Preliminary Abstract 1

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Abstract: Sustainable Production and Trade in Biofuels Aimed for Transport Sector in Environmental Law

Among the environmental challenges, which humanity is facing today, there are the threat of global climate change, unsatisfactory air quality, and the fact that the resources of fossil fuels are finite. Biofuels have long been at the top of international agenda as a possible solution to all the three issues. The present project is a timely contribution to the research of the law of biofuels.

The purpose of the investigation is to analyze the use of law as a means to implement the ambitious policy on biofuels. In this, I investigate and evaluate in what respects legal systems promote respectively restrain production and trade in biofuels in transport sector, identify efficient and less efficient legal constructions and discuss possibly successful legal strategies. The scope of the topic includes the EU level, the international level and the national level. It comprises legislation on the production and trade in biofuels aimed as fuels for motor vehicles.

More specifically, the research answers the following questions:

- What legislation on the production and trade in biofuels in the transport sector do we have today in the EC, Sweden and the USA?
- To what extent does this legislation promote respectively restrain the sustainable production and trade in biofuels in the transport sector?
- Are there any conflicts between the WTO rules and the promotion of sustainable biofuels?
- What can be possibly suggested, so that the legal systems chosen for the analysis would better satisfy their environmental goal, i.e. the promotion of the sustainable production and trade in biofuels in the transport sector?

The achievement of the purpose of the investigation consists of three steps: to determine valid law, to evaluate it, and to discuss the potential for improvement. The determination of valid law is made by using the traditional juridical method in its broader meaning on the basis of legal texts, preparatory works, relevant court cases, as well as other related material, including scientific reports and investigations.

To evaluate valid law, the effectiveness of law is investigated in relation to the global environmental development pattern, which is sustainable development. It is underlined in what respect valid law impedes respectively facilitates the production and trade in biofuels in the transport sector. The contribution of valid law to the prevention of climate change and promotion of sustainable development is analyzed. The discussion on the improvement starts with understanding of how the law of biofuels functions practically, and what effects it has. This facilitates the future development and improvement of the law systems, as well as eliminates ineffective law regulations.

The thesis is a part of the “Low-Carbon Energy and Transport Systems for 2050” multidisciplinary research programme, which is conducted at Lund University and brings together key disciplines from social sciences, economics and engineering. The results of the work can be related not only to biofuels in the transport sector, but possibly to biofuels and other non-traditional energy sources in different areas of our life.