Very interesting discussion were held in all panels, presenting different views of current problems of the mutual energy relations. Despite differences of views and interpretations, all discussions were held in a friendly atmosphere of mutual respect and trust.

At last, but not at least, it must be mentioned, that selected contributions presented at the previous conferences were published by Intersentia Publishers (Cambridge) as “EU Energy Law and Policy Issues”. The last collection was published in 2014. In the past, the articles published in the collection of papers were quoted not only in internationally recognised legal journals, but also in some decisions of the ECJ. The international community of researchers in energy law is now looking forward to the next issue of “EU Energy Law and Policy Issues”, which will present another collection of interesting papers presented at the 4th Annual “Energy Transitions” Conference.

Scientific conference “ Legal Aspects of Migration – Legislative Challenges ”

Current migration wave pouring into Europe has raised many questions. The discussions so far have been dedicated to effective solutions of causes and consequences of this migration wave but mainly from economic, social and ethical point of view. Legal aspects, however, often remain unnoticed. Nevertheless, the legal aspects of ongoing migration shall not be underestimated for suitable legal framework and its proper application on the EU level as well as national level could play a decisive role in effective dealing with migration.

Responding to discussions encompassing recent migration a conference organized by the department of EU law and the department of administrative law was held at Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Law, on the 19 February 2016. The aim of the conference was to stimulate academic debate and propose solutions to necessary legislative changes which are connected with migration. The conference was ceremonially started by the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor M. Tomášek, who gave a warm welcome to everyone and emphasized the role of academia. After him spoke Dr. P. Milsna, Deputy Minister of the Interior for Public Administration and Legislative. In his speech he underlined the significance and difficulty of legal aspects of migration. He thoroughly analysed Council Decision (EU) 2015/1601 of the 22 September 2015 establishing provisional measures in the area of international protection for the benefit of Italy and Greece and relevant case-law concluding that there is a strong reluctance to respect the law in the field of migration on the part of Member States. Finally, the first session was concluded by Dr. J. Michal, the head of the European Commission Representation in the Czech Republic. He discussed three questions: (i) time context of the migration crisis, (ii) Dublin regulation and (iii) the way out. He contended that the possible solution to migration crisis lies in reformation of the so-called Dublin system for so far only a few Member States have carried the burden of dealing with thousands and thousands of asylum claims. The morning session was followed by two specialized panels.

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The first panel chaired by Associate Professor L. Pítrová, member of the Department of European Law and Department of Administrative Law, was concerned with EU law aspects of current migration crisis. First speaker, Associate Professor H. C. Scheu, member of the Department of European Law, tried to cover the differences between asylum law and migration law. According to him the common point of asylum and migration law is borderline where reality meets law. Furthermore, he identified borderline as the weakest part of the system. Dr. M. Svobodová, member of the Department of European Law, delivered a paper dedicated to EU refugee relocation system. She described the criterions for relocation in detail. Dr. E. Ruffer, director of the EU Law Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, focused on re-introduction of possible border controls in Schengen area. Professor I. Šlosarčík, director of European Studies at Institute of International Studies of Faculty of Social Sciences, claimed that migration crisis is an element of broader crisis of EU law enforcement. In that regard, he addressed the sanction mechanism under EU law. The following contribution delivered by Dr. J. Grinc, member of the Department of Constitutional Law, discussed legitimacy of the EU reaction to migration crisis. He proposed inter alia to introduce permanent EU border guard. Dr. T. Kunertová, member of the Department of EU Law, outlined the importance of the case-law of the Court of Justice of the EU. Associate Professor L. Pítrová referred to the issue of uniting families. Dr. O. Koutek, the head of the Department of EU Policies of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, closed the panel with a contribution on the topic of challenges public administration is facing in the field of asylum and migration law.

The second panel focused on the administrative and criminal law aspects of migration crisis and was opened by Professor R. Pomahač, member of the Department of Administrative Law at Charles University, who described functioning of asylum system in Australia. Associate Professor I. Gřivna, member of the Department of Criminal Law at Charles University, focused on criminal aspects. He identified three criminal offences which are of importance in regard with migration. Associate Professor H. Prášková, the head of the Department of Administrative Law at Charles University, dedicated her speech to administrative sanctions. Dr. J. Staša, member of the Department of Administrative Law at Charles University, presented his critical opinions on recent proposal of the border protection act. Professor V. Sládeček, Judge of Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic, member of the Department of Administrative Law at Charles University, concentrated on case-law of the Czech Constitutional Court. Mr. Petr Navrátil, member of the Department of EU Law at Charles University, focused on the issue of ex nunc judicial review of asylum applications. Mrs. B. Szakácssová, staff of the Public Defender of Rights, picked up the threads of previous contribution with her comparative analysis of judicial review of asylum application in various Member States. Dr. David Kyska, member of the Department of Administrative Law at Charles University, delivered a paper dedicated to Europeanization of administrative law. Dr. P. Svoboda, member of the Department of Administrative Law at Charles University, paid attention to the question of rules of evidence which are applied in asylum cases. After him Mrs. Eva Holá spoke on topic of restriction applied in the field of alien law. The Panel was concluded by Mrs. N. Chmelíčková, from the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic. In the course of her speech she presented current legislative proposals in respect to migration and asylum law.

Finally, one can conclude that the aim of the conference to provide a venue to expert discussion was fulfilled, as the high-profile speakers delivered informative speeches in front of a wide professional audience. The conference identified several problems related to migration crisis and offered interesting solution to legal issues connected with asylum and migration law. All papers delivered by participants are to be published soon. Last but not least, special thanks belong to the organizers of the conference. Without their hard work and commitment this high quality event would not be possible.

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