

Dear Readers,

It is our pleasure to present this issue of *České právo životního prostředí*, which appears, somewhat exceptionally, as a conference issue. It follows the 26th Czech–Polish–Slovak Conference on Environmental Law, devoted to Resource Independence in Central Europe, held at the Faculty of Law of Masaryk University in Brno on 3–5 September 2025. As the conference proceedings were conducted in English, the present issue has likewise been prepared in English.

The conference sought to provide a forum for the presentation of current legal research, the exchange of professional experience, and critical discussion of the challenges that resource independence and national self-sufficiency pose for environmental law in Central Europe. At a time shaped simultaneously by geopolitical instability, economic vulnerability, and intensifying environmental pressures, questions of access to energy, minerals, land, water, and food have acquired renewed urgency. The discussion therefore extended well beyond the language of self-sufficiency in any narrow sense and focused, rather, on the legal conditions under which resilience, sustainability, and environmental responsibility may be pursued in tandem.

We are honoured to continue the tradition of this conference and, at the same time, to acknowledge the legacy of a distinguished generation of environmental law scholars whose work has shaped the field in our region. In this respect, we wish particularly to express our gratitude in particular to Professor **Milan Damohorský**, Professor **Wojciech Radecki**, and Professor **Soňa Košičiarová**. The need to meet, to exchange views, and to engage collectively with questions of genuine legal and societal significance remains as pressing as ever.

A special part of the conference programme, which we wish to recall here with particular appreciation, was the *laudatio* dedicated to Associate Professor **Ivana Průchová** on the occasion of her landmark birthday. Ivana Průchová has played a formative role in establishing environmental law and land law within the curriculum of the Faculty of Law of Masaryk University. Equally remarkable has been her personal contribution to the development of younger generations of lawyers and scholars. Many of her former doctoral students, graduates, colleagues, and other academic associates now hold important positions in public administration, the judiciary, and professional practice. They continue to remember not only her intellectual authority and professional rigour, but also her kindness, attentiveness, and generosity. On behalf of all of us, dear Ivana, we wish you good health, personal happiness, and continuing fulfilment in both your professional and private life!

The contributions gathered in this issue reflect the breadth and complexity of the conference agenda. They open with broader reflections on the legal governance of resources: **Milan Damohorský** revisits the distinction between renewable and non-renewable natural resources and the future orientation of Czech natural-resources law; **Zbigniew Bukowski** analyses how the concept of the circular economy has been incorporated into Polish legislation, chiefly through EU-driven reforms; and **Ludovít Máčaj**, **Matúš Michalovič** and **Maroš Pavlovič** examine food waste as a structural problem of agricultural and environmental governance, arguing for a more coherent legal framework capable of linking waste prevention, the Common Agricultural Policy, and resource efficiency.

Questions of strategic raw materials then come to the fore in **Aleksander Lipiński**'s analysis of the EU Critical Raw Materials Regulation and the shortcomings of Polish law, and in the article by **Vojtěch Vomáčka** and **Jiří Vodička**, which persuasively shows that Czech implementation cannot be reduced to the controversial issue of expropriation but requires a broader regulatory toolbox encompassing exploration, planning, permitting, environmental safeguards, and local participation. **Petr Jimramovský**, in turn, addresses the still insufficiently harmonised field of public administrative inspections in geological law, while **Filip Nawrot** explores the uneasy relationship between cross-border mining and the idea of a just energy transition.

A second cluster of articles turns to the intersections between mining, climate law, environmental assessment, construction, and post-mining restoration. **Lucie Zdráhalová** demonstrates, on the basis of Czech screening practice, that climate considerations remain systematically marginalised in EIA procedures for mining projects, while **Natálie Polanská** confirms, through a comparative analysis of Czechia, Slovakia, and Poland, that this deficiency is by no means confined to one jurisdiction. **Vojtěch Vomáčka**'s further contribution places Czech practice in the light of recent European case-law and argues that the failure to assess downstream emissions and climate vulnerability is no longer legally defensible. **Barbora Pospíšilíková** examines the builder's administrative liability in relation to the sustainable use of natural resources and highlights the fragmentation of the current legal framework; **Mořic Jurečka** considers the reclamation of mining areas through green infrastructure and nature-based restoration; and **Jan Leichmann** analyses the deep geological repository not merely as a technical solution for radioactive waste, but as a question of long-term energy sovereignty, legal foresight, and intergenerational legitimacy.

The papers show that the contemporary law of environmental protection is increasingly shaped by the need to reconcile security of supply, ecological limits, procedural integrity, and social acceptance.

And the discussion does not end here... On behalf of the organisers from the University of Silesia, we are pleased to invite you to the 27th Czech–Polish–Slovak Scientific Conference on Environmental Protection Law, entitled *The Effectiveness of Instruments within Broadly Understood Environmental Law*, to be held on 9–11 September 2026.

Further information is available on the conference website: [<https://us.edu.pl/wydzial/wpia/polsko-czesko-slowacka-konferencja-naukowa-prawa-ochrony-srodowiska>].

Jakub Hanák, Scientific Chair of the Conference
Lucie Zdráhalová, Chair of the Organising Committee