



**PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC**  
**Chamber of Deputies**  
**Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs**  
*Ondřej B e n e š í k*

Prague, May 29, 2020

Dear Chairman and Colleague,

First of all, I would like to wish you good health. Let me thank you for your efforts in ensuring COSAC continues to function during these days. And let me express my regret that the COSAC plenary cannot take place as planned, due to well known circumstances.

Nevertheless, I would like to contribute to one of the suggested topics – European response to the coronavirus outbreak – of the videoconference of the extraordinary COSAC Chairpersons' meeting planned on June 16.

In this sense, let me draw your attention to the resolution by the Committee on European Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic of April 22, 2020 concerning the issue of a joint initiative with regards to minimizing the restrictions of the free movement of persons within the Schengen area and the preparation of smart solutions (see Annex 1). I believe it is important to take a common approach to minimizing the free movement restrictions. We should opt for such measures that minimize the negative impacts on member state economies and the E.U. economy as a whole. The successful South Korean strategy in the fight against COVID-19 should serve as an inspiration for us. South Korea has low numbers of infections and casualties in proportion to its population and, at the same time, the economy of the country was little affected.

Within this context, it is my firm belief that in-depth knowledge about both the origin of the coronavirus and the Chinese failure to inform the international community of it in a timely and proper manner deserve our attention. Let me also inform you on the resolution by the Committee on European Affairs of April 22, 2020 that appeals to Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babiš to propose at the European Council meeting a joint initiative to investigate the origin and spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus strain and the accompanying disinformation campaign (see Annex 2). In my opinion, it is crucial for our future to gain detailed knowledge of all aspects of the origin and spread of the current pandemic. Without this, we will be less able to effectively

cope with potential pandemic situations in the future. Let me stress that the intent is not to blame, demand punishment, or victimize, but to learn lessons that might strengthen our future resilience. We should do the utmost to minimize the impacts of such a crisis on our lives and common values.

I wish you all the best during the rest of your Presidency.

Best regards,

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

**Mr. Domagoj Ivan Milošević**  
Chairman  
European Affairs Committee  
Croatian Parliament

**PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC**  
**Chamber of Deputies**  
**Committee on European Affairs**

Resolution No. 298

**47<sup>th</sup> session on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020**

on the Initiative of the Committee on European Affairs towards the European Affairs  
Committees of the EU Member States National Parliaments

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Committee on European Affairs to the Proposal of its Member Mrs. Helena Langšádlová

1. **will initiate** a joint action and coordination with the other European Affairs Committees of the EU Member States National Parliaments for the case of possible next wave of COVID-19 disease, with the aim to limit the free movement of persons within the Schengen Area as little as possible;
2. **will initiate** a joint action with the other European Affairs Committees of the EU Member States National Parliaments in preparation of “smart solutions” in order to preserve economies of the EU Member States unaffected as much as possible, and to protect health and human lives, in the situation of possible next wave of COVID-19 disease.

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Resolution No. 297

**47<sup>th</sup> session on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020**

on the Information on the Positions of the Czech Republic at the European Council meeting  
on 23 April 2020

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Committee on European Affairs

1. **a s k s** the Prime Minister Andrej Babiš to propose an extension of the European Council Conclusions at the next European Council meeting by the following point:

„The European Council calls on the European Commission to take necessary steps, within the scope of its powers and in the cooperation with the EEAS, to investigate the origin and the source of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, including the aspects that led to the global pandemic spread. At the same time, the European Council requires the European Commission to initiate, in cooperation with the Member States, the investigation of the spread of misleading information about the COVID-19 from the part of the Chinese state authorities“;

2. **a s k s** the Prime Minister Andrej Babiš to inform the Committee immediately after the meeting of the European Council on the course of the meeting, and on the results of the negotiations on the proposed extension of the European Council Conclusions mentioned above.