

Courtesy translation



THE SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

11TH TERM

457TH

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 16th session held on 19th July 2018

on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Region 2018 Communication on EU Enlargement Policy /Senate Print no. K 127/11, COM(2018) 450/

The Senate

I.

1. Consistently supports

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. Recalls

its resolution No. 386 of 4th April 2018 on the Communication from the Commission A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans in which the Senate has welcomed the confirmation of the perspective of EU membership for the Western Balkans countries, because this is an important motivational factor for conducting necessary economic and political reforms, as well as setting year 2025 as an indicative date for the possible accession of Montenegro and Serbia to the EU;

II.

1. 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 key areas of rule of law and economy;

2. Agrees also with the Commission

that these countries must make progress in cultivating good neighbourly relations and overcoming long-time bilateral conflicts; welcomes therefore the agreement between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece on the name of Macedonian state;

3. Shares

the view of the Commission on the situation in Turkey, notably regarding the deterioration of the situation in areas such as rule of law, judiciary, fundamental rights or freedom of expression; however, the Senate is of the opinion that Turkey remains for the time being a key partner for the EU and a candidate country and therefore supports the continuation of the dialogue and cooperation in areas of joint interest;

4. Supports

the opening of accession negotiations with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania;

5. Points out again

that substantial progress in case of Kosovo cannot be achieved without convergence of positions of the Member States on its independence;

6. Regrets

that the EU-Western Balkans Summit which took place in Sofia in May has not led to more ambitious political commitments in the issue of future enlargement of the EU due to divisions among the EU Member States;

III.

Authorises

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

Milan Štěch
sign manual
President of the Senate

Michael Canov
sign manual
Senate Verifier