

Foreword

Today's world is fully aware that the continued generation of the energy needed for it to function using traditional sources poses a threat not only to the environment but also to the whole of human civilization, which is why international organizations, including the European Union, are increasingly requiring countries to take steps towards energy transition and climate protection. Future economic growth cannot be based on extensive methods, but exclusively on intensive ones, where growth itself is reconciled with a reduction in costs, especially those related to the natural environment and the climate, as its component. Admittedly, the concept of a regenerative economy seems to be a highly futuristic vision, but the steps already being taken towards a so-called "green deal" and the aim to achieve climate-neutral energy production are becoming increasingly widespread not only in Europe.

In order to discuss this topic more broadly, I invited various academic communities in Poland and abroad to contribute to the publication of a thematic volume of the journal *Prawo* on the specific matters submitted by the authors of the articles. Seventeen authors responded, presenting 13 articles making up this volume (whereby one author had a dual role, additionally preparing a co-authored article). Although they are representatives of different universities: Graz (Stefan Storr and Julia Wallner), Lublin (Piotr Szreniawski and Zbigniew Mazur), Poznań (Maciej Kruś and Marcel Krzanowski), Kraków (Joanna Człowiekowska and Aleksandra Puczko) and Wrocław (Sebastian Bobowski, Agnieszka Chrisidubudnik, Jan Gola, Artur Halasz, Jerzy Korczak, Renata Kusiak-Winter, Justyna Mielczarek-Mikołajów and Aleksandra Pinkas), the narrative of their statements proved to be consistent and complementary. The volume also has an economic aspect combined with legal aspects, which gives it a special value thanks to dr Jan Gola (University of Wrocław) and professor Sebastian Bobowski of the Wrocław University of Economics and Business.

As energy transition is a global and undoubtedly a continental problem, the articles could not lack references to the activities taken up by the European Union. These include references to both the basic directions of the EU regulations (Renata Kusiak-Winter) and EU sectoral policy (Aleksandra Pinkas), as well as

to the extraordinary measures taken by the EU (Stefan Storr and Julia Wallner), which are also related to energy security in the face of the armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine (Jan Gola). Attention was drawn to the ability to influence the energy market and to work towards a green deal through the use of economic measures (Jan Gola and Sebastian Bobowski, Artur Halasz). An important issue is the search for new, low- or even zero-carbon energy sources. EU regulations even require individual countries to create appropriate conditions for applying them (Maciej Kruś and Marcel Krzanowski), whereas Poland's case illustrates the problem of their implementation in terms of national legal regulations, especially regarding the location of renewable energy generation equipment (Joanna Człowiekowska), but also in terms of the development potential of prosumerism (Aleksandra Puczko). Among the common thematic threads, an important role is played by public transport, the preference of which, being widespread in Europe, is supposed to help reduce undesirable emissions from individual vehicles, but which itself requires new technical solutions allowing for their reduction, which should be supported by adequate legal solutions (Justyna Mielczarek-Mikołajów, as well as Piotr Szreniawski and Zbigniew Mazur). The interdependence between all the participants of the European, national, regional and local energy markets (Agnieszka Chrisidu-Budnik) and the bodies of the local authorities, which are ultimately the addressees of the legal solutions, both obliging them to act in a specific way and giving them rights enabling them to introduce the latest technical solutions for new energy sources in Polish voivodships, counties and municipalities (Jerzy Korczak), has also been addressed.

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