

CHAPTER

LITERATURE REVIEW

3.1. INTRODUCTION

The aim of the research is to study the transition process that Poland and the Czech Republic went through for inclusion in the European Union (EU) and the policies that have implemented since their membership has been accepted in the EU. However, the following review of literature is comprehensive and in accordance with the research objectives of this project.

In order to provide a comprehensive presentation, the review begins with the brief review of the political transformation in recent history of the studied region. This knowledge of the region encompasses the political motives for establishment of the EU as well as the reasons other states of Europe, especially Central and Eastern European (CEE) states, are attracted to the Union with the help of observations made by scholars of the field. Also, this review highlights the studies that have been done in the field of environmental legislation of the EU as well as the two countries subjected in this study. Where appropriate, problems faced by the two countries in following EU policies are also discussed with the help of scholarly works. Some of these problems are specifically discussed ensuring due consideration is given to each important aspect of the studied literature.

As stated earlier, the review provided below is categorised in nature and presents the studied literature in a convenient reading form for the audience. For this purpose also, the review can be divided into two main sections: EU policies and history in order for the reader to understand the motives of EU environmental policies and the complications these policies have created for new members, and the transition process the two studied states of Europe have experienced in order to comply to EU regulations on the subject. The focus of the review is mainly on legislation that includes steps to lessen air pollution in the region.

- The LR is a descriptive essay which outlines the literary parameters of the study and discusses each important aspect of the research questions with consistent referrals to scholarly works published on the subject. It is usually given **30-35% space in the total count**.
- The LR relies heavily on literature and it is extremely liked that latest scholarly research is used in references in order to demonstrate a firm grip on the theory of the research subject. However, your study should be comprehensive and even older works may be included to add or support an important claim.
- You may have already a variety of scholarly works have been cited in this sample dissertation. This exercise gets more intense in this chapter.
- The introduction section briefly reminds the reader of the study's aim and moves on to discuss what important matters are discussed in this chapter.
- Every LR is written keeping in mind the study's objectives, which are often stated as questions usually for clarity. For this LR, the following questions were used:
 - Why did market economy prove to be one of the most effective ways to initiate environmental regulation?
 - What was the influence of accession in the European Union on facilitating improvements in environmental standards of Poland and the Czech Republic?

3.2. HISTORY OF EU POLICIES

The EU was formed with the motives of strengthening political, economic and social relations among the states of Europe, and also to stabilise the much criticised state of environmental disorder in these states, in order to establish the continent as a modern well-governed prosperous region (Botcheva 2001, p. 197; Lavigne 1998, p. 38). However, the explicit objectives of the Union have been criticised as being very ambiguous due to the broadness of the terms they have been defined in the constitution of EU (Lavigne 1998). The general terminology and the loose restrictions of criteria stated in the constitution of the EU tends to give the realisation that new entrants in the Union could be any state of Europe while at the same time the utter compliance to these conditions are hard to be fulfilled in a few years (Lavigne 1998), considering the fact that the states entering EU are poor and less-developed and have to face a number of domestic problems during transition towards compliance of the EU law (Watson 2004, p. 1131).

European nations began to unite five decades back yet this integration was named the EU much later. In the beginning of this integration only six European states joined to form the Treaty of Rome in 1957 (Holland 1997, p. 26; Lewis and Kwarteng 1995, p. 3). This number increased with more states signing in to the Union and by 1996 fifteen states had become part of EU (Holland 1997). The agendas of EU have been in constant criticism and of interest to scholars. As stated earlier, the agendas of EU have been described as controversial and even contradictory (Holland 1997). The constitution of EU is complicated and many misunderstandings are possible in the reading due to the incumbent conflicting ideas arising from the policies that are part of it (Holland 1997). However, it is also believed these problems have arisen due to the constant changes the fundamental perception of EU has gone through in the past and the future brings hope for consistent and mutually inclusive policies in the Union.

The collection of the regulations of the EU, which are necessarily followed by the entering states and the rest of the members as well, is called *acquiscommunautaire* (the Acquis) (Holland 1997). The Acquis is the law of the EU, in simple words. One important part of the Acquis is the focus on environmental improvement in the European states. This aspect of the EU constitution highly affects the environmental agendas of the CEE states, especially in light of the fact that the political gains of membership in the EU keep the poorer CEE states attracted to the Union (Botcheva 2001).

- History of EU legislation is the starting point of the essay.

