

Protection of owl species living on the territory of the Czech Republic in international, EU and national European law

Abstract

There are ten species of owls in the territory of the Czech Republic. The once widespread order of carnivorous birds has faced unprecedented pressures as result of landscape change and civilizational demands in recent decades, as a result of which their European populations are shrinking. For these reasons, a need has risen to protect owls at the level of individual national legal systems, at the level of EU legislation and in the sphere of international conventions.

In the first part of this thesis, the biological specifications of owls as well as their ecological and agricultural importance are explained. The thesis also follows the legal mechanisms, the overall level of legal protection of owls and the application of standards for the protection of owls in international law, European Union law and nationals' law, all of which is reserved for the second part of the thesis. The international legal protection of owls is emphasized due to the large fluctuation of bird species across countries and continents. On the other hand, the law of the European Union, on the other hand, brings an unprecedentedly successful model of unification of national legal systems in the joint regulation of protection of environment, including species protection or special protection of territory. As part of the examination of the regulation of owl protection and related provisions in national legal systems, the legislation of the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic and the French Republic was analysed. A related topic is the protection of biodiversity, within the framework of which the protection of owl species is often applied.

The diploma thesis strives for a comprehensible and clear interpretation of legal institutes of owl's protection, their practical use and the effectiveness. The main questions throughout the entire research are to find out (i) whether need owl's species special legal protection, (ii) what recognition international conventions have for the protection of owls, (iii) what legal means of owl protection are available in EU law, (iv) what legal instruments of protection owls use the selected national legal systems, (v) the quality of the owl protection mechanism at the level of selected member states and the European Union, and (vi) what steps need to be taken to more effectively protect owls at the EU and national level.