

The Prospects for the Environmental Legislation of Georgia in Relation to the European Union, Recommendations in the Case of Lithuania

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The present diploma thesis deals with an urgent and relevant issue, as environmental protection, climate change and a number of other environmental problems proved to be vitally important to the mankind in the 21st century. As is well known, Georgia has a long-term European orientation and fully subscribes to European values. According to the Association Agreement between the European Union and Georgia, Georgia has made a commitment to facilitate the progressive involvement of its legislation in almost three hundred legal acts of the European Union, among them in the realms of environmental protection, climate changes and sustainable development. To integrate the development of solutions to environmental problems in political life, it is necessary for a country to determine environmental policy goals and tasks and priority areas. That is to say, a country must have its own state environmental policy. The principal purpose of the present thesis is to show perspicuously the commitments undertaken through the Association Agreement as well as the level of their fulfillment, intensity and sequence, and also prospects for the environmental legislation.

The present thesis also draws our attention to the recommendations of the Republic of Lithuania, but why precisely Lithuania? From my perspective, Lithuania is a relevant country for environmental recommendations for a number of reasons, inter alia, Lithuania is a small country of thin population like us; like Georgia it is a post-Soviet country; It took a long time for Lithuania to solve environmental problems, approximate national legislation to relevant EU laws and finally join the EU. In my opinion, these recommendations would be considered appropriate and relevant for further development of the environmental sector of Georgia on its way towards EU accession. The thesis includes a social research that was carried out in the period before starting the thesis process and deals with students' attitudes towards environmental issues both in Lithuania and Georgia.

The present thesis is based on a number of documents: the Association Agreement between the European Union and Georgia, roadmap for the EU approximation process in the environmental and climate action fields as well as 2014-2016 Plans of Action elaborated by the Government of Georgia for the pursuance of the Association Agreement and records of their fulfillment, public information taken the respective government departments, analysis of laws and bills, also records of various organizations, judgements of experts and interviews.