The Responsibility of International Organizations – Abstract

The subject of this thesis is the responsibility of international organizations as a consequence of internationally wrongful acts, as a manifestation of international personality, and as the subject-matter of official and unofficial codification. This thesis defines the international organization as an intergovernmental organization, discusses the character of its international personality (universal and particular) and explains the legal nature of international responsibility, including the main differences between the responsibility of States and international organizations. The thesis then focuses on responsibility of international organizations in various branches of international public law – it discusses questions of contractual and tort liability, of attribution in UN peacekeeping missions, and of the rights of individuals to due process when dealing with responsibility of international organizations. The following is an analysis of the importance of codification of international law and the contribution of non-official codification activities for the work of the International Law Commission as the main codification organ of the United Nations. Draft articles on the Responsibility of International Organizations, which was, together with the Commission's commentaries and relevant literature, the major source for this thesis, is presented as a whole, including a brief outline of the development of international responsibility and its codification. The key articles are described in more detail – relations with special regimes (lex specialis), the definition of the rules of the organization, the concept of internationally wrongful acts as a breach of an international obligation, the rules of attribution. The thesis is focused on international responsibility in cases of connected conduct of States and international organizations (aid and assistance, direction and control, coercion, circumvention, the possible responsibility of members for wrongful acts of international organizations). As a special regime, the responsibility of the European Union for damages is presented. It is based differently than responsibility under general international law, and therefore it is not suitable for codification.