Abstract and key words in English language

Abstract

This thesis focuses on the issue of electronization of carriage documents in international maritime transportation. There are two basic types of carriage documents in international maritime transportation – negotiable and non-negotiable documents. The negotiability of the document is based on the ability of the document to transfer ownership of the goods represented by that document by the transfer of the document itself.

Typical negotiable document in maritime transportation is a bill of lading. The bill of lading is a security, in Czech legal system it is a special type of so called náložný list, with which the ownership right is attached to the goods that are specified in the bill of lading. One of the benefits of using negotiable carriage documents is that the goods can be negotiated (the ownership can be transferred) while it is transported. Whilst the electronization of non-negotiable carriage documents is not a problem, the case for negotiable documents is the opposite.

The submitted thesis is divided into two parts. The first part is devoted to the issue of the bill of lading, as a major maritime carriage document. The history of bill of lading is outlined and its functions and types are described in detail. Then the first part deals with the anchoring of carriage documents and maritime transport in international law and a special subchapter is also devoted to the laws that regulate (maritime) transportation and the bill of lading in the Czech legislation.

In the second part of my work, which I consider to be the most important one, I describe the development of the electronization of carriage documents. Electronic transport documents are an evolving part of e-commerce therefore I first focus on the development of e-commerce as such, I continue with describing the legal requirements that electronic transport documents should meet, then I focus on the initial efforts for electronization and the latest developments in the field. The thesis is concluded with a focus on the possible electronization of the bill of lading, respectively securities in the Czech legal system and reflection on the future of Czech law.

Key words: electronization, bill of lading, international maritime carriage