Rights of a passenger in railway transport

The contract of carriage represents one of the most frequent contracts and its legal basis is based on Art. 2550 of Act No. 89/2012 Coll., Civil Code. The contracting parties of the contract of carriage are a transporter and a passenger. The transporter is contracted to carry the passenger to the final destination and the passenger pays the fare for the service. The passenger is in the position of the consumer and weaker party. Therefore, it is necessary to focus on the rights of passengers that are based not only on the provisions of Civil Code, but also on the rules of carriage and on the general conditions of the transporter. This thesis focuses on the description, classification, evaluation and comparison of these rights in Czech and French legal orders. Integral part of the thesis is also the legislation of the European Union and visions to the future, as well as the proposals de lege ferenda.

The thesis is divided into seven chapters with the introduction as the chapter one and the conclusion as the chapter seven. The second chapter points out the definition of terms and notions that are bound to the railway transportation. This chapter also includes the incorporation of the railway transport in the context of the transport in general and the classification of current sources of law. The third chapter presents the history of railway transport and its evolution on the national and international level. The fourth chapter describes the contract of carriage as the independent type of contract and defines the integral elements of this contract. The fifth chapter is the core part of the thesis, as it concerns the specific rights of passengers. This chapter is further divided into 8 subchapters which stand as the individual rights of the passenger. This list of rights is classed by its position in the sources of law. The sixth chapter refers to the French legal order and describes the rights of passengers in France. The individual rights are compared to the situation in the Czech Republic.

This thesis reflects the legal status to the date of the 1st February 2016.