

Abstract

The aim of the thesis is to present a comprehensive picture of the legal regulation governing the status and activities of political parties in the Czech Republic, to point out its weaknesses and, where appropriate, to present *de lege ferenda* proposals.

The thesis is divided into four parts. The first part deals with the general development of modern political parties and the reasons that led to their institutionalization. Then, it presents the development of the legal regulation of political parties in the Czech lands, starting with the revolutionary events of 1848 and 1849 and ending with the establishment of the independent Czech Republic. The quasi-institution of political movements, whose presence in the legal system cannot be defended in any way, is also presented.

The second part deals with the constitutional incorporation of political parties. At the constitutional level, the privileged role of political parties in the political system is explicitly recognised. Safeguards for the free development of political parties are enshrined here, but also their obligation to respect fundamental democratic principles.

The third part deals with the legal regulation of the most important aspects of the life of political parties – the issues of their formation and dissolution, the regulation of membership and the requirements imposed on their internal organisation. In particular, the absence of any legal specification of the constitutional requirement to respect intra-party democracy and the fact that EU citizens, who have both active and passive voting rights for elections to municipal councils and the European Parliament, are not allowed by law to join political parties were assessed negatively.

The most extensive, fourth part deals with the legal regulation of the economy and financing of political parties, including the relatively separate area of election campaign finance. The current model of state financing represents one of the most problematic points of the entire legal framework. Its main shortcomings lie firstly in the fact that it favours parties represented in the Chamber of Deputies without rational justification and secondly in the fact that it allows political parties to rely - financially speaking - more on the support of the state than on the support of the citizens. A new system of state funding has been proposed, the main parameters of which are based on the current German model.

The conclusion summarises the main shortcomings of the legal framework for political parties, as well as suggestions for its improvement.