



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

173rd

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 8th session held on 25th April 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 The Digital Agenda for Europe - Driving European growth digitally /Senate Press no. K 020/09/

The Senate

I.

1. Is aware of

the key importance of information and telecommunication technologies for the competitiveness of European economy;

2. Supports,

therefore, EU initiatives which aim at building computer networks, increasing computer literacy, developing public electronic services, strengthening cyber-security and completing the single digital market;

3. Points out

a substantial deficit in key network infrastructure, which is exhibited by the new member states, including the Czech Republic, in the field of advanced telecommunication technologies;

4. Suggests, therefore,

in accordance with the long-term opinion of the Senate, expressed in Resolution No. 530 of 29th February 2012 on the Trans-European Telecommunication Networks, that the different level of economic development of EU countries should be taken into account in the process of selecting specific infrastructure projects, for example by means of differentiated co-financing rates, so as to quickly offset the abovementioned deficit;

II.

1. Is of the opinion

that the guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks must take into account national strategies for broadband development and electronic government;

2. Recalls

a recent string of cyberattacks on key web servers, which disabled them for a short period of time, and even a concentrated investigation effort has failed to solve the case so far;

3. Adds

that the risk and frequency of personal data abuse and serious fraud have been increasing steadily in the Internet world;

4. Considers it fundamental

that citizens' personal data should be strictly protected against abuse, while sensitive data, such as those concerning health, must not be accessed in any case through a public portal;

5. Recommends, therefore,

that the EU should make every effort to enhance the protection of consumer personal data while building the single digital market, and that the cyber-security and protection of users of electronic services should become a priority;

6. Draws attention to the fact

that for many in the EU, the use of electronic telecommunication services is not commonplace (digital divide), and therefore it is necessary to make sure that some social groups are not cut off from the public services, when being gradually moved to the Internet;

7. Suggests,

in accordance with Senate Resolution No. 777 of 26th October 2012 on the Electronic Identification Regulation, that all new initiatives should adhere to the principle of technological neutrality, ensuring that no technological solution gets priority from the legal point of view;

8. Warns

against hasty legislative interventions in the legal framework of intellectual property protection on the Internet, emphasizing that new legislative initiatives should not unreasonably limit or threaten the freedom of Internet users, and should, on the other hand, foster the competitiveness of EU's businesses;

III.

1. Requests

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

2. Authorises

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

Milan Štěch
sign manual
President of the Senate

Libor Michálek
sign manual
Senate Verifier