

Abstract

The aim of this thesis was to find the answers on question how the situation, when the institutionalisation of cooperation among the Member States in the field of armament policy is taking the place, but some of its actor – in the present case Czech Republic - are not respecting the existing rules, is explained by the new institutionalism, one of the middle range theories of European Integration.

The defence industries of the Member States of the EU went through deep transformation process in the 1990's in order to be able to meet the government requirements for the military equipment for its armed forces. Suitable military equipment of the European armies is one of the prerequisites for the success of military missions, which take place either within NATO or the European Security and Defence policy. The rise of European cooperation among Member States led to the creation of several organizations, such as OCCAR or European Defence Agency. The latter is considered by the Member States as an important move on the way towards the creation of European Defence and Equipment Market. Also the role of European Commission has quite changed during last decade. EC is issuing new rules to be obeyed by the Member States, especially in the field of defence procurement. Today the European Commission does not hesitate to sue the Member States for the violation of the defence procurement rules in front of the European Court of Justice. This is the case of Czech Republic. However being Member State for seven years, the country is not respecting the existing rules.

New institutionalism is the theory able to find answers on the question presented above. Three variants of new institutionalism see different reasons why the Czech Republic is not respecting the rules. Historical institutionalism assumes that the behaviour of Czech Republic does not fit the formal and informal rules of the institutions; there is a lack of the principle of logic of appropriateness in the behaviour of Czech Republic. Rationalist institutionalism sees the divergence of Czech interests in the field of armaments policy with those of its European Partners. Sociological institutionalism assumes the low level of socialization of Czech representatives in the European institution.

However the new institutionalism is able to explain the situation, this explanation become more exact if the three variants of new institutionalism are considered as a whole.