



## Habilitation Thesis Reviewer's Report

<b>Masaryk University</b>	Social Studies
<b>Faculty</b>	Habilitation
<b>Procedure field</b>	PhDr. Tomáš Vlček, Ph.D.
<b>Applicant</b>	Department of International Relations and European Studies. International Institute of Political Science
<b>Applicant's home unit, institution</b>	The Russian Federation's Nuclear Geopolitics and Business Strategy
<b>Habilitation thesis</b>	Prof. dr. Arunas Molis
<b>Reviewer</b>	Vytautas Magnus University, Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy (Kaunas, Lithuania)
<b>Reviewer's home unit, institution</b>	

Tomáš Vlček authored or co-authored numerous articles listed in the Web of Science database, indexed in Scopus and ERIH+ databases, also journals, scholarly books and research reports. As the lead author he also submitted the manuscript of a new monograph to be published under Palgrave Macmillan in summer 2019. For his habilitation procedure Tomas selected six papers that trace the course of his research into nuclear energy, the geopolitics of nuclear energy, and Rosatom. In the habilitation thesis he focuses on the content of these papers and their key findings.

In this regard it must be noted that Tomas' work that he presents for habilitation procedure is relevant as it covers current issues related to the situation in the nuclear market globally, in SouthEast, Central and Eastern Europe also Czech Republic in particular, operations and behavioural also business characteristics of Russian state-corporation Rosatom, nuclear fuel factor in the context of the security of supply, Rosatom's external strategy and other aspects. A lot of different and unknown facts are being provided and discussed. Interesting topics were selected by successful groupwork while brainstorming and formulating research designs, convincing conclusion are being backed on primary and secondary sources and enriched by the interviews with experts.

Structure and organization of the presented paper and provided articles are logical, containing clear structures and research designs. Language and style are fine, containing tables, pictures, lot of informative statistics.

All in all, it must be said, that presented articles and the habilitation theses are of the adequate scientific level, containing previously unpublished outcomes that are competitive with international research standards.

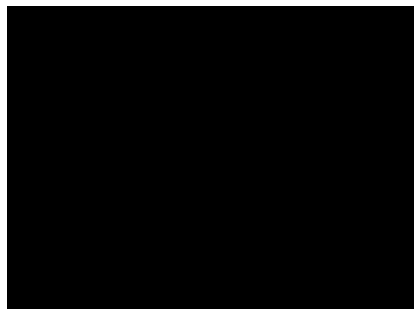
**Reviewer's questions for the habilitation thesis defence** (number of questions up to the reviewer)

1. Having in mind authors experience and the conclusions he made on Rosatoms external strategy, also insights presented in one of the article about Astravets NPP, how author would forecast Rosatom's action against Lithuania, knowing that Astravets NPP project is led by Rosatom and Vilnius passed a law prohibiting the import of electricity from Belarus to the Baltic States market (also refusing to provide system services from Lithuania to this NPP)?
2. Having in mind the deteriorating nature of the Western relation with Russia, how author sees the future of the Rosatom's activities in the EU? Is it possible, that European or American sanctions could be extended towards this Russian corporation?

**Conclusion**

The habilitation thesis entitled *The Russian Federation's Nuclear Geopolitics and Business Strategy* by PhDr. Tomáš Vlček, Ph.D. *fulfils* requirements expected of a habilitation thesis in the field of social studies.

In Kaunas on 17.2.2019



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