



THE SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
10TH TERM

210th

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 11th session held on 12th August 2015

**on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and
the Council
The Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive: Actions towards the
'good status' of EU water and to reduce flood risks
(Senate Print no. K 014/10)**

The Senate

I.

1. Supports,

in general, the European Commission's efforts to achieve the good status of EU water;

2. Considers

ensuring sufficient quantity of high-quality water resources, the supply of drinking water for the population and the reduction of the pollution of surface water and groundwater by the proper implementation of legislation to be the basis of the EU water policy;

II.

1. Emphasises

that one of the important objectives in the field of water protection is the maximum conservation of natural environmental conditions, especially in the spring areas, with minimal impact from urban, industrial and agricultural sources, and the implementation of appropriate land use policy;

2. Remarks

that the good water status should be reached not only in the case of inland surface waters and groundwater, but also in the case of the coastal parts of seas into which European rivers flow and into which a number of EU countries dump their liquid and solid waste;

3. Notes

that untreated or insufficiently treated waste water from municipalities and industry, which pollutes surface waters and constitutes the principal source of their eutrophication or contamination, does not contribute to the good water status; the same applies to the excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides that besides a negative impact on surface waters also have a negative impact on scarce groundwater;

4. Points out

potential risks that from the perspective of both surface water and groundwater may be posed by the use of certain technologies, such as the extraction of shale gas by hydraulic fracturing, carbon capture and storage (CCS) or massive use of arable land for growing energy crops for biofuels, which the Senate pointed out in its Resolution of 24 October 2012 on the Communication from the Commission on the European Innovation Partnership in the field of water management;

5. Recalls

a long-term position of the Senate expressed in its Resolution No. 210 of 16 May 2013 on a comprehensive package aimed at protecting water resources, in which the Senate asked the Government to give due attention to the area of water management and its infrastructure in the preparation of the implementation structure for drawing of EU funds in the programming period 2014 – 2020, especially as regards grants to municipalities or their parts, both in population size up to 2000 inhabitants;

6. Requests

that close attention be paid to regions which suffer from more frequent periods without precipitation, noting at the same time that water content in the soil fluctuates significantly, which leads to the increased occurrence of soil drought in those regions;

7. Is of the opinion

that in order to manage flood risks effectively, it is necessary to address the root causes of floods, not just their consequences, and in this context considers the reduction in the retention capacity of landscape caused by improper and unprofessional modifications of watercourses and improper forest and land use management to be the main long-term cause of floods;

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 from the Commission;

2. Authorises

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

Milan Štěch
sign manual
President of the Senate

Pavel Štohl
sign manual
Senate Verifier