

Courtesy translation



THE SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

11TH TERM

463RD

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 16th session held on 19th July 2018

on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain amending Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 [on general food law], Directive 2001/18/EC [on the deliberate release into the environment of GMOs], Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 [on GM food and feed], Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 [on feed additives], Regulation (EC) No 2065/2003 [on smoke flavourings], Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 [on food contact materials], Regulation (EC) No 1331/2008 [on the common authorisation procedure for food additives, food enzymes and food flavourings], Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 [on plant protection products] and Regulation (EU) No 2015/2283 [on novel foods] /Senate Print no. N 132/11, COM(2018) 179/

The Senate

I.

1. Supports

the submitted proposal for a Regulation whose aim is to increase transparency of the risk assessment process in the food chain which should lead to greater public confidence in the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the risk assessment process;

2. Agrees therefore

that the revision of the Regulation on general food law and eight additional sectoral legislative acts should lead particularly:

- a) to tightening and clarification of the rules on transparency especially with regard to the scientific studies used as the basis for risk assessment the EFSA carries out;
- b) to an increase in reliability, objectivity and independence of studies the EFSA uses in its risk assessment;
- c) to an improvement of the governance of EFSA and strengthening its scientific capacity, bearing in mind the related financial and budgetary aspects;

d) to developing a comprehensive and effective risk communication strategy involving the Commission, Member States and the EFSA in combination with open dialogue among all interested parties;

3. Appreciates

the introduction of consultations with stakeholders and the public whose purpose will be to determine whether other relevant scientific data or studies are available; the Senate believes, however, that it is necessary to establish a clearly defined timeframe for these consultations which would prevent potential endless disputes over the submitted studies;

4. Considers it also to be important

to ensure strict compliance with the confidentiality rules in case of publication of data and information related to authorisation applications because the authorisation application may often contain sensitive data (e.g. business strategy, technical specifications or quantitative composition of the product) whose publication could seriously harm the applicant;

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

Michael Canov
sign manual
Senate Verifier