

## **Resumé**

### **Environmental Impact Assessment**

The aim of this thesis is to analyze Environmental Impact Assessment (*EIA*) as the significant legal instrument which tries to find a balance between a human progress and a protection of the environment. The special interest is devoted to the theme of the public participation in the different stages of the environmental assessment process.

The text is composed of five chapters, each of them is dealing with different aspects of EIA. The introductory part characterises the procedure and describes the object, the purpose and basic principles of EIA. The second chapter is a brief analysis of the formation of the procedure in the United States of America in 1969. The main body of this head is focused on the most important international conventions on the field of Environmental Impact Assessment, namely The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo convention) and the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus convention).

The following part of the thesis contains EU environmental legal sources of Environmental Impact Assessment. There are interpreted couple of directives as are Directive No. 85/337/EEC as amended by Directive No. 97/11/EC, Directive No. 2003/35/EC and Commission Regulation No. 1376/2006. The fourth chapter presents a development of the EIA law since 1992 and the reasons for the creation of the current Environmental Impact Assessment Act No. 100/2001 Coll. including the list of the consequential amendments.

The fifth chapter closely analyses the above mentioned act and the participation of public in the Czech system of law. The last section of this chapter outlines how public may

participate in the environmental assessment procedure in Ireland and describes the decision of the European Court of Justice in the case EC against Ireland.

The closing part of this thesis brings a summary of the previous sections and highlights advantages and disadvantages of Environmental Impact Assessment and of its enactment on the national, international and European level. Finally are given some solutions in order to improve the environmental assessment process and make it more efficient.