



**PARLIAMENT
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC**
Chamber of Deputies
Ondřej Benešik
Chairman
Committee for European Affairs

Prague, 21st June 2019

Dear Mr. President,

I would like to inform you about the opinion of the Committee for European Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

on the Communication from the Commission - A more efficient and democratic decision making in EU energy and climate policy, Council Code 8417/19, COM(2019) 177 final;

The respective document was included in the agenda of the 30th session of the Committee for European Affairs and was scrutinized on 12th June 2019. According to the Rules of Procedure of the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, the Deputy Minister of Environment, the representative of the Ministry of Finance and the representative of the State Office for nuclear safety were present at the session to introduce the preliminary Government's Framework Position.

After the hearing of the rapporteur's review and after the discussion the Committee has adopted the resolution No. 242 **in the framework of the Political Dialogue** which is enclosed to this letter.

Yours sincerely

Enclosure

Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker
President of the European Commission
B r u s s e l s

PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
Chamber of Deputies
Committee for European Affairs

Resolution No. 242

30th Session on 12 June 2019

the Communication from the Commission - A more efficient and democratic decision making in EU energy and climate policy, Council Code 8417/19, COM(2019) 177 final

Conclusions of the Resolution:

Committee for European Affairs

1. **has deliberated on** the Communication from the Commission - A more efficient and democratic decision making in EU energy and climate policy, Council Code 8417/19, COM(2019) 177 final;
2. **points out strongly** that the purpose of the Communication, under the slogan "more efficient and democratic decision-making in EU energy and climate policy," is to move from a unanimous vote to a qualified majority vote in the case of energy and climate tax measures, as well as an effort to revise the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community;
3. **supports** the Government's Framework Position on this communication;
4. **rejects** the European Commission's efforts to abolish the principle of unanimity when voting on the Energy Directive as well as its proposal of reform the Euratom Treaty;
5. **believes** that the goals in the area of energy and climate that are set up out in the Treaties could be achieved within the existing voting arrangements in the Council of the EU;
6. **takes the view** that if there is an apparent need for a more flexible and rapid procedure for an action to be taken at the EU level, the most democratic means is, without any doubt, the adoption of proposed measures by all Member States unreservedly. Therefore, it would be more beneficial for the European Commission to concentrate on introducing proposals that are prepared and justified in such quality so that they would be supported by all Member States. Introducing the proposals replacing unanimous decision-making with a qualified majority vote with justification as „more democratic decision-making in EU policy“ shows, in the opinion of the Committee, an apparent misunderstanding of the values and principles which the EU is based on;
7. **fears** that proposed transition to the ordinary legislative procedure (i.e. a qualified majority vote instead of unanimity) will lead to an expansion of the opportunities to introduce such proposals of measures that would divide by the Member States. And, in the Committee's view, the momentary need to take necessary measures more quickly and flexibly in a particular situation should not prevail over the need for sustaining coherence among the Member States and over the need for sustainability of the further development of European integration;
8. **stresses** that in the area of amending the legislative procedure concerning regulations covering energy taxation on the basis of CO₂ emissions, the representative of the Czech Republic cannot vote for any proposal in the Council without having the prior approval of both Chambers of Parliament of the Czech Republic;
9. **reminds** that according the Constitution of the Czech Republic, a three-fifths majority of all Deputies and a three-fifths majority of Senators present at the voting would have to give their consent to ratify the amendments to the Euratom Treaty, and than it would have to be ratified also by the President of the Czech Republic.

Parliament of the Czech Republic, Chamber of Deputies, Sněmovní 3, 118 26 Praha 1

tel.: +420-257 173 411, fax: +420-257 173 415

<http://www.psp.cz/vez>

10. **asks** the Government to submit actively to the Committee on European Affairs, in due time, a mandate for the relevant EU Council meeting, should the representative of the Government of the Czech Republic vote on the Proposals contained in the Communication;
11. **authorizes** the Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs to forward this resolution to the President of the European Commission **in the framework of the Political Dialogue**;
12. **forwards** this Communication including the Government's Framework Position and Committee's Resolution to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Economic Affairs for information.