

## **Short statement of the supervisor on the Thesis: Mgr. Elmira Lyapina: Protection of Investments in Gas Sector: The Perspectives of Legal Relations between the European Union and the Russian Federation**

The present PhD. Thesis of a higher length (202 pp. + annexes) deals with a new topic, which is not entirely new but it has not yet been fully covered by Czech authors. While being written mostly from the perspective of international investment law, it also covers issues of legal relations between the European Union and the Russian Federation.

In Introduction, the PhD. student outlines theoretical and practical significance of the topic as well as aims and methods of her work, and a review of literature.

The chosen approach justifies the structure of the thesis which is divided into Introduction, Conclusion and three large substantive chapters. Chapter II provides for a factual basis of the research in the EU – Russia gas relations and energy cooperation. The core of the thesis is mainly in Chapter III, dealing with legal aspects of investments in general and investment relations between the EU and the RF in particular. The candidate discusses not only general aspects of investment agreements but also the EU-RF Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation and the Energy Charter Treaty, which provisional application gave rise to the famous Yukos case. Chapter IV then opens a question of perspectives of the EU-RF BIT or other legal forms of commercial and investment partnership.

The thesis is ended with a relatively brief but comprehensive Conclusion. Moreover, it includes summaries in Czech and English and the list of sources and literature. The author used mostly the primary documents and scholarly writings in English, Czech and Russian.

The thesis is written in English, using a legal language which is mostly clear, without an excessive number of errors. The conclusions are generally clear and argued.

In my opinion, the paper meets the necessary criteria for doctoral thesis at the Charles University, therefore I recommend the thesis of Ms. Elmira Lyapina to defence.

Done in Prague, 20 August 2017

Prof. JUDr. Pavel Šturma, DrSc.