

Right to information on the environment

ABSTRACT

The objective of this thesis is to outline a regulation of the right to environmental information. There are many various reasons for ensuring broad access to environmental information. Apart from necessity of open and transparent government and the general right to know condition of the environment people are living in, the access to environmental information is also recognised as one of the regulatory instruments of the environmental policy. The access to relevant information is a vital assumption for public participation in environmental protection activities, as only broad awareness of environmental matters can develop deeper understanding of the issue and influence the future behaviour and decisions of general public.

The thesis is composed of four parts which are further divided into chapters and where appropriate also into subchapters. The first introductory part focuses on bases and reasons for legal regulation of the access to environmental information and contains of two chapters. First chapter concerns the general right to information as one of the internationally accepted human right and the second analyses reasons and development of special treatment of information on environment.

Part Two of the thesis provides a brief overview and characteristics of relevant sources of law on the subject. This part is divided into three chapters based on the origin of the legislation concerning International, European and Czech sources of law. Since all of these sources are full-value part of Czech body of laws the applicable legal regulation is based on their combination

The focus of this thesis is on the third part, which is subdivided into five chapters and endeavours assessment of particular legal regulation of the right to environmental information as it results from above mentioned legislation. Chapter One defines basic terms of the regulation. Next chapters are focused on explaining approach to the active and passive access to environmental information, present the reasons and conditions for limitation of public disclosure of such information and access to legal protection. The last chapter outlines the regime of access to environmental information held by EU bodies.

The final substantive part of this thesis presents the insight into Irish regulation of the subject and demonstrates different outcomes arising from the same requirements imposed by European law.

The conclusion reviews the previous findings of the thesis. It highlights mainly the deficiencies of Czech legislation and suggests possible improvements and provisions in order to facilitate more effective adjustment *de lege ferenda*.