



THE SENATE  
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC  
9<sup>TH</sup> TERM

**411<sup>TH</sup>**

**RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE**

Delivered on the 18<sup>th</sup> session held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014

**on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and  
the Council  
Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2013-2014  
/Senate Press no. K 100/09/**

**The Senate**

**1. Has been focusing**

for a long time on the enlargement policy of the EU that it considers, along with e.g. the European Neighbourhood Policy with its southern and eastern dimension, to be a crucial part of the external activity of the EU in relation to its immediate neighbourhood;

**2. Perceives**

the EU enlargement policy as a successful, effective and credible instrument for the stimulation of reform efforts in countries aspiring to membership and for spreading of stability, prosperity, security and democratic values in Europe;

**3. Agrees with**

the general conclusions, recommendations and progress evaluations of individual candidate or potential candidate states that are contained in this communication from the European Commission;

**4. Is aware**

that the policy of the next enlargement of the European Union is a long-term and complex process based on the fulfilment of equal accession criteria for all countries, be they of economic or political nature;

**II.**

**1. Recalls,**

in accord with the long-term position, its Resolution No. 38 of 6th December 2012 on the Communication from the Commission - Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2012-2013, in which the Senate emphasised that the main criteria of the progress of individual applicants for the EU membership should be their

current state of preparedness and their fulfilment of accession conditions, it further supported opening of the accession negotiation with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and considered the support of EU integration efforts of Serbia and Kosovo as a possible means of stabilization and improvement of the relations between both countries;

**2. Emphasises**

the importance of the principle of conditionality, i.e. making the progress in accession negotiations conditional on own merits and efforts of each candidate or potential candidate country, adding that the Union should strive to ensure that the candidate countries will not be exposed to possible pressure from third countries which could disturb the accession process and impact on the free decision making of individual countries concerning their future course of actions;

**3. Appreciates**

the considerable progress that Serbia and Kosovo have reached thanks to their integration efforts regarding the normalization of their mutual relations, fully supports opening of the accession negotiations with Serbia and adds that the Union should continue facilitating, to the fullest extent possible, peaceful solutions to all potential problems (e.g. ethnic, religious, territorial etc.) that the Western Balkan countries may face;

**4. Agrees**

with the Commission's evaluation of the remaining countries, and notes that above all it recommends opening of the accession negotiations with FYROM, welcomes the progress reached during the negotiations with Montenegro and expresses regret over insufficient progress in Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina;

**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

Jan Látka  
sign manual  
Senate Verifier