Joint Dissertation Review

Name of the student:	
	Mariam Bochoidze
Title of the thesis:	
	From Cybersecurity Laggard to Normative Leader. EU becoming a digital regulatory power
Reviewer:	Jiří Kocián

1. KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTION TO THE FIELD
(relevance of the research question, research objective, literature review):

The thesis deals with a highly relevant topic of our times, cybersecurity and places it into a framework of IR and international politics. The research objective is clearly outlined, and the research question defined. The text presents a relevant literature review which demonstrates how does the digital dimension of our current existence, security and data protection reflect in the contemporary IR debates. The thesis avoids a typical pitfall of cyberspace and cybersecurity-oriented papers, which tend to slides toward technical descriptions and the author remains consistently aware what is their disciplinary vantage point.

2. ANALYSIS
(methodology, argument, theoretical backing, appropriate work with sources):

The author presents us with a solid analysis based on available sources. It clearly defines what the thesis actually thus – a qualitative content analysis of available documents defining measures and policies employed within the EU and ASEAN, comparing the state of and transfer of mutual practices between the two collective entities. One must appreciate the very careful close reading of the available source and systematization of the historical evolution which led to the current state. The main argument which the thesis poses is thus convincingly built. The one criticism I have is the observation that the theoretical framework remains quite disconnected from the analysis itself. The thesis narrative is implicitly following the theoretical points of departure, however, deeper reflection on the theory throughout the thesis is largely lacking. Due to this fact the text remains quite descriptive at times, until the point when comparative analysis comes to the fore.

3. CONCLUSIONS
(persuasiveness, link between data and conclusions, achievement of research objectives):

The author manage to convincingly bring the research to its conclusion, clearly linking the analysis carried out and achieves to produce an informed answer to the research question.

4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE
(appropriate language, adherence to academic standards, citation style, layout):

The thesis is written with a high linguistic a formal standard. I noticed only a few imperfections, it is in general a clear and text to read also in terms of the layout. One thing I would personally prefer to be solved otherwise is the "Definition of Concepts" on page 4, which my opinion deserve a narrative definition within the methodological or theoretical section of the thesis.

5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT
(strong and weak point of the dissertation, other issues)

The thesis presents a convincing empirical analysis of the impact of EU policies and strategies on cybersecurity on the ASEAN countries. Despite my remarks on the theoretical aspects of the research, I find it informative and well-researched while being easy to read., even the topic itself is quite complex in multiple dimensions.

Grade (A-F):	B

Date:	Signature:
29.7.2024	Jiří Kocián

GRADE CONVERSION MA EPS

Percentile	Prague	Krakow	Leiden	Barcelona
A (91-100)	91-100 %	4,51-5,00	8.0-10	9-10
B (81-90)	81-90 %	4,21-4,50	7.5-7.9	8-8,9
C (71-80)	71-80 %	3,71-4,20	7-7.4	7-7,9
D (61-70)	61-70 %	3,21-3,7	6.5-6.9	6-6,9
E (51-60)	51-60 %	3,00-3,20	6-6.4	5-5,9

Assessment criteria:
Excellent (A): 'Outstanding performance with only minor errors';
Very good (B): 'Above the average standard but with some errors';
Good (C): 'Generally sound work but with a number of notable errors';
Satisfactory (D): 'Fair but with significant shortcomings';
Sufficient (E): 'Performance meets the minimum criteria';
Fail: 'Some/considerable more work required before the credit can be awarded'.