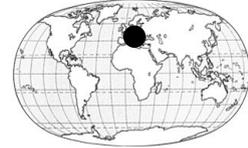


Maria TALIK

Department of International and European Law, Faculty of Law and Administration,
University of Silesia, 11b Bankowa Str., 40-007 Katowice, Poland



ALIEN PLANT INVASIONS, LMOs AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION. INTERNATIONAL, EU AND POLISH LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Effective and efficient coping with the problem of alien plant invasions requires an appropriate action to be taken at the global, regional as well as national levels. Development and implementation of a comprehensive legal framework is an essential prerequisite to deal with the issue of biological invasions as it provides a basis for taking suitable measures to prevent such invasions from occurring and to mitigate its negative impacts. Role of law in this context is important and proper legal regulation should support scientific efforts and developments in this field. The aim of this presentation is to provide a short overview and an analysis of main instruments in existing legal framework (global, European and Polish) on invasive alien plants and on living modified organisms (LMOs – understood as in the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety) issues. It will point out these aspects of LMOs regulation, which address their potential adverse impacts on the biological diversity and the environment, including their potential invasiveness. Introduction of LMOs into the environment raises many concerns. Appropriate regulation addressing the risks of alien plant invasions and regulation on potential negative effects of LMOs on the receiving environment and biodiversity are linked in many aspects and there exist certain similarities between them, which are intended to be discussed. Regulation on both invasive alien species and LMOs must be based on the precautionary principle due to existing uncertainty concerning many of their impacts on the ecosystems and biological diversity. These issues are addressed in various international forums, governmental as well as non-governmental. The approach of Polish legislator to these subjects is also intended to be outlined.

keywords: legal framework, international cooperation