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Editorial

Law-making systems – selected theoretical and practical aspects

One of the many aspects of the relationship between the sphere of law and the sphere of politics is the fact that the most important decisions on public policies take the form of normative acts enacted through appropriate legislative procedures. Thus, law-making processes are a strategic element of any system of authority – authority understood positively as concern for the common good. This applies to regulations created at the international, national and local levels, but also, e.g., to regulations and procedures within organisations (the internal law). Normative acts serve not only to introduce legal instruments necessary for the implementation of public policies but are indispensable when applying incentives of other kinds, e.g. economic, institutional, educational or cultural. Moreover, even allowing social actors to act freely in a certain area of life (self-regulation) requires appropriate legal regulation.

Contrary to popular opinion, the mere fact of introducing or amending a specific normative act does not automatically mean that a given social problem has been solved. Making a legislative decision regarding a law, a regulation or a rule and their coming into force is not the end but merely the beginning of a complex process aimed to eventually achieve the intended effects. In this context, an important role is played by the processes of applying laws by public institutions (administration, judiciary) and by their addressees. An appropriate interpretation of the law may serve, e.g., to correct certain inaccuracies of the legal text, although it should not deviate from the original intention of the legislator, i.e. it should not lead to goals that are contrary to the *ratio legis*.

This issue of "Horizons of Politics" is an opportunity to present selected studies on the problems outlined above and to discuss current phenomena taking place in law, public administration and the world of politics. The analyses are interdisciplinary and concern both theoretical and practical issues. This is the first theme issue related to the scientific conference entitled "Law-making systems" (Institute of Political and Administrative Sciences AIK, Krakow, 22.04.2021), so I encourage all Readers interested in this area not to miss the next volumes of "Horizons of Politics".

Mateusz Pękala
theme issue editor