

Seznam got a complete list what the Liechtensteins want to get by their lawsuits

Exclusively at Seznam: We got a complete list what the Liechtensteins make efforts to get. It was before last Christmas when the lawsuits were delivered to 26 courts in the Czech Republic in which the Liechtensteins require the return of their family property. Seznam managed to get a complete list of castles, chateaus, forests and agricultural land which are required to be returned by the influential principal family. The documents – that are available to Seznam, imply apart from the other findings, that the Liechtenstein side does not want all the family property that was confiscated from them in 1946 based on Beneš's decrees.

The Liechtensteins suit the return of the property that is in the ownership of the state, they do it through the Prince of Lichtenstein Foundation that administrates all the principal property. They are not going to require the return of lands and real estates, that are in private ownership or belong to schools, villages or churches (or are used by them).

“Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation, reigning Prince Hans Adam II and other Liechtenstein citizens that filed the lawsuits opted for generous attitude. It was the state that misused Beneš's decrees to confiscate Liechtenstein property, not the villages, universities or private persons. So-called third parties cannot or should not take the responsibility for the acts of state,” Michal Růžička, Foundation spokesman said. At the same time, he confirmed that the information that is available to Seznam is correct.

Overview: What the Liechtensteins want and what they do not want

The lawsuits relate to five out of 22 Liechtenstein chateaus and castles. There are real historic diamonds among them though as a chateau in South-Moravian Valtice or nearby chateau and area in Lednice. Apart from them, the Liechtenstein are also interested in state castle Šternberk in Olomouc region that belonged to them since the end of 17th century and beginning of 18th century. The lawsuits related to chateau Bučovice were also delivered, it is considered to be a unique building in the style of Italian Renaissance or they relate to chateau Velké Losiny in Šumperk region.

The lawsuit is not related to chateaus Úsov, Moravská Třebová, Břeclav or Plumlov, because they belong to respective villages, not to the state.

Moravian Amazonia is also involved

The property of the Liechtensteins situated in today's republic was extensive. “Besides the Schwarzenbergs, it was the largest domain in Czechlands that had its core in Moravia and partly in Silesia and Czechlands. But it was mainly a Moravian noble family,” historian Václav Horčíčka said.

The Liechtensteins require the return of approximately 70 thousand hectares of lands, mainly forests in their lawsuits. The centre of their manor was Lednice – Valtice area mentioned above that was registered in UNESCO list of cultural heritage in 1996. More specifically, in Břeclav region, where the area with a famous minaret is situated, the Liechtensteins require the return of 10 thousand hectares of forest and agriculture lands. The most outstanding part among them is the river Dyje Triangle – a natural unique floodplain forest in the Czech Republic. The natural area situated near the confluence

of the Dyje and Morava rivers is also nicknamed Moravian Amazonia. The Liechtensteins also require that the state returns the lands around Bučovice, Kyjov, Bruntál, Šternberk, Lanškroun and Uherské Hradiště.

We remind you that a complete overview of the property that is required by the family is available to you in the overview in this article.

What property is not required by the Liechtensteins. Dlouhé stráně (Long Hillsides) case

One of the remarkable places that are not going to be involved in current Liechtenstein's lawsuit is also a famous pump-storage power plan Dlouhé stráně in Jeseníky mountains.

It was built on the land confiscated near Loučná nad Desnou in 1996 but due to the troubles that would accompany the requiring of such lands, the Liechtensteins took them out of the lawsuits. But the remaining 5.5 thousand of hectares of forest and agricultural lands in the surroundings of Velké Losiny and Šumperk region are required to be returned to them.

"Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation and other Liechtenstein families decided that apart from the confiscated property that is held today by third parties, they will not require also the lands that are held by the state, but that are now situated under important constructions as highways, dams or similar ones. This generosity is another evidence of the long-term attitude of the Liechtensteins who were forced to file lawsuits: they have always wanted to reach an agreement with the state during negotiations. This is still true even when the lawsuits were filed," Michal Růžička, Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation spokesman, said.

Apart from Moravian and Silesian manors, the Liechtensteins were present also eastwards from Prague, in Rumburk, Zahrádky near Česká Lípa and near Čížová in Southern Bohemia.

But the lawsuits are not aimed at the local chateaus, so they will stay in the ownership of villages and private owners. But the principal family will suit about the lands in the ownership of the state. But for example, the confiscated fields and forests situated eastward from Prague that are used by the Czech University of Agriculture and Research Institute of Livestock Production, are not included in the lawsuits.

The Liechtensteins were deprived of a significant part of the manor within the first-republic land reform. They received compensation for these lands, but it was stated only at the fourth of the market value. The current court dispute is related only to the property confiscated on the basis of Beneš's decrees after World War II.

"It was approximately 69 thousand hectares of lands, chateaus with art collections, there were also small industrial enterprises. The Liechtensteins themselves estimated the value of the property at 350 million Swiss francs used at that time," historian Horčíčka describes.

According to Michal Růžička Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation has no overview of the current value of the required property. "It is because that it does not have access to relevant data, but also because it has not even tried to prepare such calculation. Its interest is to achieve justice and to get an opportunity to take active responsibility for what was built by their ancestors for 800 years," Michal Růžička said.

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