



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 17.12.2018
C(2018) 8799 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Recommendation for a Council Recommendation on the 2018 National Reform Programme of the Czech Republic and delivering a Council opinion on the 2018 Convergence Programme of the Czech Republic {COM(2018) 403 final}.

The Commission is pleased that the Senát shares the view that the recommendations for 2018 focus on relevant policy issues at the country level. This common understanding stems from a strong cooperation between the Commission and the Czech authorities and relevant stakeholders. The European Semester process in the Czech Republic is well established and ensures strong involvement of all relevant parties, including the Parliament.

The Commission agrees with the Senát that it is crucial to reduce the administrative burden on investment, focusing particularly on speeding up the permit procedures for infrastructure work, as mentioned in the second Country Specific Recommendation. The Commission welcomes the latest developments in this regard, in particular the recent approval of the amendment to the Act No. 416/2009 coll. on the acceleration of construction of transport, water and energy infrastructure. Nonetheless, as identified in the Commission analysis, the other policy issues mentioned in the Recommendation are also vital to the Czech economy and therefore appropriate action should be taken in 2018 and 2019.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Pierre Moscovici
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Jaroslav KUBERA
President of the Senát
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4
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