The environmental policies of EU have evolved with time and are now included in the Acquis in the form that requires entrants to demonstrate a specific plan that shows the exact nature of financial assistance and time period they require for being able to comply to the Acquis fully (Botcheva 2001). Since the first step towards policy-making for environmental concerns in the region in 1972, the process has become focused on putting forward a multinational design in the region to decrease the evil of pollution as efficiently as it can be done (Delbard 2008, p. 397). As noted earlier, the policies established by EU for its members are complex, paradoxical, and often confusing due to the strength in number (Kollman and Prakash 2002, p. 44; Ong 2001, p.687; Watson and Emery 2004, p. 766). The environmental policies are no exception. However, the flow of design can be seen in the policy-making infrastructure. The environmental law of EU has over 300 regulations and directives that are consistent in strict enforcement of the legislations and many of them focus straight to the corporate sector of the member states (Kollman and Prakash 2002; Ong 2001; Watson and Emery 2004). The recent additions in the EU environmental law seem to be aimed at sustainability by methods such as electronic recycling, decreasing air pollution (Yeoh 2008, p. 189), and auditing programmes like CEMAS (Charlier 1998, p. 107).

Air pollution has become a great concern for governments due to increasing amounts of harmful material emission in the atmosphere (Holnicki and Kaluszko 2004, p. 250). In this regard, the focus of the EU policies is on the industrial corporations and recent legislations like the directives for Environmental Liability and Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH) have proven the shift of law in EU towards enforcing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of industries in the region (Delbard 2008). Moreover, the diversity in the EU environmental policy arises with the inclusion of carbon emission recording, registering over 1,500 industrial organisations to record and report to EU in this regard. The environmental policies of EU focused on greenhouse gas emissions are motivated in order to comply with the United Nations Organisation's (UN) set goal for Europe to reduce such gas emissions to 8% by 2012 compared to 1990 (Yeoh 2008). Yet, that is not the only motivation EU has; the Union shows its own deliberation in solving the environmental problems in the region, which is also one of the primary reasons for its foundation, with the goal it has set for the region to reduce gas emissions up to 30% by 2020 (Anon 2007).

- Each argument is enclosed in a neat paragraph connected as a rational chain of cogent contentions.

3.3. HISTORY OF POLISH ECO-POLICIES

Success of policies such as ecological transition of a society depends considerably on the active role of the members of the society, and due to the political history of the country, which resulted in distrust of public and destruction of social activeness. Poland cannot be considered close to the ideal society in this regard (Sobol 2008, p. 198). That does not mean there has been no struggle in the country in the direction of environmental improvement. The Ecology Club, though closed down with the martial in the beginning of the 80s, did succeed in getting the Skawina Aluminium plant closed, which was producing two thousand tonnes of harmful fluorides every year (Kabala 1993, p. 51).

The government established an essentially general Act for environmental monitoring and improvement in 1980 after monitoring in the country completed its ninth year. As enforcement of environmental legislation was very weak during those times in Poland, the Act was not used even for the little potential it had. In the 80s, environmental penalties incurred were only a fraction of the pollution costs they were charged for (Warner 1999, p. 209). Yet, Warner (1999) also believes it would be untrue to say the governments of the past were the only producers of pollution in the country. Scholars have found greater amounts of the sulphur pollution in the Polish air is resulted by other countries as air pollution is known to be a problem that involves contribution from neighbours states as well (Pearce and Turner 1990).

In 1989, when the communist government fell, Poland became a better place with greater access to information for the people and more focused strategies of the government towards environmental improvement, which was a necessary part of the transition of the country towards a market focused economy (Carter and Kantowicz 2002, p. 183). This era began with continued focus on the more consistent problems of air and water pollution that had occurred due to the illegal and countless ways in which the industries had used the natural resources of the country in the past. The government resolved to steer the solutions that were sought towards more permanent endeavours concentrating on sustainable management of environment (Clarke and Cole 1998).

The policy-making for sustainable environmental management resulted in the development of categorised plans for varying priorities of the country. On the one hand where the government established a consistent monitoring policy for industries and waste management as well as for the recording of natural resources of the country (Andrzejewski and Baranowski 1993, p. 47; Nowicki 1993, p. 85) while on the other

- After discussing EU's legislative history, the review moves to literature written on how Poland changed its policies related to ecology and environmental problems that it faced in the aftermath of its decades upon decades of industrial economy.

hand the policies were divided into three categories of priorities and the goals were set for the coming years accordingly (Warner 1999). The set goals have been met to date. The rapid change from being one of the most polluted countries of Europe to one of the fastest pollution-fighting states of the EU shown by Poland is in fact one of the reasons why it acquired the attention of the researcher.

