



THE SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

9TH TERM

154TH

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 6th session held on 21st March 2013

**on the Communication from the Commission Annual Growth Survey 2013
/Senate Press no. K 012/09/**

The Senate

I.

1. Is of the opinion

that with regard to the interconnectedness between individual economies, the coordination of economic policies of the EU member states poses a key challenge for the EU institutions and the Member States;

2. Believes

that the European semester, established specifically to enhance the effectiveness of economic policy coordination of the Member States in relation to the objectives of the EU2020 strategy, can successfully meet its objective only with the active involvement of national parliaments from the very beginning;

3. Considers it, therefore,

important to pay due attention to the Annual Growth Survey, which annually launches the European semester and identifies key economic policy priorities for the given year;

II.

1. Recalls,

in this context, the Resolutions of the Senate on the Convergence Programme 2012, on the National Reform Programme for 2012 and on the Council recommendation on the National Reform Programme of the Czech Republic 2012 and the Council Opinion on the Convergence Programme of the Czech Republic for the period 2012-2015, in which, among other things, the Senate expressed its disagreement with the Government's approach to fiscal consolidation and stressed the need to avoid across-the-board cuts and implement growth measures;

2. Believes

that the European Commission correctly identifies the five main priorities of economic policy for 2013;

3. Considers

it desirable, with regard to the negative development of the Czech economy, which has been in recession since the 4th quarter of 2011, with the unemployment rate rising, that the Government should duly take into account the recommendations contained in the Annual Growth Survey when drawing up the updated Convergence Programme and National Reform Programme;

4. Invites

the Government to take into account the following recommendations:

- promote "beneficial study programmes", i.e. programmes which help develop the required skills and qualifications corresponding with the needs of the economy and the country;
- view investments in energy and energy networks as an opportunity for the Czech industry, agriculture and research;
- support the motivation to work and increase social justice by means of progressive taxation of highest incomes and creating a level playing field for taxation of employees in relation to self-employed workers;
- ensure long-term legal stability of business environment by means of significantly limiting the number of amendments to laws and changes in regulations;

5. States

that within the European semester and following on the Annual Growth Survey, it will further examine the updated Convergence Programme and National Reform Programme of the Czech Republic, and subsequently the Council recommendation based on the evaluation of these two documents by the European Commission;

III.

1. Requests

the Government to inform the Senate about the way this position was taken into account and about further progress of the current European semester;

2. Authorises

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

Milan Štěch
sign manual
President of the Senate

Zdeněk Berka
sign manual
Senate Verifier