

Opponent report on the dissertation thesis

Topic of thesis: The Effect of European Partnership on the Agricultural Policy of Syria

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This doctoral thesis deals with interesting issue that relates to the impact of the cooperation between Syria and EU. The thesis is focused on agricultural sector in Syria with special attention on wheat as a strategic crop in Syria.

The aim of the research was to determine possible impacts of the Partnership Agreement of Syria and European Union on the Syrian agriculture. The main goal is divided in to the 3 partial goals.

The introduction gives background to the thesis, chapter 2 contains theoretical foundation for the work and chapters 3, 4 described objectives and methodology of the thesis. Author deeply described methodology of the thesis, verified research hypotheses H1 – H3 (p. 64). To verify established hypotheses author used statistical method - Policy Analysis Matrix. The following chapters (5 - 9) stated results, interpretation and summary of the research.

Dissertation thesis is 134 pages including bibliography. The text is divided into 9 basic sections. To build a literature review were used 41 literature sources. The present text is carefully prepared, is logically structured and appropriately meets the required standards.

Question for the defence:

- The Euro – Syrian Partnership calls for more emphasis on environmental - friendly agricultural production (p. 19). Describe the situation with organic farming in Syria. What kind of measurement is possible to involve for improving this situation?

- What changes would you suggest in creation agricultural policy in Syria?
- Explain and specify relationship between cost and benefit of the Partnership Agreement.

The work is written comprehensible. The thesis is well presented; the material is organized in a logical sequence and the overall quality of the presentation. I appreciate well chosen methodological tools and interpretation of results. The main goal and partial objectives of the thesis was completed.

The author showed ability to conduct research in the relevant area. Therefore I recommend accepting the thesis and after its successful defence to grant the applicant Basel Abbas the academic title **philosophiae doctor “PhD.”** in relevant specialization.

Nitra 30. 08. 2012

doc. Ing. Iveta Zentková, CSc.