

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS AND LEGAL REGULATION OF THEIR USE

ENGLISH RESUME

This thesis aims to give a complete insight into the framework and problem questions arising in connection with legal regulation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

The use of genetic modifications as one of modern techniques of biotechnology has spread widely during last fifty years. This technology has brought many advances. On the other hand as any new technology it represents potential adverse effects on biological diversity and possible risks to human health.

At the beginning there is a brief introduction into GMOs from historical and technical point of view. Then I dealt with biosafety measures adopted at global, regional and national levels. The main principles of environmental law take part afterwards. I am focusing mainly on prevention and precautionary principle.

International law relating to the GMOs consists of soft law documents. There is only one exception – Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety focusing on transboundary movement. The Law of EU comprises of Regulations, Directives and Recommendations. Notifications, approvals, risk assessment and monitoring are consequential. The Czech law has been harmonized according to the law of the European Communities. Act no. 78/2004 Coll., on the use of GMOs and genetic products is a main norm in Czech Republic.

The primary part of my work deals with different types of use of GMOs – the contained use of genetically modified micro-organisms, the deliberate release into the environment of GMOs and placing of GMOs on the market. There are also chapters about transboundary movement of GMOs, labeling and identification requirements, ecoagriculture with its problematical coexistence with conventional agriculture using GMOs and public participation in environmental decision making.

Environmental law regularly operates in areas complicated by high levels of scientific uncertainty. GMOs help in our everyday life and can solve some problems we face today. Still it is impossible to determine precisely what effects this activity will have on the quality of the environment or on human health and precaution is necessary.