



SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
13TH TERM

339TH

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 17th Session held on the 5th of November 2021

Fit for 55 package – rules for the air transport sector

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on ensuring a level playing field for sustainable air transport (Senate Print no. N 062/13, COM(2021) 561)

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2003/87/EC as regards aviation's contribution to the Union's economy-wide emission reduction (Senate Print no. N 063/13, COM(2021) 552)

The Senate

I.

1. Takes into account

that transport is a sector in which greenhouse gas emissions have been rising, with aviation being characterized by an above-average increase in greenhouse gas emissions;

2. Agrees

in general, with the 'polluter pays' principle;

3. Points out, however, to the fact

that the COVID-19 pandemic had a particularly significant negative impact on the air transport sector which, according to an analysis by the European Organization for the Safety of Air Navigation (EUROCONTROL), will be evident as late as in 2024;

4. Questions

in this regard, the appropriateness of the timing of the proposed measures for the aviation sector, as both the revision of the EU ETS in the field of aviation emissions as well as production and use of sustainable aviation fuels and construction of the necessary infrastructure will require significant funding and increase costs for airports and aircraft operators;

Courtesy translation

5. Notes

that the adoption of such an ambitious plan (European Green Deal) is irresponsible when the way of substitution of existing sources of energy remains unknown;

6. Asks

the European Commission to prepare an impact study describing the specific feasibility of the proposed measures and quantifying the effects of the planned changes, especially the costs and benefits for the Czech Republic;

7. Stresses

in accordance with the Senate Resolution No. 155 from 19th April 2017 on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Governance of the Energy Union, amending Directive 94/22/EC, Directive 98/70/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC, Regulation (EC) No 663/2009, Regulation (EC) No 715/2009, Directive 2009/73/EC, Council Directive 2009/119/EC, Directive 2010/31/EU, Directive 2012/27/EU, Directive 2013/30/EU and Council Directive (EU) 2015/652 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 525/2013, and on the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast), that the introduction of a carbon tax, whose mechanism of operation is transparent compared to the uncontrollable and unpredictable development of emission allowance prices, is more convenient than the EU ETS system;

8. Is concerned

that the proposed measures, which include transition to sustainable aviation fuels, including synthetic fuels, will lead to a significant price increase of air transport, thus making it completely inaccessible for certain groups of population, and that this could consequently cause certain air connections to be disrupted and some EU regions to be less accessible;

9. Stresses

that the aspect of safety should be taken into account as a priority, in particular, because of the planned progressive introduction of new types of aviation fuels, since there is not enough experience with their use and blending, and because of the refuelling obligation for aircraft operators at a given Union airport;

10. Is as well concerned

about the competitiveness of European aircraft operators in the context of global competition, mainly in view of the obligation for aircraft operators to refuel at least 90% of the yearly aviation fuel required at a given Union airport, which puts them at a disadvantage;

II.

1. Requests

the Government to provide the Senate by 31st March 2022

- with information about the way this Resolution was taken into account, and about the further development of negotiations;
- with the assessment of impacts of the Proposal on the Czech Republic, on which the Government's position is based, in particular with impacts on aircraft operators in the Czech Republic and airport operators in the Czech Republic;

Courtesy translation

2. Authorises

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

Miloš Vystrčil
sign manual
President of the Senate

Josef Bazala
sign manual
Senate Verifier