

SUMMARY

Climate system protection from the legal point of view

Climate change seems to be a defining ecological issue of the 21st century. However, unlike other global threats there are still some scientific uncertainties about the gravity of this problem and its actual consequences. On the other hand the proven fact is that the Earth climate is affected by altered atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases. Dozens of recent studies clearly indicate that the changes in the atmosphere are a result of human activities and that an immediate action is needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and avoid reaching more harmful levels. If nothing is happened, climate change would lead to a rise in global average temperature together with other associated impacts such as melting glaciers, rising sea-levels or more frequent appearance of extreme weather events.

The climate change issue is being addressed both at international and national level. There is a need to take a coordinated action of all states worldwide with respect to their development capabilities and historic responsibilities. International negotiations in last couple of years have shown that it will be very difficult to achieve an agreement between countries with different interests.

The aim of this diploma thesis is to summarize a development of the Earth climate system protection up to now and to make a survey of the most important legal measures adopted to fight the climate change at international, European and also at Czech level. Particular instruments are then being analysed in light of their functionality and effectivity. The end of relevant parts and chapters is focused on a critical evaluation of the present state and consideration of desired revisions *de lege ferenda*.

The thesis is composed of four main parts, each of them dealing with legal regulation at a different level. Part One is introductory and defines basic terminology used in the thesis and causes and impacts of climate change. Part Two shows how the issue is being addressed at international level with a special emphasis on the analysis of the UN Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol regime. Part Three examines the climate policy of the European Union and its important legal and economic instruments such as the European Emission Trading System. Part Four is then focused on relevant Czech legislation and other measures in the field of climate protection.