



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Mr Ondřej BENEŠÍK
Chair of the Committee on
European Affairs
of the Poslanecká sněmovna
Sněmovní 4
CZ – 118 26 PRAGUE 1*

*Cc Mr Radek VONDRÁČEK
President of the
Poslanecká sněmovna
Sněmovní 4
CZ – 118 26 PRAGUE 1*

Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Poslanecká sněmovna for its Opinion on the Commission Recommendation on the draft of the Czech Republic's integrated national energy and climate plan covering the period 2021-2030 {C(2019)4403}.

The Energy Union strategy¹ (COM/2015/080) aims at building an Energy Union that gives EU consumers - households and businesses - secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy. The Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action² which entered into force on 24 December 2018 as part of the Clean energy for all Europeans package, emphasises the importance of meeting the EU's 2030 energy and climate targets and sets out how EU countries and the Commission should work together, and how individual countries should cooperate, to achieve the Energy Union's goals. It takes into account the fact that different countries can contribute to the Energy Union in different ways. The Governance Regulation, therefore, foresees an iterative dialogue framed around the National Energy and Climate Plans.

¹ COM(2015) 080 final

² Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action, amending Regulations (EC) No 663/2009 and (EC) No 715/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Directives 94/22/EC, 98/70/EC, 2009/31/EC, 2009/73/EC, 2010/31/EU, 2012/27/EU and 2013/30/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 2009/119/EC and (EU) 2015/652 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 525/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council; OJ L 328, 21.12.2018, p. 1–77.

At the beginning of 2019, the Czech Republic submitted its draft National Energy and Climate Plan. On 18 June 2019 the Commission published its assessment of the draft National Energy and Climate Plans and addressed recommendations to the Czech Republic concerning its plan.

The Commission shares the view of the Poslanecká sněmovna that energy is to be seen in a broader context. Reducing energy consumption should take place in a cost-effective way, maximising economic benefits and bringing tangible benefits to vulnerable consumers. In fact, Member States are invited to design specific energy efficiency measures that shall benefit energy poor consumers and security of supply.

Furthermore, to prevent and counteract undesirable social consequences of the transition to a climate neutral economy, the Commission has proposed on 14 January 2020 the creation of a Just Transition Mechanism, which will specifically target those regions that will be most affected by the transition. This aims to ensure that the transition towards climate-neutrality leaves no one behind. The Czech Republic is the third largest coal mining country in the EU and the coal dependent regions are among the most disadvantaged ones inside the Czech Republic. The allocation proposed under the Just Transition Fund reflects these challenges, with an aid per inhabitant more than three times higher than the EU-average.

The Commission notes the intentions to maintain and to develop nuclear energy in the Czech Republic and respects the right of Czech Republic to determine its choice between different sources of energy within the framework of the existing legislation.

The Commission welcomes the Poslanecká sněmovna's acknowledgement for the Commission's recommendation and its support for strengthening of the research, development and innovation in the field of energy.

The Czech Republic submitted on 14 January 2020 its final National Energy and Climate Plan to the Commission. The Commission is currently assessing the Czech National Energy and Climate Plan as well as the plans of the other Member States. It intends to communicate its assessment in the course of 2020.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Poslanecká sněmovna and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Kadri Simson
Member of the Commission*