

SENATE OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC 13^{TH} TERM

298TH

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 15th Session held on the 25th of August 2021

on the Package for fully functioning and resilient Schengen area

Proposal for a Council Regulation on the establishment and operation of an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen acquis and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013 /Senate Print no. N 052/13, COM(2021) 278/

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council "A strategy towards a fully functioning and resilient Schengen area" /Senate Print no. K 054/13, COM(2021) 277/

The Senate

I.

1. Welcomes

the current debate about the reform and strengthening of functioning of the Schengen area, while it perceives its timing as very appropriate;

2. Appreciates

the proposal of a new Schengen strategy, listing measures for the upcoming period, alongside with first of a series of planned legislative proposals, which is related to the Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism and aims to shorten and simplify Schengen evaluation procedures so that the process is in general more efficient and more effective;

3. Recalls

its 194th Resolution delivered on 28 April 2021 on legislative proposals, in which the Commission proposed to establish the common European framework for issuance, verification and acceptance of the Digital Green Certificate (COVID Passport), which should facilitate the exercise of the right of free movement in the Schengen area during COVID-19 pandemic; in this Resolution, the Senate emphasized that it considers the

Courtesy translation

right of EU citizens and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of EU Member States, or more precisely, in the Schengen area, as one of the greatest achievements of the European integration process;

4. Therefore reiterates

that it is necessary to restore mobility within the Schengen area as soon as possible, taking into consideration the negative effects of the current travel restrictions as well as other restrictions related to the prevention of the spreading of COVID-19;

5. Also agrees that

it is important to promote confidence in the functioning of the Schengen system and ensure that Member States properly comply with the rules of the Schengen acquis and do not introduce disproportionate or unjustified internal border controls within the Schengen area;

6. Pins

high hopes on information systems architecture for border protection, migration and security and their interconnection, which should be completed in 2023 and would make the surveillance of Schengen area's external borders significantly more effective;

II.

1. Requests

the Government to inform the Senate no later than on 31 January 2022 about the way this Resolution was taken into account and about further proceeding of negotiations;

2. Authorises

the President of the Senate to forward this Resolution to the European Commission.

Miloš Vystrčil sign manual President of the Senate

> Adéla Šípová sign manual Senate Verifier