

Courtesy translation



THE SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

11TH TERM

225TH

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 8th session held on 20th July 2017

on the Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the legal framework of the European Solidarity Corps and amending Regulations (EU) No 1288/2013, (EU) No 1293/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1305/2013, (EU) No 1306/2013 and Decision No 1313/2013/EU /Senate Print no. N 051/17, COM(2017) 262/

The Senate

I.

1. Does not agree

with the proposed financing mechanism of the European Solidarity Corps because it is of the opinion that the European Solidarity Corps should not reduce financial resources allocated for the existing instruments (particularly Erasmus+) and therefore requests that the Solidarity Corps is financed mainly from its own financial resources and not from resources redirected from other programmes and funds;

2. Suggests,

in accordance with the Position of the Government, extending the geographical scope of the Solidarity Corps to also include third countries, particularly those of Eastern Partnership and Western Balkans, utilizing the model of "programme countries" participating in the European Voluntary Service; the Senate considers the participation of third countries in the form of bilateral agreements to be unnecessarily complicated;

3. Does not support

the removal of the European Voluntary Service concerning Member States from Erasmus+ and its inclusion in the European Solidarity Corps because the Senate believes that this will lead to a *de facto* termination of the European Voluntary Service which would not be appropriate considering its long-term tradition;

4. Is of the opinion

that it will be also important to clearly distinguish voluntary activities from job placements to prevent the creation of cheap labour and distortion of the fundamental purpose of the European Solidarity Corps;

II.

1. Requests

the Government to inform the Senate about the way this resolution was taken into account and about further development of negotiations once the political agreement of the required number of Member States on the main elements of the proposal is reached, or at an earlier time, should the results of negotiations in the Council begin to depart considerably from the position of the Czech Republic expressed in the General Position of the Government;

2. Authorises

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

Milan Štěch
sign manual
President of the Senate

Jaromír Strnad
sign manual
Senate Verifier