

Résumé

This thesis is focused on issues of punishment for traffic offences. Road traffic is an inherent part of our daily life and influences all its aspects.

A number of factors can contribute to the risk of collision: vehicle design, speed of the drive, traffic conditions, driver's impairment or alcohol. Motor vehicle collisions and other traffic accidents often lead to death, permanent disabilities or injuries and cause damage which means significant financial losses to both society and the individual. Almost each of us gets to witness a traffic accident or (sadly) become its victim. Individuals involved in motor vehicle accidents can be held financially liable for the consequences of the accident, such as material damages, injuries or death of passengers and drivers.

The aim of this thesis is to describe the causes and the course of traffic accidents, the types of driving offences, crimes that can be committed and especially the penalties which can be imposed in different cases. It also reflects the way the society reacts to respective penalties and deals with punishments for those who caused the accident.

In the introduction I focused on definition and characteristics of traffic offences. Furthermore I determined the notion of traffic accident and its causes.

The following part introduces respective criminal offences which may relate to the participation in road traffic. In the chapter devoted to criminal offences I selected criminal offences from the Penal code that can be caused by participation in road traffic. I tried to find the ambiguities and stress recent changes with regard to adoption of the Act No. 40/2009 Coll., (new) Penal Code, effective from 1 January 2010. The comparison of the old and the new legal regulation is an integral part of this work.

The next section of this thesis deals with the types of penalties imposed for traffic offences, and other punishment issues.

The end of thesis is an overview and a summary of all available statistics offering valuable information and pointing out what needs to be improved.

This work also presents my opinion about selected legal topics concerning traffic accidents, comprises my own suggestions for future changes and proposes possibilities of dealing with problematic issues.