



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

250TH

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 11th session held on 21st June 2013

on the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure

Senate Press no. N 021/09

and

on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Clean Power for Transport: A European alternative fuels strategy

Senate Press no. K 022/09

The Senate

I.

1. Supports

the European Union goals in the field of transport policy, such as reducing dependence on fossil fuels, improving transport services primarily in remote areas, interconnecting border regions, increasing fuel efficiency and the transition toward low-carbon energy sources;

2. Is of the opinion,

in accordance with Resolution of the Senate No. 365 of 13th October 2011 on the White Paper: Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area, that the expansion of alternative fuels, if done hand-in-hand with a greater use of low-carbon energy sources, may lead to a reduction in the environmental burden of transport, and this effect can be even multiplied by well-advised construction of transport routes and support for public transport;

3. Perceives,

in accordance with Resolution of the Senate No. 772 of 25th October 2012 on the proposals to define the modalities to reduce CO₂ emissions from new passenger cars and light commercial vehicles, that the volume of CO₂ emissions from road transport poses a serious global problem, in solving of which the Czech Republic shall participate;

II.

1. Appreciates

the impact of public investment on reaching a critical mass when the creation of minimal alternative fuels infrastructure leads to an increased deployment of those means of transport that run on alternative fuels;

2. Points out,

however, that a potential massive mobilisation of public funds toward this goal should be preceded by a thorough analysis of causes why broad market penetration of certain alternative fuels cannot be achieved by market forces;

3. Is of the opinion

that the Member States have completely different conditions for development of individual alternative fuels and that the Member States differ in the level of alternative fuels development;

4. Considers, therefore,

that strategies on alternative fuel development should, to the greatest extent, take into account geographic and environmental conditions of the respective Member States as well as different initial conditions prevailing in those Member States;

5. Has reservations

about setting binding quantitative targets for the infrastructure development in the Member States, and considers it essential that the different conditions for the development of individual alternative fuels in the Member States should be taken into account;

6. States,

in accordance with Resolution of the Senate No. 128 of 20th March 2013 on the proposal for a Directive relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels, that the EU's commitments in the use of bio-fuels for energy production from renewable sources has brought some negative trends;

7. Recalls

in this context the long-term position of the Senate, as stated for example in Resolution No. 365 of 13th October 2011 on the White Paper: Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area, that the EU legislative initiatives should not prioritize one technological solution (in this case one type of alternative fuel) over another, and should observe the principle of technological neutrality;

8. Agrees

with the proposal to harmonise technological interfaces for individual alternative fuels so that the costs for consumers and clients are reduced and the existence of several incompatible systems does not hinder the free market;

9. Expects

in accordance with Resolution of the Senate No. 638 of 13th June 2012 on Horizon 2020, the framework programme for research and innovation, that the development of alternative fuels will be given due attention in the framework of planned research initiatives of Horizon 2020, especially in the Societal Challenges pillar, and that it will be the focus of the activities of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology;

10. Warns

against excessive transfer of competences to the European Commission by means of delegated acts, thereby creating a risk of regulatory bias favouring some

alternative fuels at the expense of others without effective control from the Member States and the European Parliament;

11. Calls on

the European Commission to carefully reconsider the content, implementation deadlines and objectives of the legislative proposal because, given the current state of public finances in the EU, the fulfilment of these obligations seems unrealistic;

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

Miroslav Škaloud
sign manual
Senate Verifier