



Report on defence of dissertation thesis

Academic year: 2024/2025

Student's name and surname: Xin Li, LL.M.
Student's ID: 37681728

Type of the study programme: doctoral
Study programme: Theoretical Legal Sciences - Law and Legal Theory in European Context

Study ID: 647402

Title of the thesis: The human rights dimension of climate change
Thesis department: Department of Environmental Law (22-KPZP)
Language of the thesis: English
Language of defence: English
Supervisor: JUDr. Karolina Žáková, Ph.D.
Reviewer(s): doc. JUDr. Martina Franková, Ph.D.
JUDr. Hana Müllerová, Ph.D.

Date of defence: 22.04.2025 **Venue of defence:** Praha
Attempt: regular

Examination proceedings: Chairman Prof. Tomášek welcomed the members of the PhD defense committee and announced that all the prerequisites were met for the defense of the doctoral (dissertation) thesis of PhD candidate Xin Li on the topic The Human Rights Dimension of Climate Change to take place. He briefly introduced the PhD candidate. The candidate's identity was verified by his PhD supervisor, Dr. Žáková, confirming that she knew him in person. Substantial parts of the thesis have been previously published.

The candidate explained why the topic of human rights is important in the context of climate change, defined the objectives of his research and what specific problems he dealt with. The candidate presented the main results of his research, in particular the specific two-way links between human rights and climate change, including areas for future research.

The candidate has read the supervisor's and both opponents' reports and agreed to the reports having been delivered to him less than 2 weeks before the defense.

The first opponent, Dr. Müllerová, appreciated the choice of topic, its coverage and the structure of the thesis. Some subtopics could have been more concise (e.g. the non-legal introduction), while others could have been elaborated in greater depth. The thesis lacks a clear methodology. The candidate could also have worked more with expert legal literature. In the opponent's opinion, the quality of the thesis is slightly below average, but she still recommends it for a successful defense.

The second opponent, Associate Professor Franková, appreciated the choice of topic, although it could have been defined more narrowly for a PhD thesis. Among other things, she appreciated the analysis of specific judicial cases within climate litigation. The thesis has practical impacts. In the opponent's opinion, the thesis meets the requirements for dissertation theses.

The candidate responded to the opponents' questions and comments. The opponents were satisfied with the answers.

The general debate was attended by Dr. Tomoszková (rights of children - which of them are most at risk by climate change?), Associate Professor Franková (the principle of solidarity with future generations in the caselaw of the German Constitutional Court) and Dr. Žáková (the potential role of the International Court of Justice; enforceability of human rights in China).

The thesis supervisor Dr. Žáková praised the progress that the candidate has made over the years. Although there could always be some improvements, in the supervisor's opinion the work meets the requirements for doctoral theses.

The candidate thanked everyone not only for their valuable comments, but also for their support during his studies.

In conclusion, Prof. Tomášek thanked those present, ended the public part of the defense and invited the members of the committee to vote. A secret vote was held in the non-public part of the defense.

Result of defence: pass (P)

Chair of the committee: Tomášek Michal, prof. JUDr. PhDr., DrSc.
(present)

Committee members: Franková Martina, doc. JUDr., Ph.D.
(present)

Žáková Karolina, JUDr., Ph.D. (present)

Müllerová Hana, JUDr., Ph.D. (present)

Tomoszková Veronika, JUDr., Ph.D.
(present)