3.4. HISTORY OF CZECH ECO-POLICIES

The Czech Republic, which was the western part of the communist Czechoslovakia, shared the position of the most polluted states of Europe with Poland and a few other Central and East European countries. The country had a number of urban settlements and due to the focus of the communist government, very much like Poland, environmental consideration was thrown behind the back while the country produced. Like all the other communist states of the region the county was immersed in increased production under the influence of the socialist development model while the environment paid the toll (Pavlínek 2002, p. 119).

With time, the environmental conditions of the state became devastated. The industrialisation of the region after the Second World War had contributed to the continued decline in environmental stability. Though there were a few policies that were established by the communist regime but due consideration was never given to them, yet as stated earlier, the partiality in the efforts did not stop the accelerating industrialisation that was to be fuelled with cheap sources that would create much pollution and uncontrolled waste (Carter 1985; Pavlínek 1995; Tickle and Vavroušek 1998). The establishment of the country was so engrossed in the fulfilment of the model that they believed it would create hurdles in the goals they had set for production if the government started to give due consideration to environmental harm the industrialisation was doing to the country. Hence, virtually the same line of action was kept till the end of the communist regime in the country (Pavlínek 2002).

The period that began after the fall of the communist government brought along the opportunity for the country to focus on the environmental concerns, which were becoming exceedingly common in public as well as political circles. Two opinions formed in the wake of this opportunity. One was to shift the economic focus of the country from industrialisation to a welcome market attractive to investors: an opinion which was backed by many politicians and was taken to be the right choice to end the environmental dilemma of the country (Holman 1995). However, the second opinion was much more realistic and criticised on the over-optimistic thinking of the politicians saying it would be unwise to believe environment would get better on its own only if

- Similarly, necessary details of the Czech Republic's history of struggle for improving its environmental conditions are shared with the reader.
- The debate then reaches the matter of the problems states in Central and Eastern Europe faced during their transition of economies to be able to access the EU.
- These problems are categorised and discussed separately.

the country was made a market economy. These environmentalists believed that proper policies were required with prime focus on sustainability of environment to solve the problem permanently (Manser 1993; Pavlínek 2002, p. 121; Vaněk 1996). We have already reviewed in the literature that Poland had a clear set of such policies for environmental improvement after the communist era ended. Manser (1993) and other scholars like Carter and Turnock (2002) seem to be hinting to this integration of thought of the similar countries for the same problem in the same situation. Pavlínek and Pickles (2000) also believe the presence of differences between the social structures and workings of Poland and the Czech Republic is very visible, which led to the different paths the two countries chose in the beginning of the transition (Pavlínek and Pickles 2000, p. 161).

3.5. TRANSITION PROBLEMS OF CEE STATES

The accession requirements set by the EU for new entrants have been set since the expansion of the Union began moving to the East. The firmness in the determined requirements can be considered as both positive as well as negative. The positive results of the strictness in the determination of these requirements can be seen by the established standard of environmental, economic and political systems of the member states. However, the same can be considered the negative aspect as it has created great problems for the interested states (Watson 1999).

The requirements of the EU are of a number of kinds and, as reviewed earlier, of such general nature that it is difficult to ascertain knowledge for an interested country of the exact expectations it would have to fulfil. This problem is only solved when the state officially shows interests in the EU and the Union provides detailed guidelines for the country regarding what is expected of it.

3.5.i. FINANCIAL SHORTCOMINGS

The environmental requirements of the EU accession criteria are known to be problematic for the new members, as they require considerable sums for investment on determined policies that ensure improvement in the environment of the country. It is often pondered by scholars what available options can be used by the “pre-accession” countries to fulfil these requirements of the EU without banking on unwanted resources and loans as great investments are required in certain areas including air pollution, waste management and water quality (Botcheva 2001). This kind of financial needs make the governments of the interested states demand longer

- The debate then reaches the matter of the problems states in Central and Eastern Europe faced during their transition of economies to be able to access the EU.
- These problems are categorised and discussed separately.

periods of time for fulfilment of projects that would need great monetary investments. Audits are done on international basis and estimates are acquired as to the expenses that would result from a particular project. Also, governments may request financial assistance from funds that the EU has established for this purpose. However, not every state can be allotted the fund. Hence, the new entrants are the members that are usually most against the expansion of EU any further as it may result in lesser financial assistance from the Union.

