

## **Abstract: Protection of the Earth's climate system from the legal point of view**

This thesis aims to provide a broad view of legal protection of the Earth's climate within its six chapters. The first three chapters explain drivers of climate change law. Protection of the climate system has stemmed not only from science, but also to a large extent from the political situation and the performance of the world economy.

Therefore, after introduction the second chapter examines the scientific basis of climate change and its evolution in time. The third chapter outlines the history of international negotiations which led to the conclusion of the three most important international instruments regulating climate change – the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, and the EU ETS Directive. The fourth chapter discusses economic approaches to internalization of global warming costs.

The core of the thesis analyzes the legal framework addressing climate change. The analysis is devoted to the backbone of international instruments laid down in the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, and to one of the most significant regional instruments - European emission allowances trading. Therefore, the fourth chapter on the Framework Convention on Climate Change examines the Convention in terms of its principles. The next part explores the substance of the Kyoto Protocol - its flexible mechanisms. The fifth chapter describes EU emissions trading and compares its three trading periods to each other and within the context of the Kyoto Protocol and its flexible mechanisms. Conclusions are drawn in the sixth chapter.

### **Key words:**

*Climate change, emission trading, environmental law, European Union Emissions Trading Scheme, flexible mechanisms, Framework Convention on Climate Change, global warming, international public law, Kyoto protocol*