



# THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

## SENATE

### 9<sup>th</sup> TERM

## COMMITTEE on EU AFFAIRS

### 170<sup>th</sup> RESOLUTION

delivered on the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013

**on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council  
establishing the Copernicus Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No. 911/2010**

**Senate Press no. N 073/09**

Following introductory information from Ms. Klára Wajdová, Director of Department of International Relations of the Ministry of the Environment, after the rapporteur's report by Senator Miroslav Krejča and after a debate

#### The Committee

#### **I. Adopts**

a recommendation on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Copernicus Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No. 911/2010, attached to this Resolution;

#### **II. Recommends**

that the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic give a statement on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Copernicus Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No. 911/2010, in accordance with the recommendation adopted by the Committee;

#### **III. Appoints**

Senator Miroslav Krejča the Committee's rapporteur at the plenary session of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic;

#### **IV. Authorises**

the Committee Chairperson Senator Miroslav Krejča to submit this Resolution to the President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic.

**Miroslav Krejča**

sign manual

Committee Chairperson

**Miroslav Krejča**

sign manual

Committee Rapporteur

**Luděk Jeništa**

sign manual

Committee Verifier

## **Recommendation to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Copernicus Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No. 911/2010**

The Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

### **I.**

#### **1. Is convinced**

of the importance of a long-term EU space strategy for competitiveness development in the European Union, for acquisition of new knowledge of nature and natural phenomena, for solution of social problems such as car accident prevention, automatic distress calls, assistance services, environment observation and climate change, for survey and monitoring of natural resources exploitation, and for ensuring security and technological independence from other states;

#### **2. Supports,**

therefore, in accord with the long-term position of the Senate, as stated for example in its Resolution No. 366 of 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011 on the Commission's Communication Towards a space strategy for the European Union that benefits its citizens, Copernicus, i.e. European Earth Monitoring Programme, as an important element of the EU space strategy which will provide reliable information on the environment, transport, climate change and cross-border security;

### **II.**

#### **1. Is of the opinion,**

in accord with the long-term position of the Senate, as stated for example in its Resolution No. 690 of 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012 on the Commission's Communication on the establishment of an Intergovernmental Agreement for the operations of the European Earth Monitoring Programme, that the financing of key European space programmes should be permanently included in the EU budget;

#### **2. Agrees**

therefore with the Commission's proposal to include Copernicus financing in the EU budget, which represents an important step in order to ensure adequate funding of this ambitious European project with undeniable social relevance;

#### **3. Warns**

nevertheless against an unjustified reduction in funding, compared to the originally proposed amount, that would reduce the planned budget by more than one third, and as such the funding might not cover even the space component of the programme, thereby putting the scheduled launch date into jeopardy;

#### **4. Suggests**

unifying European space programmes management under the umbrella of the European GNSS Agency (GSA Agency), as suggested earlier, which will reduce administrative costs, enhance coordination among the different programmes and improve the coherence of the components involved;

#### **5. Calls on the Government**

to further involve Czech entities in EU space initiatives, as domestic companies and research institutions have considerable potential in this field, and their opportunities to be involved are strengthened by the recent transfer of the GSA headquarters to Prague;

## **6. Recommends**

that the Government should support space policy coordination mechanisms across the ministries involved (e.g. by means of the Coordinating Board for Space Activities of the Government of the Czech Republic), thereby increasing the knowledge about space applications in practice and broadening co-financing options for Copernicus projects at the national level;

## **7. Requests**

also that the findings from space research and exploration should be made available to as many users as possible, be they from academia, government, business and professional communities;

## **8. Supports**

greater involvement of all stakeholders who benefit from the outputs of the programme (such as EU and non-EU member states, researchers, businesses) in the programme management, for example building on the existing GMES User Forum, and disagrees therefore with the proposal that the programme should be managed by the European Commission by means of delegated acts;

# **III.**

## **1. Requests**

the Government to inform the Senate about the way this position was taken into account and to provide the Senate with further information on the proceeding of negotiations;

## **2. Authorises**

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