



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 8.8.2013
C(2013) 5249 final

Dear Sir,

The Commission wishes to thank the Senát for the Opinion on the Communication from the Commission – the Annual Growth Survey 2013 {COM(2012) 750 final}.

The Commission appreciates the Senát's support to the five main priorities of economic policy for 2013 which were designed to guide Member States through the crisis towards a sustainable economic recovery. In March 2013, these were endorsed by the European Council, which stressed that a determined reform action at the national level continues to be key to respond to economic challenges. Member States in the meanwhile submitted their National Reform Programmes and Stability or Convergence Programmes and the Commission adopted on 29 May 2013 a new set of proposals for country-specific recommendations.

The Commission shares the Senát's concerns about the social dimension of economic crisis. In its Communication accompanying these recommendations {COM(2013) 350 final}, the Commission expressed its deep concern about the unacceptable levels of unemployment in Europe. It confirmed the necessity to stick to the strategy of economic reforms, while underlining that fairness is essential for the sustainability and effectiveness of reforms. The Commission recalled the need for Member States to invest in their human capital and to pay greater attention to the distributional impact of reforms to ensure that they produce lasting results for all.

The Commission has made an in depth analysis of the documents submitted by the Czech authorities and adopted a new set of specific recommendations for the Czech Republic. It acknowledges the progress made in response to last year's country-specific recommendations but calls for further, more decisive actions in areas such as availability of childcare facilities, education and research outcomes, performance and stability of public administration. It also called for prioritising and ensuring correct use of EU funds, for making better use of the potential in the labour market and for improving energy efficiency in the buildings and industry sectors.

After the political endorsement by the June European Council, it is the responsibility of Member States to follow up on these recommendations. There are necessary – but often difficult – measures to take, which require the commitment of all actors. In this context, the Commission particularly welcomes the engagement of the Senát.

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President of the Senát
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CZ – 118 01 PRAGUE 1

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised in the opinion of the Senát and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*