Summary

This thesis deals with the competition law of the European Union, namely with the private consequences of cartel agreements (as defined in Article 101, paragraph 1, TFEU) and with their enforcement. It understands its subject widely and therefore it is not concerned only with private consequences and their enforcement but it also analyses the nature of prohibition and voidness of such agreements on the basis of a causal relationship between these legal concepts and respective consequences. Furthermore, it describes the private enforcement of EU competition law (which is legal instrument to enforce claims that emerge from private law consequences) not only from the perspective of its topic but also in terms of its relationship to the public enforcement. It also deals with the interaction between these enforcement systems.

Chapter 2 of the thesis provides a basic introduction to the topic of cartel agreements governed by the EU law. It describes prohibition of these agreements under Article 101 paragraph 1 TFEU and deals with their voidness under paragraph 2 ibid. It concentrates on the later because of the considerable uncertainties about its nature in terms of interpretation of its legislation, absoluteness and possibility to severe void provisions from the rest.

Chapter 3 covers the consequences of cartel agreements. It defines them and establishes a list of them. It creates their system and describes the causal relationships between inside the system.

Chapter 4 deals with the private enforcement of EU competition law as an instrument to enforce claims that emerged from private law consequences. It defines it and describes its relationship to public enforcement and their mutual interaction. It also covers its development from viewpoint of ECJ and other EU institutions.

Chapter 5 describes currently effective legislation relating to the private enforcement. It also analyses the possibility of collective redress of EU competition law.

Chapter 6 examines the substantive claims arising from private law consequences which are subject to legislation as described in Chapter 5. Furthermore, it provides consideration of the utility of these claims.

Chapter 7 provides a comprehensive overview of damages as a consequence of cartel agreement. It is singled out of the other substantive claims due to its significantly deeper regulation that is specific to one described in Chapter 5.

In Chapter 8 some of the special procedural consequences of cartel agreements are described.

In final chapters 9 and 10, author critically assesses previously described legislation and finds possibilities to make it more comprehensive and effective. He proposes several amendments to the EU legislation to employ these possibilities.

Author's opinion on private enforcement of private law consequences of cartel agreements is positive as he clearly sees its benefits for EU competition law. However, he expresses dissatisfaction with the current state of the legislation, which is greatly reflected in its actual (non)use.