3.5.ii. UNCERTAIN ENVIRONMENT

After the fall of the communist governments in the region, though older problems of environmental degradation were halted, a number of other problems arose in the CEE countries in the wake of the movement to join the EU. One of these problems was the uncertainty in the environment that suddenly emerged once foreign companies began to arrive after the communist fall (Neweskeri 2003, p. 21). These companies came to take advantage of the situation and use the cheap labour these countries provided as well as to enjoy the fruits of the futile legislation and weak law enforcement these countries had. Due to the uncertainty in the region's environment, it was convenient for these companies to continue production suitably disregarding the exploitation they were committing to the environment as bribery to concerned officials became common in matters of waste management and labour rights. As these investors abused the opportunities industrial accidents and pollution increased (Simpson 2002, p. 6).

3.5.iii. ENVIRONMENTAL JURIDIFICATION

In the past, iron-fist laws have been employed in matters of environment, especially the EU mandatory regulations 3322/88 and 549/91 in wake of the global promise to end production of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) to save the ozone layer (Watson 1999, p. 1133). Despite the fact that this mandatory law-enforcement made it possible for the goal to be achieved, experts' criticism on limitations of such law-making is quite overwhelming in the literature. Such legislative actions make the subjected institutes and countries comply using scarce resources of the society and are under strict monitoring forced to meet the determined requirements with severely high costs (Stewart 2001, p. 31). This approach of the command and control manner is not the appropriate choice of action for legislative bodies, especially of the stature the EU holds. Environmental juridification with command and control approach has severe and permanently harmful effects on environmental improvement activities in a society. When laws upon laws are made with changing objectives,

the purpose of environmental legislation suffocates under the weight (Orts 1995, p. 1241). The strength of this approach depends on the honesty and talents of the people involved in the regulation as it is known that policies are often developed without comprehensive estimation of the costs they would bore (Orts 1995). People involved in regulation can abuse their powers conveniently causing much harm whereas on the other hand they may not use their powers (De Prez 2001, p. 148; Ogus and Abbott 2002, p. 291). Corruption is also a possibility in this manner (Fredricksson and Svensson 2003, p. 1384). The extent to which these problems have been found in CEE states is dangerous, especially in light of the fact that law enforcement and monitoring history in these societies is very discouraging (Klarer, McNicholas and Knaus (eds.) 2001, p. 94). These countries have had weak governments in recent past who have been unable to completely eradicate the problems discussed above, which has resulted in severe problems for them to comply with the demanding mandatory requirements of EU for environmental legislation and management (Neweskeri 2003).

3.6. TRANSITION OF POLAND

As reviewed earlier, the policies used by the communist regime in the region did not in fact improve the condition of the environment due to its consistent priority of production rather than a balanced economy. After the fall of the communist government, the country's policies were shaped to move towards sustainable management of environment, including policies that influenced this effect both directly and indirectly working through the civil and social circles as well as through the political and economic paradigms (Warner 1999).

Being a political government, the new regime after the socialist era began dialogues with political rivals in the country on the subject of environmental policy-making. These conferences led to the establishment of many positive initiatives, one of which was the access of people to information in the country. These initiatives also brought about the approval of such legislation that focused on pollution of the air and water and took waste management as the next target (Warner 1999).

Prudence is apparent in the policies Poland established and also in their strategic utilisation. As mentioned earlier in the review, the Polish government categorised their environmental policies according to the country's priorities and set time limits for each set goal. There were three sets of priorities in environmental policy-making. First, the short-term priorities were focused on actions that were required to eradicate imminent danger to human life. The time set for this set of initiatives would end in 1995. The second set was focused on

- The debate then moves on to the expectations the world had about Poland's success in its attempts to change and acquire eligibility for access to EU. Also, the section discusses how Poland actually surprised its audience and went through transition with remarkable success.

bringing Poland closer to EU accession requirements and the goal set for this achievement was 2000. The last set was based on long-term strategies of sustainable environmental management by improving management of the energy sector, its supply chains and water resources leading to protection and conservation of the natural habitats of the country (National Environmental Policy of Poland 1991).

After compiling a long list of industries and production facilities that were the top waste and pollution creators, the government began strict monitoring of these facilities and their chemical emissions in the air as well as waste management strategies. Those who exceeded their assigned limit of waste production were fined considerably and as the charged fees were sufficiently high to matter to the costs of waste production, a major number of these production facilities began to seek ideas that would lessen the waste production (Goralczyk 2003, p. 66; Warner 1999).

