



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

355TH

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 12th session held on 12 October 2011

on the new multiannual financial framework 2014-2020

(Senate Press no. N 073/08, K 075/08, N 076/08)

The Senate

I.

1. Reminds

that it already dealt with the issue of the next multiannual financial framework when scrutinizing the Communication from the Commission *The EU Budget Review* and passed Resolution No. 187 on 27 April 2011; it also recalls its resolutions concerned with the future of individual EU policies, namely Resolution No. 209 from 4 May 2011 on the Communication from the Commission *The CAP towards 2020: meeting the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future*, and Resolution No. 153 from 16 March 2011 on the Communication from the Commission *Conclusions of the fifth report on economic, social and territorial cohesion: the future of cohesion policy*;

2. Views

this Resolution as its contribution to a broader debate on the future multiannual financial framework that will extend beyond the current Polish presidency further into the presidencies of Denmark and Cyprus, and emphasizes that it regards the involvement of National Parliaments in this debate and respect to their positions as crucial;

II.

1. Agrees

with the total volume of proposed funds for the multiannual financial framework 2014-2020 amounting to 1 % of GNI in appropriations for payments;

2. Takes a positive stand

on the proposal for the seven-year period for the upcoming multiannual financial framework that provides a sufficiently stable and predictable environment for the implementation of individual EU policies;

3. Supports

the creation of a new common strategic framework for research and development called Horizon 2020 and the increase in funds allocated to research, development and innovation;

4. Welcomes

the ongoing support to education and mobility programmes as well as the intention to set up a single integrated programme and simplify current procedures in order to make effective use of the allocated resources;

5. Is of the opinion

that the cohesion policy must remain an important EU policy that fully reflects the determination of Member States to support the economic, social and territorial cohesion and solidarity between more developed regions and less well-off regions;

6. Is not quite convinced

of the need to create a new special category of the so-called transition regions even though it agrees that regions which pass the threshold level for support under the Convergence objective should have access to a special phasing-out system of support that would prevent potential economic shocks stemming from the termination of development project funding under the Convergence objective;

7. Does not support

the proposal for the creation of a performance-based reserve amounting to 5 % of the funds allocated to the cohesion policy that would be rewarded to best-performing countries in terms of meeting the goals set in their respective national reform programmes linked to the EU 2020; such a system of motivation may, in the end, lead to opposite results in the form of setting unambitious national goals in order to attain the funds from the performance reserve;

8. Believes

that linking the cohesion policy with goals in areas outside the cohesion policy, e.g. education or social affairs, which are areas exclusively falling within the competence of Member States, would be in breach of the principle of subsidiarity; the issue of conditioning the cohesion policy by goals in the field of macroeconomic stability is also problematic with regard to different needs of countries forming the monetary union and countries that do not participate in it;

9. Takes a reserved stand

on setting up a new Connecting Europe Facility because it is of the opinion that decision-making on key cross-border infrastructure projects should stay at Member States level and the EU should only play a coordinating role;

10. Emphasizes

that a new Common Agricultural Policy must be based on the principle of support of active farmers, i.e. farmers that actively pursue agricultural production and, in so doing, contribute to food self-sufficiency, create jobs, increase employment in the country and support sustainable development of rural areas;

11. Supports

the simplification of the system of EU budget's revenues by means of abolishing corrective mechanisms and rebates as well as by replacing the

resource based on VAT with the resource based on gross national income of Member States;

III.

1. Requests

the Government to inform the Senate about the way this position was taken into account and about further initiatives following these proposals;

2. Authorises

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

Milan Štěch v. r.
sign manual
President of the Senate

Stanislav Juránek v. r.
sign manual
Senate Verifier