

## Introduction

The issue of environmental protection is extremely important from the point of view of the entire international community. Numerous discussions and legislative works whose aim is to protect the climate and valuable natural areas and species of wild flora and fauna, evidence this. One such unique natural area requiring special attention is Bialowieza Forest and this volume of the Eastern European Journal of Transnational Relations is almost entirely dedicated to it. It is an invaluable natural reserve located on the border between Poland and Belarus (and consequently the border between the European Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States via the Union of Belarus and Russia). In recent years, dispute over the protection model of Bialowieza Forest has increased, resulting in confrontation not just within Poland but also with the EU. It seems that a comprehensive and multi-authored approach to the protection of Bialowieza Forest can be an excellent way to promote scientific intervention.

Therefore, this volume includes texts on such issues as the Bialowieza Case as a universal example of cooperation between Jews, Poles and Russians, the provisional measures against EU Member States on the example of the Bialowieza Forest, and on the unity of nature from a philosophical perspective. There is also a report from the scientific conference of “International Law - Theory and Practice” and the Congress of International Law Departments, that took place in Vilnius (Lithuania) on May 9-12, 2018, which concluded with an open debate on the issues connected with Bialowieza.

In addition (due to the open character of the Journal and regardless of selected subject matter) the essay *Criminological reflections on the Golden Rule and urban*

*stewardship for safety has also been published.* Although it does not refer directly to the issues involving Bialowieza Forest, it nevertheless falls within the scope of environmental protection, referring to a concept which emphasizes the role of protecting the environment as a part of people's natural habitat.

In order to make it easier for Readers (especially those from outside the European Union) to become acquainted with the dispute over the Bialowieza Forest protection model, the Editors decided to add the judgment of the Court of Justice of the EU of April 17, 2018, in case C-441/17 vs. the Republic of Poland, to the paper version of the Journal.

We hope that this volume of the Eastern European Journal of Transnational Relations will contribute to a deepening of international discussion on the issue of protection of unique natural habitats.

*Editors*