free movement of knowledge and information within the single market;
- strengthening and improving of the system of higher education while recalling its Resolution No. 372 of 10th December 2009 on the Green Paper - Promoting the learning mobility of young people, in which it supports the goals of qualitative nature rather than the quantitative ones;
- creating favourable framework conditions for innovation, e.g. through introducing a single European patent and better protection of intellectual property rights;
- the full and effective use of modern information and communication technologies within the single market;
- the modernization and higher flexibility of labour markets;
- building of smart and interconnected energy networks;

4. **B e l i e v e s , h o w e v e r ,**

that the strategy insufficiently addresses the importance of nuclear energy as a significant source of clean energy, the importance of which was pointed out by the Senate in its Resolution No. 120 of 26th March 2009 on the Communication of the Commission on the Second Strategic Energy Review;

5. **I s o f t h e o p i n i o n**

that the efforts to re-launch the single market should be primarily based on removing barriers to its effective functioning and facilitating cross-border business activities;

6. **F u l l y s u p p o r t s**

the idea of ongoing liberalization of the international trade as an important factor for boosting effectiveness of the EU economies;

7. **R e g a r d s a s c r u c i a l**

to maintain the thorough adherence to the Stability and Growth Pact as the basic mechanism of fiscal cooperation in the EU in the future, including the application of measures to its enforcement;

III.

1. **S u p p o r t s**

the position of the government, in particular as regards the fact that the future of the EU budget and the final result of the reform of the financial system should not be anticipated in the Europe 2020 strategy;

2. **E x p r e s s e s i t s s u p p o r t**

to the government when carrying out the fiscal consolidation plan contained in the current Convergence Programme with a view to bring the state budget deficit under 3 % of GDP by 2013;

3. **I n v i t e s t h e g o v e r n m e n t**

- to submit to the Senate a plan of reaching the goal of 3 % of GDP allocated to research and development including the time line of individual steps to be taken in order to double the means spent on research and development in the Czech Republic within 10 years;
- to announce the steps that are to be taken, in accordance with the new strategy, in order to double the number of enrolled students and graduates of universities without lowering the quality of higher education;

4. **R e q u e s t s**

the government to inform the Senate about the way this position was taken into account and to provide the Senate with information on further proceeding of negotiations;

5. **A u t h o r i s e s**

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

Přemysl Sobotka
sign manual
President of the Senate

Jaromír Štětina
sign manual
Senate Verifier