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ABSTRACT

The dissertation "Legal aspects of protection of agricultural natural resources against invasive species" presents issues of legal protection and prevention of negative effects of biological invasions in agroecosystems.

Introductions of alien invasive species as a factor in biodiversity loss is a relatively new subject of research, both natural and economic, but especially legal.

Invasive alien species have been pointed out as one of the most important direct drivers of biodiversity loss and ecosystem service changes. Many legal instruments, guidelines and technical tools have been developed to address the threat of invasive alien species.

The progressing climate change and habitat transformations as a result of increasing human activity negatively affect the preservation of biodiversity. Currently, in the era of globalisation, the intensification of international trade and activities of agricultural producers the spread of invasive alien species, which is one of the major causes of adverse environmental changes. The occurrence of an alien invasive species in a given area and its subsequent expansion causes many environmental and economic problems.

The considerations carried out conclude that currently there are no sufficient legal solutions that allow effective prevention of biological invasions in agricultural natural resources and there is a need to create a holistic regulation in this regard. Individual as well as fragmentary legal mechanisms included in the existing regulations do not create a coherent legal system aimed at protection of natural resources, especially agricultural resources. It can only be considered that they suggest the problem of protection and prevention of biological invasions.

The dissertation consists of seven chapters.

The first chapter presents the terminological arrangements that appear in the considerations of the work.

The second chapter is devoted to the nature of biodiversity. The considerations focus on the socio-economic significance of biodiversity and related ecosystem services in particular on their importance for human well-being by showing their contribution to agriculture and food security.

The third chapter deals with the phenomenon of biological invasions. An attempt to define the phenomenon in question, complemented by a presentation of the scale of the phenomenon, its determinants and consequences.

The issue of the third chapter also include theoretical and legal issues relating to the legal principles relevant to the protection of agricultural natural resources from invasive alien species.

The fourth chapter deals with the issue of spread of invasive alien species in agrobiosystems, presents the impact of biological invasions on a global scale on agricultural natural resources.

The fifth chapter undertakes the analysis of normative material on the protection of plant and forest resources from alien invasive species.

The sixth chapter is devoted to protection of agricultural animal resources against invasive alien species. In addition to the analysis covering legal instruments of farm animal protection contained in international, EU and national law, a review is made of legal protection of free-living animals against biological invasions.

The problems of the seventh chapter concern the protection of the component of agricultural resource in the form of land and water against invasive alien species.

The dissertation ends with a conclusion, in which considerations aimed at solving the research problem are summarized and conclusions de lege lata and de lege ferenda are presented

Key words: agricultural natural resources, invasive alien species, agrobiodiversity, biological invasions

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