

Abstract: Legal regulation of hunting in relation to environmentally sustainable agriculture and forestry

The presented thesis, in the scope of the introduction, five main chapters and the conclusion, deals with the current topic of hunting in relation to environmentally sustainable agriculture and forestry. The Hunting Act should be amended again in the near future, and quite fundamentally. In fall of 2024, the Chamber of Deputies is to discuss Parliamentary Press 732/0 in the first reading, which contains the changes as prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic. The prepared amendment has a number of supporters, as well as critics. There is no doubt that the current legislation needs to be changed. The question remains, however, whether in such form and whether it would not be appropriate to present a proposal for completely new legislation, the creation of which should be preceded by an understandable concept, not only in the field of hunting, but also in fact related forestry and agriculture.

The current unhappy state of Czech hunting is greatly influenced by forestry and agricultural management under the communist regime, when a number of negative phenomena from that time persist to this day. One of the most fundamental factors that influenced the state of Czech nature and landscape was the concept of collectivization. During this process, there was essentially liquidation of countryside and private agriculture, as well as irreparable rupture of owners' relationships with the land. From the point of view of the environment and wild animals, especially smaller game species, the most essential thing is the disposal of landscape elements, such as borders, draws, tree lines, field roads, etc. Although pressure is increasing, especially from the European Union, for the gradual restoration of the mosaic-like rural landscape and the so-called greening, this process is a question of several generations.

The dissertation theses focuses mainly on selected issues of the current wording of the Hunting Act and related regulations, with a link to forestry and agriculture. Within the individual sub-chapters, the author describes some basic concepts and the differences between them, such as hunting and the right to hunt, hunting and non-hunting land, etc. Furthermore, long-term problematic aspects of mutual collisions across norms, for example the relationship between the Hunting Act and the Act on the Protection of Animals Against Cruelty, as well as current issues and cases, specifically the case of the hunting guard in the Březka game are being described

The last part of the thesis focuses on the currently discussed amendment to the Hunting Act, while the author critically evaluates the main of the intended changes. In addition to the positives, attention is also drawn to the negatives of the amendment with specific examples of imminent risks. The proposal is quite drastic, but it does not correct the current problematic passages of the Hunting Act and, on the contrary, creates space for new ones, just as it does not bring the necessary changes to the field of forestry and agricultural legislation. At the same time, there is reasonable doubt as to whether the proposed amendment is able to ensure the achievement of the proclaimed goal in the form of reduction in damage caused especially by cloven-hoofed animals. The conclusion of the thesis summarizes the general state of not only Czech hunting, thus forestry and agriculture, the reasons for this state, as well as arguments for and against the amendment and reflection on future developments.