Due to the economic reformation in the country, the pricing policy of energy had to be changed and prices rose. Many of the industries in the country moved on to acquiring quality assurance certifications to demonstrate they were in line with the compliance required of them by their government and the EU laws. These affiliations mainly related to demonstration of compliance to environmental laws and also to Life Cycle Costing (LCC) (Goralczyk and Kulkzycka 2005, p. 120), which is the sum total of costs estimated for designing, developing, producing, operating, maintaining, supporting, and disposing, including salvage value for any production facility of considerable size (Barringer and Weber 1996). These actions were mainly adopted by the energy industry as well as the mining industry. This shift resulted in considerable decrease of waste production in the country, which has been one of the major contributors in waste production in Poland for several decades. Within the two years between 1999 and 2001, the mining industry decreased waste production from 49.4 Metric tonnes to 43.7 Metric tonnes (Central Statistical Office 2002).

Similarly, other realistic decisions were made, including abandonment of Poland's nuclear programme in 1990, which was causing great concern to the environmentalists, following the step taken by Germany the previous year (Mauser 1994, p. 17). Waste import from other countries was completely banned who were taking advantage of the weak laws in the CEE states after the fall of the communist regime (OECD 1995). Natural conservation was also tended by the policy-makers of the time who created the Nature Conservation Act in 1991 with subsequent laws in following years in order to conserve the forests and wildlife (Anon 2001, p. 3).

- Note how most of the references used in this section pertain to late 1990s and early 2000s. This is so because works published during the transition period of Poland were used with emphasis. This exercise provided a more *real-time* touch to description. However, it should be remembered that later works were also studied to avoid losing sight of any later development in the literature.

Poland initiated itself and took part in many programmes with neighbouring countries to fulfil the accession requirements of the EU, and the EU appreciated the efforts Poland showed proving its sincerity to the regional goals of the Union. The country faced a number of problems during its transition including the disappointingly high inflation and unemployment rates, which resulted in slackening of the government towards the accession efforts as its attention was required toward these domestic problems (Warner 1999). It was found in a research (Bolan 1995, p. 32) that the opinions regarding preferring environment over employment had reduced considerably, yet it must be said that the difference was shown by two surveys that were done with a year apart, which creates the possibility that sampling differences may have caused this change in opinions (Warner 1999).

Poland has succeeded considerably in effectively implementing policies it had designed for air pollution and emissions of chemicals in the atmosphere. The pollution of air has been carefully monitored throughout this period of time and has been recorded to be reducing consistently, a positive trend towards environmental improvement. In 1996, the dust emitted by electricity generating facilities was over 50% lesser than it was in 1989 while Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) lowered to 30% for the same period (Ratajczyk 1996).

3.7. TRANSITION OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Earnhart and Lizal (2006) believe the Czech Republic is an ideal country from among the CEE states for a study of environmental and economic improvement and struggle. It is known that in the recent past, the country had avid air pollution, which became a great matter of public concern (World Bank 1992). After the fall of the socialist government, the country moved towards the solution of this problem and the new government established effective policies and strategies that ultimately led to considerably lowered emissions of pollutants in the atmosphere during the last decade of the 20th century (The Czech Environment Ministry 1998).

As the country had been under the rule of the most repressive communist government in the region (Madeo 1994, p. 947), the legacies of the region's greatest pollution and a devastated environment were left for the new regime (General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS Agreement) 1998, p. 328). It can be said that almost all of the pollution in the country's atmosphere has occurred due to high level of energy consumption and lack of sufficient consideration for proper disposal of industrial waste. As stated earlier, in these countries, the communist government was focused on increasing national production to the detriment of

- This section aims to describe the transition process through which the Czech Republic went and achieved success similar to Poland's.

environment. The need for energy led to the building of many electric power generating plants which ran on sulphuric fuels emitting large amounts of Sulphur- and Nitrogen-Oxides in air (Madeo 1994). The Clean Air Act of 1991 was the first firm step toward legislative description of the social and economic entities' responsibilities with regard to air pollution and emission. Compared to other similar legislations in surrounding countries, this Act contains two special features. First, it included every known air pollutant and set fines for abuse of the atmosphere with any of them; second, it gave the government no right to distinguish among the entities found guilty with regard to punishment (Clean Air Act 1991). Similarly, the Waste Act of the same year and the Water Act of 1992 were designed to strengthen the environmental policies of the country with regard to waste management and controlling pollution in water resources of the country.

