

Courtesy translation



THE SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

11TH TERM

386TH

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 13th session held on 4th April 2018

on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans /Senate Print no. K 113/11, COM(2018) 65/

The Senate

I.

1. Declares again

its long-term support of the EU enlargement policy as a tool for securing peace, democracy, prosperity, stability and good relations in Europe and as a long-term process based on the fulfilment of equal accession criteria for all candidate countries;

2. Emphasizes

that the Union needs to support Western Balkans countries in their reform efforts and fostering of good neighbourly relations considering the geostrategic and security importance of the Western Balkans and in order to preserve stability in this region;

3. Therefore welcomes

that the Commission confirmed in the document the perspective of EU membership for the countries in this region, because this is an important motivational factor for conducting necessary economic and political reforms; for that reason the Senate also considers the indicative date 2025 for the possible accession of Montenegro and Serbia to the EU to be helpful; the Senate points out that substantial progress in case of Kosovo cannot be achieved without a convergence of positions of the Member States on its independence;

4. Appreciates

the progress made by Western Balkans countries; agrees, however, that these countries must still adopt and implement a number of reforms particularly in the area of rule of law and competitiveness, work highly actively on overcoming conflicts from the past and improve their mutual relations; considers the proposed six flagship initiatives of the Action Plan in support of the transformation of the Western Balkans to be very suitable tools for the promotion of reforms;

5. Agrees

with the Commission that the next Multiannual Financial Framework should be prepared for the potential EU enlargement; agrees also with the Commission that the EU must be prepared properly on the institutional level for the accession of new Member States; however, the Senate does not consider it appropriate to connect the enlargement policy with the enhanced use of qualified majority voting in the Council since the EU currently does not face a mass accession of large number of new countries;

6. Is of the opinion

that Accession Treaties should not be used for making amendments to EU primary law that are not directly related to the accession; at the same time warns against blanket use of the so called bridging clause (passerelle) considered by the Commission and recalls that according to the Standing Rules of both chambers of Parliament of the Czech Republic, the mandate of the representative of the Government to consent to the application of the bridging clause in the Council or the European Council is subject to prior approval of both Chambers;

II.

Authorises

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

Milan Štěch
sign manual
President of the Senate

Luděk Jeništa
sign manual
Senate Verifier