



THE SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

9TH TERM

300TH

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 12th session held on 22nd August 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

An EU strategy on adaptation to climate change /Senate Press no. K 064/09/

The Senate

I.

1. Is aware of

the acute need to address the issue of adaptation to climate change and to keep this issue as a priority at local, regional and national level;

2. Percieves

the proposed EU strategy as an appropriate, yet delayed initiative to launch an expert discussion that can contribute to taking effective measures based on scientific findings, and lead to the creation of a well-functioning system for adaptation to climate change and mitigation of its impacts;

3. Points out

the wide interconnection of individual adaptation measures with other environmental policy issues, such as reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, soil and water resources protection, etc.;

II.

1. Welcomes

the Commission's commitment to provide, as an instrument of financing, resources from the LIFE+ Programme to support capacity building and to step up adaptation measures in Europe up to 2020;

2. Recalls,

in this context, its Resolution No. 557 of 15th March 2012 on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE), in which the Senate pointed out that the Programme LIFE should primarily focus on the support and implementation of adaptation measures responding to climate change in the following MFF;

3. Emphasizes

that the global climate change often brings about extreme meteorological phenomena, for example floods, windstorms or heatwaves, of which the Czech Republic has not been spared, and therefore it is necessary to focus on disaster management and prevention of its negative impacts in the adaptation strategy;

4. Believes

that more attention should be paid to the issue of water management, landscape water regime and to efforts aimed at maximal use of retention capacity of landscape in connection with climate change because for example changes in precipitation patterns fundamentally affect agricultural production and can raise a potential need for irrigations, drainage, water retention and flood defences, which the Senate already mentioned in its Resolution No. 736 of 24th October 2012 on the Communication from the Commission on the European Innovation Partnership on Water;

5. Stresses repeatedly

the importance of adequate education system that would prepare a sufficient number of relevant experts in this field because it considers science, research and innovations crucial for solving the problems related to climate change, which has been reflected in many of its Resolutions on European dossiers, for example in Resolutions on the Europe 2020 Strategy (Resolution No. 465 of 22nd April 2010) or on the Europe 2020 flagship initiative - Innovation Union (Resolution No. 162 of 17th March 2011);

6. Is of the opinion

that systems currently in place, such as Copernicus (GMES), should be used to its full potential instead of creating new structures and institutions, noting that this document lacks almost any reference to Copernicus (GMES) and mentions it only marginally;

7. Is concerned

that despite a generally positive view of the strategy, some of the proposed measures may appear too vague and could, if implemented, result in an increase in administrative burden;

III.

1. Requests

the Government to inform the Senate 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

Tomáš Grulich
sign manual
Senate Verifier