

Courtesy translation



THE SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

11TH TERM

526TH

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 18th session held on 17th October 2018

on the Package on Common Agriculture Policy 2021-2027

Senate Print no. N 150/11, COM(2018) 393 - Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013;

Senate Print no. N 151/11, COM(2018) 392 - Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the Common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council;

Senate Print no. N 152/11, COM(2018) 394 - Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products, (EU) No 1151/2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs, (EU) No 251/2014 on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of aromatised wine products, (EU) No 228/2013 laying down specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union and (EU) No 229/2013 laying down specific measures for agriculture in favour of the smaller Aegean islands

The Senate

I.

1. Welcomes that the current structure of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) divided in two pillars as well as its proposed objectives have been maintained for the next programming period; however, the Senate underlines the need for sufficient financial resources for the CAP which will ensure efficient fulfilment of its objectives;

2. **Agrees** with the transition to a new model of implementation of the CAP based on the strategic plans which will allow to take into consideration the specific conditions and needs of the Member States in a better way;
3. **Perceives also positively** the greater emphasis of the CAP on climate measures and protection of the environment because the CAP has an irreplaceable role in these areas;
4. **Fundamentally disagrees** with the compulsory capping and degressivity of the direct payments because the Senate is of the opinion that the Member States should have the possibility to decide, on the basis of their specific conditions, whether they introduce these instruments or not;
5. **However, supports** the intention of the Government to introduce a redistributive payment instrument with the aim to support small and medium farmers;
6. **Believes** that the coupled income support enables to stabilize and support sensitive and strategically important sectors and therefore the Senate agrees with the continuation of this payment and recommends, in accordance with the position of the Government, to increase the financial resources for this support;
7. **Recalls** the important role of the rural development policy and agrees with the proposed types of intervention in this area; agrees also that the rural development policy should put more emphasis on support of innovation, investment, use of digital technologies (e.g. development of so called precision farming) or measures focused on generational renewal of farmers and support of young farmers;
8. **However, perceives negatively** the significant reduction of financial resources for the rural development policy of the Czech Republic and therefore recommends, in accordance with the position of the Government, the modification of the methodology for calculation of allocation for the rural development policy so this calculation is based on allocation for the whole financial period of 2014-2020 and not only on the allocation for the last year of this period; this change would at least partially mitigate the reduction in the financial resources for this policy;
9. **Is of the opinion** that the process of external convergence of direct payments should continue; however, recommends, in accordance with the Government, that only those Member States whose direct payments are above the EU average should contribute to this convergence;
10. **Supports** the request of the Government to maintain the current amount of Union aid for the supply of fruit and vegetables and of milk and milk products in educational establishments (so called School projects);
11. **Considers it also important** that the new CAP be simpler and less administratively burdensome; however, the Senate believes that some of the newly proposed elements head rather for opposite direction, e.g. the new performance framework for monitoring and evaluation, certain new elements in the system of conditionality or the proposed payment of direct payments only to so-called genuine farmers;

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

Luděk Jeništa
sign manual
Senate Verifier