



SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
13TH TERM

348TH

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 18th Session held on the 15th of December 2021

Package on the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority

Proposal for a Council Regulation on a framework of measures for ensuring the supply of crisis-relevant medical countermeasures in the event of a public health emergency at Union level (Senate Print no. N 087/13, COM(2021) 577)

Communication from the Commission Introducing HERA, the European Health Emergency preparedness and Response Authority, the next step towards completing the European Health Union (Senate Print no. K 088/13, COM(2021) 576)

The Senate

I.

1. Perceives

the urgency of strengthening the coordination of health security activities and finding solutions to the EU's vulnerabilities and strategic dependencies related to the development, production, procurement and stockpiling and distribution of medical countermeasures; in this regard, broadly supports the establishment of a new Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Office (HERA);

2. Regrets, however,

that the way in which HERA is set up, as an organizational unit within the Commission's structures, does not allow for adequate public scrutiny of the activities of the new authority, especially in view of the amount of budget available to HERA for its activities for 2022-2027;

3. Is concerned

- that the institutional architecture of the emerging European Health Union is not well thought out, which will lead to duplication of activities and mandate overlaps of the institutions, agencies and warning systems concerned, or to insufficient involvement of actors with expertise;

Courtesy translation

- that the establishment of the new authority will not increase the transparency of the process of negotiations regarding vaccines and therapeutics or other medical countermeasures;

4. Asks

in this regard, the Commission for clarification:

- of the role of HERA and its organizational units (Coordination Committee, HERA Board and HERA Advisory Forum) vis-à-vis the Health Security Committee (HSC), the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the European Medicines Agency (EMA), measures adopted under the Integrated Political Crisis System (IPCR), the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), the Early Warning and Response System (EWRS) etc.;
- of the mandate of the future European Chief Epidemiologist, mentioned in the Communication Drawing the early lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic from June 2021, and the nature and extent of cooperation between him and HERA;

II.

1. Requests

the Government to inform the Senate by the 31st of March 2022 about the way this Resolution was taken into account, and about the further development 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

Jaroslav Větrovský
sign manual
Senate Verifier