



SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

13TH TERM

353rd

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 18^h session held on 15th December 2021

on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Tackling rising energy prices: a toolbox for action and support /Senate Print no. K 94/13, COM(2021) 660/

The Senate

- I.**
- 1. Takes into account**
the European Commission's effort to address the energy prices rising in the EU Member States which is having a serious social and economic impact and which, given its scale, requires a common and coordinated approach;
 - 2. Considers**
it essential that the European Commission and other EU institutions pay close attention to the issue of unacceptable rising of energy prices and that they do so comprehensively;
 - 3. Considers, however,**
that the submitted Communication does not offer any new tools that the EU Member States can immediately use to address the current crisis but only suggests which steps the Member States can immediately take to help the most vulnerable consumers and businesses overcome the current situation on energy market;
 - 4. Is of the opinion**
that in addition to the proposed measures, it is crucial to draw attention to the reasons that have led to energy prices rising (in addition to high gas prices, e.g. insufficient response to increased energy consumption due to economic recovery; high EU dependence on imported fossil fuels; gradual phase-out of coal mining and decommissioning of nuclear power plants, whose capacity is not sufficiently and mainly sustainably replaced by energy

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from renewable sources; the negative effects of liberalization of the EU energy market on some Member States; the unrestrained increase in the prices of emission allowances within the EU ETS; negative effects of globalization leading to loss of self-sufficiency of key economic regions; etc.);

5. Also points out

to the fact that high energy prices lead to higher prices in other areas (e.g. services) and increase the prices of goods and products which has a direct impact on living standards of not only the lower-income class, but now also of the middle-income class in the Czech Republic;

6. Supports,

in accordance with the European Council Conclusions adopted in October 2021, especially the measures leading to the affordable energy for households and businesses, increase in energy market resilience in the EU, prevention of significant energy price fluctuations, ensuring the security of gas and electricity supply and to reducing the EU's energy imports dependency;

7. Especially supports

the measures to increase the role of consumers on the energy market in order to provide them with greater protection and to ensure their better position in the energy supply chain while maintaining fair conditions for businesses in the energy sector;

8. Is of the opinion

that the combination of available energy sources, i.e. natural gas, coal, renewable energy sources and nuclear sources, as well as their prices and particularly the security of their supplies, now represent the key values that will determine the economic stability of the EU;

9. Agrees

with the position of the Government;

10. Supports

the submission of the Government addressed to the European Commission concerning a temporary exemption from VAT with the right to deduct tax on the electricity and gas supply in order to allow the Czech Republic to flexibly address fluctuations in energy prices on the market;

11. Agrees,

with regard to the composition of the energy mix of the Czech Republic, that nuclear energy is included in the EU taxonomy as a sustainable energy source and natural gas as a transitional source on a way to energy decarbonisation and the EU's green transformation;

12. Emphasizes,

particularly with regard to ensuring the security of supply, especially voluntary basis and respect for market principles regarding reserves stocks of gas and joint natural gas purchases; however, at the same time points out the technical and practical issues of the feasibility of joint gas purchases by the Member States;

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13. Does not support

the establishment of new platforms (new cross-border regional gas risk groups) which obviously do not have any added value and represent an additional administrative burden for the Member States, whereas it considers already existing regional gas groups, which are established in compliance with the current EU legal rules, to be sufficient;

14. Calls on

the European Commission to immediately suspend trading of emission allowances until the Directive 2003/87/EC on the EU ETS is substantially revised;

II.

1. Requests

the Government to inform the Senate no later than on 31 March 2022 about the way this Resolution was taken into account;

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