

PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

**THE SENATE**

**VÁCLAV HAMPL**

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE  
ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

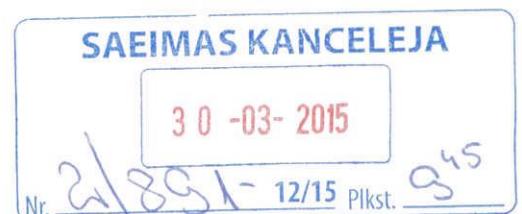
Prague, 25 March 2015

Dear colleague,

I am very glad that the upcoming COSAC meeting in Riga will focus on the future of the parliamentary scrutiny of the EU affairs, with a special emphasis on the political dialogue and the green card procedure.

We had a very fruitful exchange of views during the COSAC Chairpersons' meeting in February. Building on this exchange of views and having considered the discussion paper by the House of Lords, I would like to inform you that the Czech Senate adopted a Resolution, based on the recommendation of my Committee on EU Affairs that sets out the Senate's general views on this newly proposed means of further interparliamentary cooperation.

In this Resolution, the Senate considered the green card to be a suitable means of enhancing the political dialogue between the national parliaments and the Commission, and supported the general principles outlined in the discussion paper. The Senate also expressed the view that the text of a draft green card should be made available in English by the initiating chamber in order to facilitate mutual communication. For more information, please see the attached Resolution.



I am looking forward to the upcoming COSAC meeting at which we will, hopefully, be able to thrash out all the outstanding issues regarding the green card, and we will have a chance to openly debate other highly important topical matters, such as TTIP and the energy union, as well.

Finally, let me wish you all the best during the Latvian Presidency.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Lolita Čigāne', written in a cursive style.

**Ms Lolita ČIGĀNE**

Chairwoman of the European Affairs Committee

Saeima

Jēkaba Iela 11

LV-1811 Riga

LATVIA



**THE SENATE  
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

**10<sup>TH</sup> TERM**

**RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE**

**106<sup>th</sup> RESOLUTION**

delivered on the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**on the possible introduction of a "green card" as a means of interparliamentary coordination in EU affairs**

**The Senate**

**1. Has acquainted itself**

with the information of the Chairperson of the Committee on EU Affairs regarding the possible introduction of a "green card" as a means of interparliamentary coordination in EU affairs;

**2. Finds**

that the green card would represent an informal accord on coordination among EU member states' parliaments within the framework of their political dialogue with the European Commission; this coordination could lead to presenting reasoned appeals from the involved national parliaments to the Commission calling for a new legislative action or the amendment or repeal of existing legislation;

**3. Considers**

the green card to be a suitable means of enhancing the political dialogue between the national parliaments and the Commission;

**4. Agrees, in principle,**

with the possible shape of this mechanism, as described in the discussion paper sent on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from the Chairman of the European Union Committee in the House of Lords of the Parliament of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the chairpersons of European affairs committees in other national parliaments, i.e.:

- It would be open to any chamber of a national parliament to propose a green card regarding a certain topic. The text of the proposal would be communicated to other parliamentary chambers;
- The proposed green card could call on the Commission to introduce new legislation or to review, amend or repeal existing legislation, including delegated or implementing acts. The initiating chamber should describe the main features of the desired legislation in sufficient detail for the Commission to make a considered response. The draft green card should include a

summary of grounds for its drafting, the anticipated benefits of the proposed action, the preferred type of legislation (e.g. a directive) and a possible legal base;

- Any parliamentary chamber may decide to co-sign the draft green card within a six-month period from the circulation of the draft;
- In order to qualify as a green card and be presented to the Commission as such, the draft should be supported at least by one quarter of national parliaments. This would be counted according to the rules of the Protocol on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, i.e. each national parliament shall have two votes. In the case of a bicameral parliamentary system, each of the two chambers shall have one vote.

#### **5. Notes**

that it would be desirable, in order to facilitate mutual communication, if the national parliament initiating the green card delivered to the other national parliaments the text of the green card including an English translation, if possible, because the other national parliaments would probably have to further translate this text to the official language of their country; this is also why the Senate considers the six-month period for co-signing the draft green cards fully adequate;

#### **6. Is further of the opinion**

that although the question of who decides in the national parliament on the initiation of the green card or the co-signing of a green card initiated by another parliament is a matter of national law and parliamentary practice of each member state, it would be appropriate, in the view of the political importance of the green cards, that this decision should be taken by a body that adopts written contributions addressed to the European Commission within the framework of the political dialogue (that is, in the case of the Senate, the plenary session);

#### **7. Authorises**

the Chairperson of the Committee on EU Affairs to inform his counterparts in the other national parliaments about this Resolution.

p.p. Přemysl Sobotka  
sign manual  
President of the Senate

Jozef Regec  
sign manual  
Senate Verifier