After the communist government, the change in the increasing trend of pollution in the Czech Republic was realised with the help of the automatic decline of economy as massive changes were made in the economic structure of the country. This restructuring included remodelling the economy from centrally controlled to being market based and revitalisation of environmental legislation. As industries slowed down, the need for energy decreased by 6% (Ministry of Environment 1996, p. 60). The Clean Air Act resulted in the remarkable decrease in solid waste production of the Czech Energy Works Company (Černá, Tošovská and Cetkovský 1995, p. 387). Industries also strived to control their waste production and chemical emissions in the atmosphere due to the strict legislation and enforcement of the law. Waste production was reduced to just 3% of the production of the communist period in the cement industry with help of innovative production procedures (HM 1996, p. 6). The estimated production of solid waste for 1999 was down to only 7% of its value from 1993, whereas Sulphur Dioxide emission was estimated for the same period to be 30%, organic substances down to 78% and Nitrogen Oxides level was estimated to be 57% of its previously recorded value (Maxa, Dlouhý and Řeháček 1998, p. 14).

The reasons for consistently decreasing SO₂ emissions are mainly related to the decrease in overall production in the country itself, as discussed above. The decrease in production led to lessened use of energy and its demand. Yet another important reason leading to the constant decrease in SO₂ was the shift of industries from Sulphur based fuels to other resources (Pavlík 1996, p. 62). The reason for this shift, as reviewed earlier, was the enforcement of the newly acquired environmental laws of the country. Strictness in the enforcement of laws led industries to realise the importance of "healthy" production and making changes accordingly. Also, the share of GDP of the country used for environmental regulations and development increased from less than 1%

in 1989 to over 2.5% in 1996, but it reduced the next year to a little lower than the last recorded value (Ministry of Environment 1999, p. 79).

The Czech Energy Works Company completely desulphurised itself by the end of 1998, which was a great accomplishment as this company produced over three-fourths of the country's electricity (Baroch 1998, p. 3; Čápová 1999, p. 4). Although the Clean Air Act resulted in this considerable accomplishment it did not consider smaller emitting sources or the mobile sources of chemical emissions, which are known to be a considerable source of air pollution, especially in urban areas as automobiles are in greater number and contribute heavily to chemical air emission (Seják 1994, p. 38).

3.8. SUMMARY

The review provided in this chapter gives a detailed account of the transition process the countries of the CEE have had to go through in wake of the increasing demands of the European integration. The organisation of the European states in the East is found to be economically as well as politically motivated looking towards a united Europe but the environmental aspects of the policies as purpose of the union were established with the formation of the Amsterdam Treaty (Carius, Homever, Bar and Kraemer 2000, p. 138). These focused goals and purposes of the EU have led to the formation of such iron-fist regulations and directives that have been found to be hard to follow for many of the strategically prospective states of the continent.

Poland, which was one of the most polluted countries of the continent, answered the call of the EU for continental unification and sought membership of the EU due to the many advantages it would bring to the economy of the country and the people. When faced with the many demands of the accession to the EU, Poland reacted with apt strategies and with categorised and very well-planned goals set for a variety of lengths of time depending on the country's priorities and the accession demands of the EU. These efforts of the country made it possible for Poland to negotiate with EU on equal grounding. In fact, as discussed in the literature reviewed, EU respected the efforts made by Poland with regard to meeting its accession requirements and financial aid was also given to Poland from specialised Union funds for meeting expensive environmental requirements of the Union. Various programmes were initiated by the Polish government and remarkable achievements were made by the country despite the many problems that arose in the way.

- The summary of the chapter states the key points of the review in cogent and contextual paragraphs.

Much like Poland, the Czech Republic also belonged to the Communist empire of Europe in the mid-20th century and remained so until it fell in 1989. The European integration was a great opportunity of the time and the Czech Republic also sought to be a part of it. It presented a great chance for countries of Europe like the Czech Republic to work intensively on the environmental alteration the region required and take help for it.

Though the beginning of this era produced more than one opinion in the Czech Republic about the path that should be chosen, which led to many political disputes, the overall progress was smooth from the beginning of the transition process. With time, the country gained much stronger approach towards industries that had been the culprit for air, water and solid waste production in the past. With policies charging such facilities for polluting the environment, especially the air the government made them turn over a new leaf and seek improved ways of production that would not harm the environment as before. These processes led to the present state of the country which is greatly free from pollution and chemical emissions in the atmosphere keep on reducing despite the return of the economic activities.

Both Poland and the Czech Republic have shown great diligence achieving the membership of the EU in 2004 and continue to work for the environmental goals they have set for the 21st century.