



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

230TH

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 11th session held on 20th June 2013

on the Communication from the Commission A Blueprint For A Deep and Genuine EMU - Launching a European debate /Senate Press no. K 011/09/

The Senate

I.

1. Supports

the Commission's efforts in search for a long-term solution to current economic problems and its attempts to find a more effective and efficient design of Economic and Monetary Union, and at the same time considers the Commission's Communication to be an appropriate basis for launching this discussion;

2. Points out

that the process of deepening of Economic and Monetary Union must be democratically transparent and that it requires a careful and comprehensive approach, and considers that far-reaching changes in the functioning of Economic and Monetary Union should not be adopted hastily under the pressure of the economic crisis, but should rather result from a general public discussion about an effective setting of the monetary union in the Member States;

3. Highlights

the irreplaceable role of national parliaments in the decision-making process concerning economic and especially budgetary policies of the Member States as well as economic policies of national governments;

II.

1. Finds

that enhanced coordination of economic policies of the Member States and above all mechanisms used by the Commission or the Council to addresses particular issues in individual Member States, if they were to become more binding or enforceable, concern the competences of national parliaments and have a direct impact on the citizens of the Member States, and notes that the role of national parliaments in matters that fall within the competence of the Member States and are subject to coordination at EU level cannot be replaced by a greater involvement of the European Parliament as it does not bear political responsibility for the economic situation in the Member State;

2. Therefore considers

that such coordination requires a strong involvement of national parliaments, including their right to ask the Commission to participate in the discussion on these issues in the national parliaments with final terms of any contractual agreement between the Government of the Member State and the EU institutions;

3. Agrees

with the Commission's argument that the deepening of Economic and Monetary Union should be based on the procedures laid down in the primary law of the European Union and that intergovernmental forms of cooperation outside the framework of the EU law should only be a last resort;

4. Considers it essential

that the legal conditions under which all the initiatives outlined in the Commission's Communication could be put in practice are clarified in advance, and in case of any doubts, a more rigorous and democratically transparent procedure is preferred, i.e. the use of the flexibility clause or an amendment of the Treaties, because when deepening Economic and Monetary Union, which may pose qualitatively a new stage of European integration, it is necessary to act in a way in which the integration process maintains the trust and support of citizens;

5. Stresses,

following Resolution of the Senate No. 115 from 13th March 2013, that measures to deepen Economic and Monetary Union that are related should be presented and discussed simultaneously rather than gradually as in the case of Banking Union, as only a comprehensive approach enables a thorough assessment of these actions at the national level, including communication with the public in the Member States, while ensuring the coherence of all measures;

6. Deems necessary

that the Commission thoroughly evaluates the functioning of recently introduced or debated measures, particularly in the area of budgetary and economic coordination (the so-called six-pack and two-pack) before presenting further major proposals in this area;

7. Recommends

that the Commission, in case of presenting proposals for legislative acts covering individual initiatives outlined in its Communication, elaborate and publish - in the form of a communication - a detailed impact assessment of these initiatives in their entirety that would focus on the continuity and consistency with the already adopted or currently debated legislation and with the internal market rules, and would fully assess their impact on Member States within and outside the euro area, on Member States participating and non-participating in individual instruments, or alternatively on individual Member States alone, and at the same time recalls that the Senate has already called on the Commission to do so in connection with the plan to establish the Banking Union in its 115th Resolution from 13th March 2013;

8. Welcomes

the presentation of the Commission's communications on the envisaged ex ante coordination of plans for major economic policy reforms and the introduction of the convergence and competitiveness instrument, which outline the possible functioning of these mechanisms and which will be carefully scrutinized by the Senate;

9. Requests, however, clarification

regarding certain modalities of the envisaged convergence and competitiveness instrument, especially in terms of

- its scope, and above all the types of national reforms that it should cover,
- the methodology that would ensure a fair allocation of funds from the mechanism of solidarity to individual Member States in relation to specific reforms and rule out unequal treatment of Member States, and
- specifying the focus of financial support from the solidarity mechanism, i.e. defining the type of costs or investments that should be reimbursed using the mechanism;

III.

1. Requests

the Government to inform the Senate about the way this position was taken into account, and about further initiatives following this Communication;

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