

Courtesy translation



THE SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

11TH TERM

296TH

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 10th session held on 11th October 2017

on the Road Transport Package – toll collection and monitoring and reporting of CO₂ emissions of new heavy-duty vehicles

Senate Print no. N 047/11, (COM(2017) 275) - Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 1999/62/EC on the charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures

Senate Print no. N 048/11, (COM(2017) 280) - Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the interoperability of electronic road toll systems and facilitating cross-border exchange of information on the failure to pay road fees in the Union (recast)

Senate Print no. N 049/11, (COM(2017) 279) - Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the monitoring and reporting of CO₂ emissions from and fuel consumption of new heavy-duty vehicles

Senate Print no. N 050/11, (COM(2017) 276) - Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 1999/62/EC on the charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures, as regards certain provisions on vehicle taxation

The Senate

I.

1. Is aware

of the significant impact of road traffic on quality of the environment and of the fact that road transport is essential for national economies as well as for effective functioning of the EU internal market;

2. Considers

Single European Transport Area to be one of the most important elements of the European integration and of the increase in EU's competitiveness vis-à-vis other global economies;

3. Is of the opinion

that reasonable and balanced road pricing can be the factor that will reduce negative impacts of road transport on the environment;

4. Therefore supports

in general the submitted proposals because they further develop the "user pays" and "polluter pays" principles and contribute to the fulfilment of declared CO₂ reduction targets;

II.

1. Is of the opinion

that the charging system for the use of road infrastructure must be simple, fair and must not discriminate drivers from other Member States; charges should also objectively reflect the impact of the vehicle on the environment as well as on the technical condition of the infrastructure;

2. Believes

that a toll based on the distance travelled on a given infrastructure is more effective and fair than time-based charges;

3. Agrees

with the Government that in case of the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 1999/62/EC on the charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures the proposed changes should not be implemented before 1st January 2030 because implementing the changes earlier would be met with difficulties arising from the valid contracts for the administration of electronic toll system in the Czech Republic for the period 2020-2029;

4. Supports

utmost interoperability of electronic road toll systems including possible use of single on-board unit in all Member States which would prevent the need to buy individual time-based vouchers when passing through individual Member States; points out, however, that the transition from time-based charges to electronic distance-based charging system (toll) should not lead to substantial increase in costs for travellers;

5. Prefers

to use, for toll collection, particularly devices that will utilize data from the Galileo and EGNOS systems for determining the location;

6. Does not agree

with the authorisation of the Commission to adopt by delegated acts changes of the list of technologies which can be used for carrying out electronic toll transactions and definition of parameters for new differentiation of road charges according to CO₂ emissions because these are important elements of the proposals which should be decided by the Council and the European Parliament;

7. Is also of the opinion

that cross-border exchange of vehicle registration data between the Member States for the purpose of enforcement of unpaid toll should not fall within the scope of the Directive on the interoperability of electronic road toll systems but should be regulated in separate legal act with appropriate legal basis;

8. Does not share,

in case of the proposal on the monitoring and reporting of CO₂ emissions from and fuel consumption of new heavy-duty vehicles, the Commission's persuasion of the efficacy and benefits of this initiative; the CO₂ emissions and fuel consumption of vehicles depend

on many factors (e.g. driving style, traffic density) and therefore it can be expected that data from real traffic will always be different from those provided by vehicle manufacturers;

9. Requests

also to clarify in this proposal the enforcement of the vehicle manufacturers' duty to provide data, since the proposal does not address the issue of sanctions when this obligation is not fulfilled;

10. Is of the opinion

that creation of a real single transport area also requires harmonization of different national requirements for vehicle equipment and their crew, unification of requirements for periodical technical controls of vehicles as well as of traffic rules and technical parameters for newly built road infrastructure; the Senate has in fact already pointed this out in its resolution No. 119 of 8th March 2017 on European strategy on Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems;

III.

1. Requests

the Government to inform the Senate about the way this resolution was taken into account and about further development of negotiations once the political agreement of the required number of Member States on the main elements of the proposals is reached, or at an earlier time, should the results of negotiations in the Council begin to depart considerably from the position of the Czech Republic expressed in the General Position of the Government;

2. Authorises

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

Milan Štěch
sign manual
President of the Senate

Pavel Štohl
sign manual
Senate Verifier