

## Microplastics and plastics from a legal perspective

### Abstract

The dissertation deals with the management of microplastics from a legal point of view, following the ever-increasing pollution of the environment by plastics. The issue of microplastics has not yet been dealt with at this level in the Czech environment. The dissertation is not aiming only at the management of primary microplastics, which is most often dealt with by existing legislation at the level of individual states, but also at the management of secondary microplastics, which have been so far legally dealt with only by indirect regulation (through limiting plastic waste as a source of this type microplastics).

The aim of the work is primarily to create an overview of the existing legislation of the management of microplastics at the international and European level (including individual legislation of the EU member states). Based on this overview is made an analysis of this legislation and are formulated proposals and recommendations for improving the management of microplastics, especially to limit their release into the environment.

The dissertation is divided into nine chapters: The first chapter is the introduction, in which the grasp of the topic, research questions and the structure of the work, including the methods used, are addressed. The second chapter is a matter-of-fact introduction, which is dedicated to the introduction of handling with microplastics, including current knowledge regarding the effects of microplastics on the environment and human health. The third chapter of the thesis contains the starting points for the legal regulation of the handling of microplastics. The fourth chapter presents an overview of the existing sources of law in relation to microplastics at the international and European level. The fifth chapter deals with the applicability of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions in relation to the management of microplastics. In the sixth chapter, the legal regulation of the management of primary microplastics at the level of the EU member states and the ECHA proposal are dealt with, including a comparison of these legal regulations. The seventh chapter deals with the consideration of *de lege ferenda* in relation to the possibility of introducing an economic instrument to regulate the management of primary microplastics at the European level as an alternative to administrative-legal instruments. The eighth chapter then deals with the legal regulation of handling secondary microplastics, from the three most important sources: plastic waste, synthetic textiles and tires. The ninth chapter consists of conclusions and answers to research questions.

## Key words

Microplastics; REACH; management of plastics