

Liability for damages caused by an autonomous vehicle

Abstract

For several years now, autonomous vehicles have been one of the most interesting topics associated with the upcoming Industry 4.0 and the spread of artificial intelligence in society. This thesis therefore deals with the topic of autonomous vehicles as a subset of autonomous systems, specifically in connection with civil-law liability. It is probable that in the future there will be a massive expansion of autonomous means of transport in society, and it cannot be ruled out that a situation will arise where their setting will result in damage. The aim of this thesis is to present the models of liability, the use of which is discussed by jurisprudence in connection with autonomous vehicles, and to assess the possibility of using the current institutes of Civil Code, to find a suitable future solution.

For this purpose, the thesis first deals with the concept of autonomous vehicles according to the Civil Code and other legislation and by using existing definitions of artificial intelligence deals with specific features of autonomous systems, as well as the status of specific persons associated with the operation of autonomous vehicles in light of current legislation, their typology and conditions of their operation itself. The second part of this work is devoted to the introduction of the concept of civil-law liability in the Czech legal system and the explanation of the principles on which it is based.

The third part of the thesis deals with the introduction and evaluation of proposed models of civil liability for damages caused by autonomous vehicles, as well as the analogous use of the special provisions of civil-law liability. Analogous use is based on the conclusions of the first and second part of the work, and in the conclusion the application unsuitability of these institutes is stated. The *de lege ferenda* considerations therefore set out the most appropriate future solution, which is the European Parliament's latest legislative proposal.

Key words: autonomous vehicle, liability for damages, autonomous systems