



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 5.10.2017
C(2017) 6657 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Recommendation from the Commission for a Council Recommendation on the 2017 National Reform Programme of the Czech Republic and delivering a Council opinion on the 2017 Convergence Programme of the Czech Republic {COM(2017)503 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Senát's endorsement of the country-specific recommendations for 2017. National ownership is essential to ensure their effective follow-up and implementation. As highlighted by the Senát, reducing administrative barriers for investments is one of the key areas to focus on during this period.

Regarding the Senát's position on public procurement, the Commission would like to underline that issues related to the public procurement procedures in the Czech Republic were discussed by the Member States and the institutions in the appropriate fora and that the position expressed by the Government was duly taken into account. Consequently, the corresponding recital of the draft country-specific recommendations was amended. The Commission recalls that the Council adopted the country-specific recommendations on 11 July 2017, without discussion.

The Commission continues to emphasise that national Parliaments should play a strong role in the European Semester, which would help increase the national ownership of the process and add to the broader support for reforms. The Commission has taken concrete steps to improve and support the implementation and ownership of reforms by the Member States and will continue to engage with stakeholders at all levels.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Franz Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Valdis Dombrovskis
Vice-President*

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH
President of the Senát
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