



THE SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

9TH TERM

323RD

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 13th session held on 12th September 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 - EU Space Industrial Policy. Releasing the Potential for Economic Growth in the Space Sector

/Senate Press no. K 42/09/

and

on the Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and the Council, Establishing a Space Surveillance and Tracking Support Programme

/Senate Press no. K 43/09/

The Senate

I.

1. Is convinced

of the key importance of a long-term EU space strategy for boosting the EU's competitiveness, ensuring security and technological independence and for gaining new knowledge about natural phenomena;

2. Supports,

therefore, the establishment of a common strategy to develop the industrial potential of the EU space policy, which should facilitate the solution of a number of societal issues such as prevention of road accidents, provision of automatic emergency calls, assistance services, monitoring of the environment and climate change as well as surveillance of the exploitation of natural resources;

3. Recalls

the need to protect the funds already invested in EU space programmes, and therefore supports the establishment of the Space surveillance and tracking system (SST) which will help prevent orbital collisions of satellites with other space objects and with space debris;

II.

1. Supports

greater coordination of EU and ESA space activities, which is also required by Article 189 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which calls on the Union to establish any appropriate relations with the European Space Agency;

2. Recommends,

nevertheless, in accord with Senate Resolution No. 137 of 21st March 2013 on the Communication from the Commission "Establishing appropriate relations between the EU and ESA", keeping the ESA as a separate international organisation, above all with regard to different objectives and working methods of both organisations;

3. Is of the opinion

that it is necessary to solve the issue of effective management of space programmes, especially as regards division of competences among the Member States, EU, European space agency and other stakeholders;

4. Highlights

the need to ensure long-term financing of the other space programmes, given the fact that a part of their initial budget allocation should now be used for support of the Space surveillance and tracking system (SST);

5. Proposes

establishing uniform technical standards for the European space industry to facilitate cooperation between Member States, reduce costs and enhance global competitiveness of the sector;

6. Considers

it crucial to involve Czech researchers in major European space projects, particularly within the Horizon 2020 programme and other activities of the Europe 2020 strategy, not only due to the recent move of headquarters of the European Global Satellite Positioning System (GSA) to Prague;

7. Agrees

with including the management of the Copernicus programme under the scope of the GSA, and recommends that the Commission should consider whether the GSA could also take part in the management of the Space surveillance and tracking system (SST);

8. Recommends

that the Government should raise broad public awareness among experts about the potential of space projects in terms of their practical application, for instance through improving access to space research and surveillance data;

III.

1. Requests

the government to inform the Senate about the way this position was taken into account and to provide the Senate with information on the further 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

Jan Látka
sign manual
Senate Verifier