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Summary of the doctoral dissertation entitled:

"Structure and tasks of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences (Episcopates) of the European Community (COMECE)"

The subject of scientific considerations is the analysis of the activities of the Commission of the European Union Bishops' Conference (COMECE) established in 1980 in the context of relations with the institutions of the European Union and the potential impact of the discussed organization on the axiology of the European Union and EU legislation.

The dissertation consists of five chapters. The first chapter entitled "The Catholic Church and the European Union" discusses the positions of individual popes on European integration who, as it was shown, supported unification activities, not only in political and economic aspects, but above all in the spiritual dimension. This chapter also deals with the topic of Christian values in the unification concepts of the main architects of the future European Union. The exploration undertaken in this part of the dissertation showed that, in the first place, the unification process was in the sphere of interest of the Holy See, creating a coherent concept of socio-economic relations and international order in post-war Europe, which then shaped values close to the protagonists of the European Union.

In the second chapter: "Forms of relations between the state and the Church in selected Member States of the European Union", various concepts of the models of relations between the state and the Church in terms of representatives of the doctrine are discussed in the first place. Then, various forms of interaction of the two institutions were presented on the example of selected member states to show that the pluralism of models of the state-church relationship existing in the EU states was of significant importance in the fact that until the 90s of the twentieth century the religious thread was omitted by EU legislation.

In the third chapter, "Fundamentals of the institutional relations of the European Union with churches and religious associations", the issue of the shaping of the treaty law of the European Union towards churches and religious associations in the context of religious freedom recognized as one of the fundamental rights of the Union was taken up. The aim of these considerations was an attempt to answer the questions: about the status of the Churches in the light of the legal regulations in force in the European Union and on what legal bases and practical principles the dialogue of the Church with European institutions is based and in what forms it is implemented today. At the end of the

discussion, this part of the doctoral dissertation discusses the subjects of the institutional dialogue of the European Union responsible for narrating with Churches and religious associations.

Chapter four - "The organizational structure of the Commission of the European Union Bishops' Conference" is devoted to the discussion of the legal basis and organizational structure of the Commission. The topic of membership and financing of the organization in question was also raised.

In the last - key - chapter entitled "The activities of the Commission of the European Union Bishops' Conferences", the areas of European Union activity important from the point of view of the Catholic Church were discussed in the first place, in which COMECE takes a specific position, i.e. scientific research and bioethical issues, ecology and sustainable development, education and culture, international religious freedom, EU external affairs, migration and asylum, and the fundamental rights of EU citizens. This chapter also presents COMECE's forms of action and attempts to evaluate the initiatives undertaken by the Commission.

As part of the undertaken research, the analysis included, among others, 403 Polish and foreign-language scientific publications, 189 COMECE documents (in English, Italian and French), 56 acts of internal law of selected EU countries (in national languages) and 84 EU documents of various rank (in English).

The conducted analyzes show that the Conference of Bishops of the European Union is the realization of the idea of the Holy See to establish an entity whose activity would cover the relations between the Church and Europe. The discussed institution creates an ecclesiastical structure that monitors and evaluates social, legal and political changes taking place in the EU Member States. Through his activities, he tries to have a real influence on the fact that these phenomena take place in the spirit of Catholic social teaching. Having a regulated internal status, a specific budget and using various forms of activity, it is one of the leading institutions engaged in dialogue with EU entities on a lobbying basis. COMECE uses not only official meetings with representatives of European Union institutions or conferences, but also personal contacts with politicians and officials, pushing for compliance with the highest ethical standards in EU legislation in line with the Christian vision of morality.

Keywords: COMECE, European Union, Catholic Church, denominational law, relations between state and church