

Summary – Direct presidential election in the Czech Republic: reasons, conditions, consequences

This diploma thesis is concerned with different aspects of implementation of the direct presidential election in the Czech Republic. It is aimed to discover the actual reasons for passing the Constitutional Act No. 71/2012 Coll., which introduces this institute into the Czech constitutional system.

For the purpose of doing so, the thesis is divided into three parts. The first one presents and evaluates particular arguments (historical, political, constitutional, legal etc.), which were used by the proponents of this institute on one hand and by its opponents on the other.

The content of the second part is the most extensive as it follows up the comparison of bills attempting to implement the direct presidential election into the Constitutional Act since 2001 up to the present. Therefore this part contains thirteen bills in total, including the one, which later becomes the Act No. 71/2012 Coll. Individual bills are compared and contrasted. The pertinent political and social circumstances accompanying their origin are also briefly mentioned. As the result of this comparison the author comes to the conclusion that the true motive to pass the Constitutional Act No. 71/2012 Coll does not lie in its content or its explanatory memorandum, because neither one of them is of higher quality or elaboration than the previous bills. Therefore the author decided to turn her attention to the political motives, which is later proved to be a step in the right way, especially after interviewing some of the politicians, who participated in the legislative process of the above mentioned Act.

The third part consists of examination of the possible future course and amendments of the Constitutional Act and of discussion about the extent to which the present activistic demeanour of the current Czech president Miloš Zeman is affected by the regulation of presidential powers in the Constitutional Act and to what extent it is caused by the combination of Zeman's character and the tradition of strong and distinctive Czech and Czechoslovak presidents.