

# **Legal regulation of the international trade in endangered species**

## **Abstract**

The topic of my thesis is legal regulation of the international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora. The conservation of biodiversity – the diversity of the life on the earth – is one of the most important goals within the protection of the environment. The international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora is definitely one of the most serious problems that threaten the biodiversity. I have chosen this topic because it is constantly up to date and due to the interest in this issue. The aim of this thesis is to describe the general overview of the present legislation of this issue. The thesis is composed of an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion.

The purpose of an introduction is to inform about the international trade in endangered species and explain what is its position within the protection of the environment.

Chapter One deals with the international legislation of the trade in endangered species, which means the regime of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This chapter is subdivided into seven subchapters which are focused on general characteristic of the international legislation, then explain the necessary conditions of the trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, including general derogations from the prohibitions and restrictions of that trade, the institutional structure of the CITES, some of the questions related to CITES (transport, marking of the specimens) and the compliance of the system of the regulation of the trade by the individual contracting parties.

Chapter Two is devoted to the legislation of the trade in endangered species in the European union, whose Member States are the contracting parties to the CITES as well. The European union implements the most of the CITES documents and determines its own rules too. This chapter consists of the eight subchapters, each of them devoted to the similar subjects as the first chapter. The important difference is the division into the trade into and from the European union and the internal trade within the EU, because of the absence of the internal border controls among Member States, which means the existence of some specific rules of the permitting and checks.

Chapter Three is concerned with the internal – which means czech – legislation. It explains especially the implementation of the european legislation. It deals with the competent authorities that control the requirements of the relevant legislation and make

the decisions, including appropriate measures to be imposed by them, and it describes the means of the controls on trade in endangered species set down above the requirements of the European legislation, such as the registration of the specimens.

The aim of the conclusion is to summarize the general aspects of the international trade in endangered species and to draw attention to the main problems related to it. It presents also my personal opinions on selected questions.

Key words: trade in endangered species, CITES, import and export of the specimens