

Scotland as an Independent Country? The Independence Referendum and EU Membership after Brexit

ABSTRACT

This thesis deals with the issue of Scottish independence and prospective membership of Scotland in the EU. Following the United Kingdom withdrawal from the EU, calls for Scottish independence have been substantially intensified, because the majority of Scottish inhabitants had voted against Brexit. The Scottish National Party is currently in support of a second independence referendum, so that Scots could determine whether they would like to apply for the EU membership as an independent country. The UK Government has currently rather negative attitude towards another referendum, partly because referendum regarding the same question took place in 2014 and Scottish politicians proclaimed this had been a rare event, which would not take place more than once in a generation. However, support for Scotland's independence is increasing and an independence referendum could change the face of Scotland as we have known it for three centuries - as integral part of the United Kingdom. This undoubtedly unique situation raises many legal questions in relation to EU law, constitutional law and international public law.

In my thesis I dedicate to the question of withdrawal from the EU. I also analyse UK's secession from the European Union. I further deal with the issue of Scottish independence and legal aspects related to holding a second independence referendum. Then I describe process of accession to the European integration. The crucial part of the thesis analyses whether Scotland as an independent sovereign country would meet the accession criteria and therefore could become a member state of the EU. In this way, I comprehensively summarize this topic in Czech language and thus bring this issue closer to the Czech (not only academic) public.

Key Words

EU membership and Copenhagen criteria, withdrawal from the EU, Scottish independence referendum