

## **Abstract**

The main purpose of my thesis was to describe and analyse the system of the block exemptions. Briefly, the block exemption is a kind of exemption from the prohibition under article 101 (1) TFEU because it is supposed to fulfil the criteria of article 101 (3) TFEU. It exempts certain category of agreements, which are covered by the special regulation issued by the Council or more often by the Commission.

The paper is divided into seven chapters and the first opening chapters are dealing with more general aspects of block exemption: the function, process of issuing, non-application and the advent of block exemption where the regulation 1/2003 (Modernisation Regulation) should be of special attention. It abolished the regime of previous notification of agreements to the Commission. An introduction to the system of other exemptions from the prohibition under article 101 (1) TFEU is also described there.

The following part (chapter 4) focuses more detailed on the kinds of block exemptions, which are divided into the vertical, horizontal and sector exemptions. The former exemptions issued by the Czech Office for the Protection of Competition are no longer applicable and therefore only the block exemptions of the EU are of the concern of this paper.

Furthermore, the special competition regime of some sectors and the relations between the European Union and the European Free Trade Association are described in chapters five and six.

The last part of the thesis outlines the crucial and the most important judicial decisions of the European Court and also of the Czech courts.

The main conclusion of my thesis should concern the function of the block exemptions. I believe that if we overlook some smaller imperfections of some regulations, we cannot deny the fact that the most block exemptions support the competition and prevent the abusing of dominance. On the other hand, I have to admit that sometimes it could be difficult for the undertakings to analyse the block exemption regulation and to apply the market share threshold to its decisions, agreements or concerted practices. Therefore the Commission is trying to help them by issuing the special Notices or Guidelines explaining the application of the regulations.

I suggest that block exemption regulations should remain also in the future because it substantially eases the position of competitors by specifying the exemption under article 101 (3) TFEU. Nevertheless, we have to bear in mind that the final decision is always up to

the Commission that is competent to say the last word and to decide whether to renew the block exemptions or not.