



THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

SENATE

8th TERM

742nd RESOLUTION

delivered on the 26th meeting held on 24th October 2012

on the Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council – Annual Report on Research and Technological Development Activities of the European Union in 2011 /Senate Press no. K 170/08/

The Senate

I.

1. **Perceives**

the crucial importance of science and research for competitiveness of the European Union;

2. **Supports**

in accordance with the long-term position of the Senate, as stated for example in the Resolution No. 162 of 17th March 2011 on the Communication of the Commission on the Innovation Union, in general, the EU plans in the field of science and research, especially the focus on an increase of investments, the completion of the European Research Area and the removal of barriers to mobility of scientists and ideas;

3. **Reminds**

that in accordance with the long-term position of the Senate, as stated for example in the Resolution No. 370 of 10th December 2009 on the Communication of the Commission about the progress achieved as part of the seventh framework programme for research, it is necessary to develop the fundamental and the applied research in such a mutual proportion that a successful commercialisation of research outputs in short-term and medium-term horizon would be enabled and, simultaneously, that the development of scientific excellence would not be jeopardized;

4. **Agrees**

in accordance with the long-term position of the Senate, as stated for example in the Resolutions No. 638 and No. 640 of 12th June 2012 on the Horizon 2020 package, with the proposed programme structure which reflects social needs and challenges of all the Member States of the European Union;

II.

1. **Appreciates**

the progress the European Union has achieved in the frame of its scientific activities in 2011, particularly in developing the partnership between the research and industrial sector and in the field of development of the European Research Area;

2. **Welcomes**

the significant increase of the budget of the strategy for science and research Horizon 2020 as a confirmation of the commitment of the EU to become a highly competitive knowledge-based economy;

3. Points out

in accordance with the long-term position of the Senate, as stated for example in the Resolutions No. 638 and No. 640 of 12th June 2012 on the Horizon 2020 package to the acute need to improve the involvement of Czech subjects in scientific activities of the European Union, which is an indispensable requirement for the formation and development of excellent science in the Czech Republic;

4. Perceives

the long-term insufficient absorptive capacity of the Czech research institutions, which endangers both the current and the future competitiveness of the Czech economy;

5. Calls therefore on the Government

to provide maximum possible support to potential applicants for financial contribution from the European programmes for science and research, including consultations and preliminary evaluation of research plans;

6. Proposes

to adopt measures facilitating access to research programmes of the European Union, for example by reducing administrative barriers and by simplifying reporting and financial rules of participation;

7. Is of the opinion

that the large research infrastructure projects and centres of competence, which are being formed in the Czech Republic with the aid of structural funds of the European Union, shall, as matter of priority, be engaged in the future Horizon 2020 programme, for example by means of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology;

8. Recommends

to take into account the geographical diversity of the European Union during project assessment, which would strengthen the regional dimension of science and research;

III.

1. Requests

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

2. Authorises

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

Milan Štěch
sign manual
President of the Senate

Miroslav Škaloud
sign manual
Senate Verifier