



**THE SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

8TH TERM

548TH

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 19th session held on 14th March 2012

on the new shape of Common Agricultural Policy after 2013 /senate press no. N 97/08, N 98/08, N 99/08, N 100/08 a N 101/08/

The Senate

I.

Regards

the proposed reform as a good contribution to the discussion about the final form of the common agricultural policy after 2013, notwithstanding the fact that the Commission insufficiently took into consideration the comments of the Member States expressed on the Communication on the CAP towards 2020 when drafting the proposals;

II.

1. Is of the opinion

that even after 2013 the area payment scheme should be utilized as the easier, more transparent and less demanding scheme than the one based on payment entitlements;

2. Opposes

the capping of direct payments even if it is allowed to take into account the comprehensive wage costs; in case that the capping is preserved, the Senate recommends to increase the ceiling per farm by 100 000 EUR in comparison with the current proposal, i.e. the interval from 250 000 EUR to 400 000 EUR; any capping should always apply to individual farms regardless of any potential interconnectedness of assets between farms;

3. Regards

the possibility of transferring financial means between pillars of the CAP on the basis of a Member State's decision as a more effective instrument than the proposed capping of the direct payments;

4. Supports

- the idea of definition of an active farmer, however, considers defining active farmer by proportion of direct payments to total receipts from non-agricultural activities to be complicated, particularly from the perspective of feasibility of control;
- the provision of payments for areas with natural constraints only to active farmers, and fully funding them from the European agriculture fund for rural development;

5. Takes a critical stand on greening for following reasons:

- This measure imposes additional requirements in the area of environmental protection on European farmers, and thus decreases their competitiveness, especially in comparison with farmers from third countries;
- The Senate regards the imposition of absolutely equal requirements on all European farmers as disproportionate;
- The Senate finds the proposed compulsory agricultural practices in greening – to cultivate at least 3 different crops on arable land and to have at least 7 % of farmland as ecological focus area – to be unfeasible for many farms, e.g. farms which are oriented on cultivation of permanent crops (orchard, vineyards, hop-field) or cultivation of vegetables;

6. Considers it necessary

- to remove unfair and exploiting practices across the food chain;
- to protect farmers against imports from third countries with provably lower standards in the area of environmental protection, e.g. in the form of ecological taxation of such imports;

7. Assesses positively

- the measures to support rural development which emphasize the role of innovation, technological development, cooperation and elimination of bureaucracy;
- the abandonment of the concept of axes with opportunity to choose priorities and measures according to the needs of a Member State, which will lead to greater efficiency of the rural development programme;

III.

1. Requests

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

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