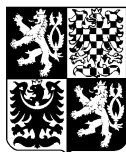


THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
SENATE



7th term

555th RESOLUTION
OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 23rd session held on 22 September 2010

on Green Paper on Forest Protection and Information in the EU: Preparing forests for climate change

(Senate Press no. K 098/07)

The Senate

I.

1. R e g a r d s

the Commission's Green Paper as a useful document for initiating a debate on this topic;

2. C o n s i d e r s

healthy forests to be an essential condition for their successful adaptation to climate change since forest ecosystems as such are capable of effectively capturing carbon from emissions of carbon dioxide, a key greenhouse gas, into its biomass and into the soil, and in so doing they contribute to the reduction of negative consequences of the so-called greenhouse effect;

II.

1. H o l d s t h e v i e w

that although Czech forests are generally better prepared for climate change mitigation, it is necessary to prepare them for the climate change gradually and strive for an increase of their environmental stability so that they are able to react to the changed conditions without any substantial loss when carrying out all their functions;

2. S t a t e s

that the Czech Republic lacks detailed data on carbon stocks in forest soils as well as the information on the effect that various approaches to forest management have on these stocks, and therefore invites the government to work towards obtaining these data and reflecting them in forest management so that the full advantage of this effect can be taken;

3. Emphasizes

that forest policy falls within the competence of the member states and, therefore, invites the Commission to always adhere carefully to the principle of subsidiarity when drawing up follow-up initiatives;

4. Regards

as one of possible roles of the EU in this area to obtain and analyze data necessary for evaluation and formulation of European policies by means of national forest inventories and pan-European monitoring of the state of forests;

5. Appeals

to the Commission to clearly define, in cooperation with the member states of the EU, which information is necessary to gather at the European level, and to ensure a coherent information system and monitoring of the state of forests that could be used for a better coordination of the member states' policies in this field;

6. Invites

the government and the Commission, when addressing the issue of forest biomass for energy production within their strategies for using of renewable sources of energy, to take into account that individual locations must retain a threshold amount of nutrients and sufficient biodiversity for further healthy development and existence of forest ecosystems;

7. Appeals

to the government to secure a thorough fulfilment of the key initiatives contained in the National Forest Programme II until 2013 by the respective ministries and to come up with a roadmap for the preparation of a following strategic document covering this area after 2013;

8. Considers

it important to elaborate on specific measures dealing with the relationship between forest and water management and to foster cohesion between forest and water management policies and its maintenance through adopting appropriate technical measures;

9. Invites

the government to ensure the compatibility of the national information system concerning the state of forests in the Czech Republic so that its data and outputs could be readily used for the needs of information and monitoring systems of the EU;

10. Stresses

that the government should draw up a strategy of restoration measures in case the condition of the Czech forests worsens and the strategy should be prepared in cooperation with the neighbouring countries to prevent negative repercussions arising from different strategies and policies of the individual states;

11. Believes

that the government should elaborate on a comprehensive strategy setting out support for using timber for construction purposes and, in so doing, secure not only an adequate replacement for non-renewable construction materials with high requirements on energy consumption during their harvesting and further processing, but also a long-term carbon fixation from atmospheric deposition into wooden constructions;

12. Is of the opinion

that the government should coordinate the principles of subsidies and the rules for using biomass as a source of energy with the neighbouring countries to prevent speculative transfers of this material;

III.

1. Requests

the government to inform the Senate about the way this position was taken into account and about further initiatives following the Green Paper;

2. Authorises

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

Přemysl Sobotka
sign manual
President of the Senate

Alena Venhodová
sign manual
Senate Verifier