

Courtesy translation



THE SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

11TH TERM

529TH

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

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

on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Connecting Europe Facility and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1316/2013 and (EU) No 283/2014 /Senate Print no. N 166/11, COM(2018) 438/

The Senate

I.

1. Agrees

that sustainable and fully connected transport, energy and digital networks are prerequisite for the completion of the single market;

2. Supports

therefore the establishment of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) in the next multiannual financial framework for the period 2021-2027;

II.

1. However, does not agree,

in accordance with the position of the Government, with the proposed transfer of the financial resources from the Cohesion Fund to the CEF because the Senate is of the opinion that these financial resources may produce better results under the cohesion policy; the Senate does not also consider the simple transfer of funds from one program to another to be an overall increase in funds for the transport policy;

2. Believes also

that, in case of transfer of financial resources from the Cohesion fund, these financial resources should be earmarked for particular Member State as long as possible, at least to the year 2025;

3. Recommends

the modification of indicative percentages for the transport sector (Part II of the Annex of the proposal) so that, at least in case of financial resources in the cohesion CEF, 80 % is earmarked for the development of efficient and interconnected networks, i.e. building of infrastructure, and 20 % for increasing the quality of infrastructure;

4. Supports

also the request of the Government to incorporate intrastate sections in the pre-defined TEN-T core network corridors or in the list of cross-border sections on the comprehensive TEN-T network; existing infrastructure remains the backbone of the EU transport network and therefore it is important to invest in its maintenance and modernisation which should be also financed from the CEF;

5. Appreciates

the modification of objectives of the digital part of CEF and its greater focus on meeting the objectives of the Gigabit Society Strategy, the support mainly for building of physical digital infrastructure as well as the increase in funds for this part of CEF;

6. Points out

the risks related to the use of renewable energy sources, in particular their instability, and therefore emphasizes the need for building a common energy grid, which will enable disconnection in case of unplanned overflow of electric energy from an unstable region to a stable region, and a system for temporary storage of energy;

III.

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