

Legal regulation of climate protection after the Paris Agreement adoption

Abstract

Since the early 1990s, most of the world countries have been cooperating to create a common climate protection system, which would be effective and would help to protect the Earth ecosystem for future generations without severe and irreversible changes. After more than 20 years of difficult international negotiations without any particular outcome, the ambitious Paris Agreement on climate change was adopted in December 2015. The main aim of this thesis is to evaluate whether the Paris Agreement is a suitable instrument for climate protection and if it leads to the goals set in it.

The first part of the thesis analyses the international climate protection development previous to the Paris Agreement adoption. The thesis describes the development since the cornerstones of the climate protection, over the first meteorological conferences, to the adoption of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the subsequent Kyoto Protocol. It deals with the Kyoto Protocol and disappointments caused by it. The end of the first part is devoted to the Copenhagen Accord, its specific status, and further development before the Paris Climate Conference in 2015.

The second part deals with the analysis of the Paris Agreement itself, its legal character, and its position within the UNFCCC system. Special attention is paid to the Paris Agreement provisions focused on the global mitigation goals and the tools which should lead to those goals. In this part, the key Paris Agreement provisions are compared to the relevant previous instruments with the focus on addressing the failures of these instruments.

In the third part, the thesis follows further climate protection development based on the Paris Agreement. It deals with subsequent decisions, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, which complete the general Paris Agreement provisions and form its concrete impacts. The thesis also examines other international climate protection development, following the Paris Agreement, both the behaviour of political leaders and activities of individuals and private companies relating to climate protection. In conclusion, the thesis tries to outline the possible next climate protection development in the light of current news.

Key words: climate protection, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Paris Agreement