



**THE SENATE  
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC  
9<sup>TH</sup> TERM**

**210<sup>th</sup>**

**RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE**

Delivered on the 10<sup>th</sup> session held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013

**on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions**

**A Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources**

**(Senate Press no. K 007/09)**

**on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions**

**Report on the Review of the European Water Scarcity and Droughts Policy**

**(Senate Press no. K 008/09)**

**on the Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the Implementation of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) - River Basin Management Plans**

**(Senate Press no. K 009/09)**

The Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

**I.**

- 1. Notes** that responsible and sustainable management of water resources is a key challenge that the European Union is facing;
- 2. Considers** water management and water regime of the landscape, given the strategic character of water resources, to be an issue deserving increased attention, as the Senate stated in its Resolution of 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012 on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE);

3. **Expresses** in this context its concern over the unsatisfactory performance by the Member States of the European Union in reaching the target of the Water framework directive consisting in achieving good status of water by 2015;

## **II.**

1. **Considers** it necessary to prevent unsystematic and destructive use of especially groundwater reserves, given the growing pressure on water resources, because there is a risk of long-term or permanent degradation of these reservoirs;
2. **Emphasizes** that one of the important objectives in the field of water protection is maximal preservation of the natural conditions especially in headwaters areas with minimal impacts of municipal and industrial sector activity, and the implementation of adequate care for the land;
3. **Is concerned** that the Czech Republic lacks a comprehensive framework for addressing the challenges of water management and protection of water resources which can not be created without a close and coordinated cooperation of interested ministries;
4. **Points out** potential risks to both surface water and groundwater resulting from the use of certain technologies, such as the extraction of shale gas by splitting rocks, Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) or extensive use of agricultural land for growing energy crops for biofuel production, to which the Senate drew attention in its Resolution of 24<sup>th</sup> October 2012 on the Communication from the Commission on the European Innovation Partnership on Water;
5. **Requests the Government**
  - to deliver detailed information on using subsidies from European funds and on the state aid provided for upgrading current water management infrastructure and technological equipment, and information on using European funds subsidies for the abovementioned purposes in the years 2007 – 2013;
  - to give due attention to the area of water management and its infrastructure in the preparation of the implementation structure for drawing of EU funds in the programming period 2014 – 2020, especially as regards grants to municipalities or their parts, both in population size less than 2000 inhabitants;
6. **Calls on the Government**
  - to enhance awareness of tap water quality, which can lead to increased pressure to reduce the consumption of bottled water;
  - to revise the fees for water consumption, which in their current form, when prices for surface water consumption significantly exceed prices of groundwater, does not meet the objective of increasing the protection of precious underground water resources;
  - to raise the fee for natural mineral water drawn from a natural mineral water source, generating financial support for water management

infrastructure, enhancing protection of these waters and preventing their spontaneous exploitation;

#### **7. Calls on the Commission**

- to promote wider use of newly available innovative products used for water handling and to enhance awareness of benefits of these products among end users, thereby achieving significant savings in water consumption;
- to promote and publicise the development of smart cities and settlements at the European level that effectively solve the excess or shortage of water, and make every effort to intensify research in this area and to put in practice related standards in the field of modern civil engineering in the EU;
- to use more intensively the European Earth Observation Programme Copernicus (formerly GMES) to obtain information concerning the status of water and changes in the area that affect drainage and water retention in the landscape, and to subsequently provide this information to Member States;
- taking into account water losses in the European water supply network, to develop further its announced efforts to reduce these losses, for example in the form of established techniques and procedures, and to provide Member States with information on best practices leading to water savings in water networks in the EU and as well as outside the EU;

#### **8. Welcomes**

the European citizens' initiative "Water and sanitation are a human right! Water is a public good, not a commodity!" which seeks to anchor right to water in the EU legislation;

### **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

Milan Pešák  
sign manual  
Senate Verifier

