

Summary

The goal of this diploma thesis is to define the European political parties. The thesis has been divided into five chapters, which are further subdivided. The reason why I have chosen this topic is quite simple – to analyse the current status of the European political parties and introduce them to wider audience not to be confused anymore with political groups in the European Parliament.

In the first chapter the thesis brings a brief definition of the legal constitution of political groups in the European Parliament. For many years there has been confusion between the concept of a European political party and political group, so the thesis defines the political groups and its position in the European Parliament in order to create a basis for their differentiation from the European political parties.

The second chapter is devoted to create a definition of the European political party and to bring the legal regulation of the European political parties. The thesis focuses also on the variability of their legal base in the treaties of the European Union (legal base before the Treaty of Lisbon, legal base in the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe and legal base in the Treaty of Lisbon).

The third chapter is dedicated to legal issues of the European political parties. Emphasis was put on Regulation (EC) No 2004/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 November 2003 on the regulations governing political parties at European level and the rules regarding their funding and on the Proposal No 2012/0237 for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations. The thesis contains the articles of Regulation No 2004/2003 and Proposal No 2012/0237. There has been put emphasis on Proposal No 2012/0237; the Proposal is described in details. The criteria of obtaining the European legal status and the obligation to be registered as a European political party is needed to receive the grants from the European Parliament.

The fourth chapter introduces the current legislation of European political parties, which are regulated until the adoption of Proposal No 2012/0237, mostly by Belgian law. Then the thesis presents its comparison to the legislation of Czech political parties.

The last fifth chapter looks at particular representatives of European political Parties. For the purpose of this thesis only seven established ones of them were compared: European People's Party, Party of European Socialists, European Liberal Democratic and Reform Party, European Green Party, European Democratic Party, European Free Alliance and Party of the European Left.

The main target of the thesis is to prove the fact that there is a lack of regulations of the European Union, which would legally confirm the Article 10, paragraph 4 of the TEU¹.

¹ The Treaty on European Union