

## Resumé

The topic of my diploma thesis is "Legal regulations of creating and protection of Natura 2000 network." The introductory chapter describes the concept of Natura 2000, including a description of the relevant international agreements and EU regulations. Natura 2000 is a coherent system of protected areas within the European Union (EU), which is constituted by all Member States on their territory according to uniform principles. The aim of this system is to ensure the protection of species of fauna and flora and habitat types, which are the most valuable from the European perspective, the most endangered, rare or endemic.

The law base of Natura 2000 is formed by the European Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of the wild birds, commonly known as the Birds Directive and the European Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of the natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, also known as the Habitats Directive. Natura 2000 network is constituted from the two types of protected areas - Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Natura 2000 is created regardless of national borders of member countries.

Special Protection Areas are designated by each Member State of EU for bird species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive and for migratory bird species. The SAC approval process is much more complicated. Member States have to first work up the list of proposed Sites of Community Interest (pSCI) according to the criteria in Annex III of the Habitats Directive. This list is proposed to the European Commission. Once approved, included sites must be designed as SACs by the Member States within six years.

The second chapter focuses on the transposition and implementation of both Birds and Habitats Directives into Czech Law. The major part of the transposition was realized by the Law No. 218/2004 Coll., which was amendment to Law No. 114/1992 Coll., on the protection of nature and the landscape. In the Czech Republic, Natura 2000 is constituted by the so-called "Bird areas" and "Sites of Community Importance". There are currently located 41 Bird areas and 1082 Sites of Community Importance in the Czech Republic.

Transposition of Birds and Habitats Directives did not proceed entirely in accordance with the requirements of the European Commission, what resulted in several infringements against Czech Republic. Many of the discrepancies were solved by the amendment No. 349/2009 Coll., which updated Law No. 114/1992 Coll.

The last chapter deals with the complicated issue of assessing the significant effects on SPA and SCI stated in article 6, paragraph 3 and 4 of the Habitats Directive. These paragraphs

establish a duty for proposers of any plan or project, which may individually or in combination with other plans or projects significantly influence SPA or SAC. Such plan or project shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. This type of protection is a very important instrument of the Natura 2000 network protection. It was established in EU Member States with significant differences. In the Czech Republic the assessment is provided by so-called authorized persons.

Natura 2000 network is undoubtedly the most effective tool for biodiversity protection in the EU. In my opinion, the transposition into the Law of the Czech Republic was (with certain exceptions) correct. Support for Natura 2000 and its enforcement is the key aspect of the conservation of natural resources and biodiversity in Europe.