

## Summary

This Master's Thesis deals with the EU competition law enforcement towards undertakings in the energy industry. The attention of the thesis is devoted only to the part of the energy industry, gas and electricity sectors, as the EU decided to liberalize these markets in the mid-1990s with the aim of gradually transform them into the single European energy market, which will be fully open to the competition. The aim of the thesis is to answer research question, what the specifics of the EU competition law enforcement towards undertakings in the energy industry are.

The first chapter deals with the fundamental competition law rules, which are analysed in the thesis within the energy industry. These are prohibition of the agreements which have as their object or effect the restriction of competition (regulated in the Art. 101 TFEU) and prohibition of the abuse of dominant position (regulated in the Art. 102 TFEU). Besides these rules, which are enforced ex post, the chapter also deals with the control of merger of undertakings by the Commission as an ex ant competition law enforcement towards notified mergers. The chapter further looks at the main objectives of the competition law and the means the Commission has at its disposal to competition law enforcement.

The second chapter briefly describes the evolution of the energy policy and law of the EU. It focuses particularly on the significant milestones, which were achieved through the single energy policy creation, and on the obstacles faced by liberalisation of energy markets. The chapter also briefly deals with the relationship between competition law rules and energy sector regulations. These first two chapters provide the theoretical background for the analysis that is conducted in the third chapter.

The third chapter carries out an analysis of cases decided by the Commission and the Court of Justice of the EU so far. Successively in three subchapters it analyses particular competition law rules and points out to the specifics, which the competition law enforcement shows with respect to the character of the energy sector. The chapter refers to the objectives, which the Commission follows while enforcing of the competition law.

In the last chapter the specifics of the competition law enforcement in the energy industry are summarised. The conclusion brought by the thesis is that the Commission in its role of the guardian of the European law made the competition law an effective and strong tool for competition enforcement on the energy market used actively by the Commission to speed up the process of liberalisation in the energy markets.