



THE SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
9TH TERM

365TH

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 15th session held on 30th October 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/

The Senate

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 13th 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 19th 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.

Milan Štěch
sign manual
President of the Senate

Hassan Mezian
sign manual
Senate Verifier