



THE SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
9TH TERM

128TH

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 6th session held on 20 March 2013

**on the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council
amending Directive 98/70/EC relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels
and amending Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy
from renewable sources**

(Senate Press no. N 197/08)

The Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

I.

Notes

that the adoption of mandatory targets by the EU concerning the use of biofuels for energy production from renewable sources has brought some negative trends involving for example:

- massive production of energy crops for the production of biofuels and bioliquids on a substantial area of agricultural land,
- use of land with high content of carbon, which is being released due to the above mentioned production, or
- degradation of land due to re-cultivation of the same energy crops,

and adds that the Senate repeatedly draws attention to these risks, recently in its resolution of 14 June 2012 on the Report from the Commission on the implementation of the Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection;

II.

1. Welcomes

the proposal from the Commission amending the directives, which takes into account the whole process of growing energy crops and biofuels produced from them and, above all, respects impacts resulting from indirect changes in land use (ILUC) on greenhouse gas emissions and, thus, takes into account a new perspective on biofuels, to which the Senate invited the Commission in its resolution on proposal for a Regulation setting emission performance standards

for new light commercial vehicles as part of the Community's integrated approach to reduce CO2 emissions from light-duty vehicles of 24 April 2008;

2. Lacks

an objective assessment of the impact of biofuels on engine efficiency and durability in the proposal for a directive, and calls for the promotion of research in this area;

3. States

that limiting the use of first generation biofuels will lead to a more environment-friendly approach to agricultural land, its more frequent use for domestic agricultural production, replacing in many cases low quality and defective products imported from abroad, and will reduce the land use for re-cultivation of energy crops which negatively affects the quality of soils, including their hydrological functions;

4. Points out

that, for a long period, there has been a lack of success in harmonizing certain sectoral interests, the case in point being counterproductive measures and procedures regarding biofuels in agricultural and energy sectors;

5. Considers

that the support of biofuels has in many cases social effects consisting in the loss of jobs and opportunities in agriculture, damaging especially traditional jobs in agriculture associated with crop and livestock production, which are being replaced by a smaller number of jobs in the manufacturing industry;

6. Finds

the proposal to limit the production of first generation biofuels to be an appropriate stimulus for technological development and research of second and third generation biofuels;

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

Miroslav Škaloud
sign manual
Senate Verifier