ABSTRACT

This thesis deals with issue of Internet transactions in relation to the private international law, particularly with recent sources of law that govern cross-border sale. The thesis is divided into three parts.

The first part addresses general issues of Internet transactions, namely the relationship between the Internet and the law, identification of subjects on the Internet, attributability of legal effects caused due to operation of electronic agents and last but not least electronic contracting, especially delivery of electronic communication and technical methods of presentation of terms and conditions by Internet service WWW.

Part two provides analysis of the most important sources of law that govern cross-border sale at the private international law level, particularly those that are part of the Czech legal system, namely the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods, the regulation Rome I and the Act no. 91/2012 Coll. (the act governing private international law) and beside those also relatively new unified substantive rules governing some issues of formation and performance of contracts electronically contained in the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts. In the analysis is addressed whether and what questions are raised due to the application of mentioned legal instruments on legal relations emerged from Internet transactions. An influence of electronization on lex mercatoria and the new concept called as lex informatica are also addressed.

The third part deals with specific issues of Internet transactions. Proposed technologically dependent connecting factors - lex loci server, lex loci TLD, lex loci upload and lex loci download are addressed. Further, the provision of a digital content over the Internet is analyzed, particularly software. Finally some opinions are given on possibility of application of the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods and the regulation Rome I to Internet transactions where one party´s performance consist in provision of virtual currency or virtual „property“.

It is concluded that recent legal framework governing cross-border sale at the private international law level may be generally considered as eligible for use in an Internet environment despite the fact that some questions call for a court interpretation.