

INTRODUCTION

After the adoption by the Czech Republic Government of the intended subject-matter of the Civil Code – already prepared – and the Commercial Code, which is currently in preparation while the work on the intended subject-matter of the Labour Code is still in progress, the professional as well as civic public has been presented with a bill arranged to sections of the general part of the Civil Code so that it can be discussed (cf. *Justiční praxe/Justice in Practice* No. 8/2002). It is quite natural that this central part of the Civil Code – as a fundamental code of private law which will have an impact on the recodification of the whole of the Czech private law – has inspired a new wave of debates published in professional legal journals, daily press and researchers' conferences to continue the professional discussions of the early 90s (cf. some of the contributions in the Jubilee Anthology of the Law Faculty 1348–1998 published by Karolinum in Prague in 1998, concerning the recodification of the Czech private law).

The presented collection of articles has been written by professors of the Faculty of Law of Charles University who thus contribute to this new phase of professional discussion.

The collection has been prepared by quite a large number of lawyers specialized in a wide spectrum of areas of law, especially those related to private law. Thus, in this collection, we can find articles dealing with the history of private law codifications in our territory, general issues of the system of law at large and private law in particular, the inter-relationships between international law and private law codes, the statuses and roles of the respective areas of private law in the system (civil law, commercial law, labour law, family law, industrial property law as well as the private international law) which all represent the core of the collection, as well as the articles dealing with the concept of private international law as an effective instrument of protection of private rights and enforcement of duties arising out of private law.

The promulgation of the Civil Code general part as arranged to sections with its theoretical sources, system, principles, fundamental concepts, terminology and language background, have represented an opportunity for some of the authors to come back to certain issues of the general understanding of the private law in the conditions of the society of the third millennium. It is characteristic of the anthology

that it comprises the contributions by not only experienced authors who have been studying the issues of private law codification for years, but also contributions by junior teachers of the faculty who mostly examined some of the particular questions of the general part as well as the specific parts of the civil law codification.

Some authors are also members of the team involved in the research programme of the Law Faculty of Charles University entitled „The Recodification of Private Law and Civil Procedure“; their articles, therefore, also represent their new contributions to the fulfilment of the current research programme.

To conclude, it should be added that the articles published in the collection reflect the stage in the development of legislation and knowledge at the time of the publication of the general part of the bill arranged according to sections of the prospective Civil Code as it appeared in Judicial Practice, the above mentioned journal of the Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic. May the readers kindly note that the arguments expressed in the collection represent their authors' personal opinions, which occasionally, and even in substantial matters, differ one from another.

In the meantime the legislative work has continued and the family, succession and property law regulations have been put forward in the articulated form. In addition, the draft of the law of obligations is currently under work.