

Abstrakt diplomové práce v anglickém jazyce: *EU sanctions against Austria in 2000 in the context of the position of Austria in the European Union. Application of constructivist theory on the case*

The Master thesis *EU sanctions against Austria in 2000 in the context of the position of Austria in the European Union. Application of constructivist theory on the case* tried to analyse the Austrian case from the constructivist perspective. The thesis attempted to verify the hypothesis that the Member States of the European Union wrongly assessed the impact of Haider's FPÖ on the Austrian democratic development and the European Union itself, claiming that the participation of the FPÖ in the Austrian federal government was jeopardizing its democratic values. In fact there was no evidence for this allegation despite the nature of the FPÖ which was confirmed as being far-right in some aspects (for instance its xenophobia). It has been shown that the participation of the FPÖ in the Austrian government (rather than its isolation, which might have led to even bigger support) was in a certain way a guarantee that democracy and the common values of the European Union would be upheld.

Furthermore the thesis tried to answer the question whether the inclusion of the FPÖ in the governmental coalition had posed a real danger for the common values of the European Union and its future democratic development or if the protection of these values had been a mere pretext for the imposition of sanctions which in fact should have served the interests of top political leaders of certain Member States. In order to answer this question the concept of James March and Johan Olsen describing the motives of actors for their actions was used. It was proved that individual interests of certain Member States played an important role concerning the form and way in which the sanctions were imposed (the rationalist logic of consequences) although common norms and an effort to protect democratic values of the EU were essential for the joint decision to intervene in the Austrian case (the constructivist logic of appropriateness).