



THE SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
13TH TERM

73rd

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 3rd session held on 16th December 2020

on the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on adequate minimum wages in the European Union (Senate Print no. N 001/13, COM(2020) 682)

The Senate

I.

1. Is convinced

that work must pay off, because the participation of people of working age in the labour market is the best way to prevent in-work poverty and social exclusion;

2. Agrees, therefore,

with the Commission, that the level of the minimum wage should ensure a decent living for workers who receive it and their families and protection from social exclusion;

3. Emphasizes, however,

that the level of the minimum wage, as one of the key economic policy issues, must at the same time remain a matter for political decision-making at the Member State level (or at the regional or sectoral level) in order to take flexible account of their political, economic and social developments;

4. Is of the opinion,

given the Union's complementary and supportive role to activities of the Member States in social policy (including working conditions) and the principle of subsidiarity, that the issue of the minimum wage at the EU level should be subject to, at most, legally non-binding coordination of Member States' employment policies; therefore the Senate considers a Council recommendation to be a more appropriate tool for addressing the issue of reasonable minimum wages at EU level than a directive;

5. Recalls

that Article 153 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, which is the legal basis of the proposal of the Directive, allows the Union to support and complement the activities of the Member States concerning working conditions, but clearly states in paragraph 5 that it does not apply to pay;

6. Points out

to the internal inconsistency of the proposal, as, on one hand, the explanatory memorandum to the proposal states that the Directive does not contain measures directly affecting the level of pay, but, on the other hand, Article 5 of the proposal lays down legal obligation of the Member States to abide by the criteria set out therein and to use indicative reference values according to international indicators when setting the level of minimum wage, which is undoubtedly intended to affect the level of the minimum wage and thus the level of pay for work;

II.

1. Requests

the Government to inform the Senate no later than on 31 March 2021 about the way this Resolution was taken into account, and about further development of negotiations;

2. Authorises

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

Miloš Vystrčil
sign manual
President of the Senate

Josef Bazala
sign manual
Senate Verifier