

DR. MICHAL ŘÍHA HAS PRESENTED HIS PH.D. THESIS FOCUSED ON PHENOMENON OF LATE TRANSPOSITION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

On 15th November 2023, Dr. Michal Říha has introduced his Ph.D. research before committee consisting of Professor Michal Tomášek as a chairman of the committee, Assoc. Professor Lenka Pítrová as supervisor of the Dr. Říha's Ph.D. studies, Assoc. Professor Magdaléna Svobodová from Charles University and Assoc. Professor Jana Plaňavová-Latanowicz from Warsaw University as opponents of the Ph.D. thesis and Dr. Petra Škvařilová-Pelzl, judge of the EU General Court in Luxembourg, as external member of the committee.

Dr. Říha's research and thus Ph.D. thesis was focused on the phenomenon of late transposition in the Czech Republic. Dr. Říha has conducted both quantitative and qualitative research in order to answer the question why transposition of EU *acquis* into the Czech legal system is generally delayed in comparison with other EU Member States.

As for the quantitative research, rather rare in the legal science research, Dr. Říha compared data of since 2011 until 2021 on the number of legislative proposals originating from EU law and the time it generally takes to become effective. The data particularly showed that Czech Parliament is overflowed with proposals and that the legislative process regarding the proposals connected with EU law can take more than 20 months, although 20 months is an average transposition period.

As for the qualitative research, Dr. Říha focused on the scientific question why the transposition takes so long and for answering that question he conducted interview with 12 high-profile politicians that were or still are direct participants in the legislative procedure.

The results of the interviews show that, surprisingly, the highest factor behind the late transmission is Czech social-culture framework, than disagreement with the direction of European integration, fear of gold-plating, and insufficient formulation of the Czech interest. Big role plays also cost-effective theorem, where the participants are reluctant to spend effort for the transposition because they assume a low return on these "investments".

As the research was part of the Ph.D. thesis, Dr. Říha showed high expertise in this matter. Declaring the result, Professor Michal Tomášek stressed that the committee had especially appreciated the originality of research and use of both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Therefore, upon the vote of the committee, Dr. Říha claimed the Ph.D. title and became another high appreciate member of the European Union law department of the Faculty of Law, Charles University.

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