



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

236th

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 12th session held on 23rd September 2015

on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Region A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe /Senate Print no. K 017/10/

The Senate

I.

1. Welcomes

the Commission's digital single market strategy for Europe that covers, in the Senate's view, all important aspects of digital agenda and can lead to the creation of a digital single market;

2. Recalls,

in this context, its Resolution No. 173 of 24th April 2013 on the Digital Agenda for Europe - Driving European growth digitally, in which it expressed support for EU initiatives which aim at building computer networks, increasing computer literacy, developing public electronic services, strengthening cyber-security and completing the single digital market; it also drew attention to the risk of digital divide and the need to preserve the principle of technological neutrality;

II.

1. Considers

it necessary that the Commission should elaborate, for all announced legislative proposals, thorough studies assessing the impact of proposed measures on the digital economy including the impacts on the position of European entities in relation to other competitors from third countries;

2. Is of the opinion

that no artificial borders and barriers should be created at the European level and therefore considers blocking of access based on the geographic location (geo-blocking) within the single market to be unjustified;

3. Points out

that the roaming charges within the EU should be eliminated as well; calls without roaming charges should be guaranteed within the whole EU territory including also the border areas with third countries where mobile signal spillovers from third countries into the EU territory may occur;

4. Believes

that the digital single market will not be fully functional unless the full coverage by high-speed networks in all Member States including rural and sparsely inhabited areas has been achieved;

5. Is convinced

that through the strategy, the EU should support young innovative start-ups and create an internationally competitive environment for venture capital and alternative financial resources, thus offering an attractive environment for further business development;

6. Agrees

with the opinion of the Commission that the demand will increase not only for qualified employees in ICT field but also for common users with thorough digital knowledge and skills;

7. Draws, however, attention

in this context to the fact that the effectiveness of education and training in the area of digital skills will depend, among other things, on the availability of financial resources which individual educational institutions will be able to use for purchase of appropriate equipment and for salaries of qualified teachers;

8. Considers it highly desirable

that the Government should appoint one main body responsible for the development of the digital agenda in the Czech Republic because the current division of respective areas of the digital agenda among several responsible bodies impedes the fulfilment of defined goals;

9. Supports

the Commission's efforts in the area of e-Government; a new e-Government Action Plan for the period of 2016-2020 should mainly underpin the principle „Digital by Default“, the open source software and the “Once-Only” principle which should ensure not only that the public authorities will not repeatedly require information from citizens and companies that is already in their possession, but also that this information will be available to other public authorities, if need be;

10. Requests

the Government to pay substantially more attention to the development of digital public services because, as the European surveys show, the Czech Republic ranks very low in providing these services in comparison with other EU Member States;

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

Josef Regec
sign manual
Senate Verifier