Do we need ethical and legal boundaries for the development of automated cars?

Industry, agriculture, households, the virtual world: mobility occupies a special position among all conceivable fields of application for smart systems. The vision of autonomous driving is not only backed by a huge industry (especially in Europe). For many, the self-driving car has also become the prototype of the intelligent machine. Both - economic potential and society's expectations of such a technology - make it necessary to consider whether its introduction should also entail legal innovations. Or is our legal system already prepared for the consequences of driverless vehicles? And if not, what ethical standards do we want to make the basis of new legislation?

The range of legal issues affected by this is astonishing: they range from data protection and the justification of legal responsibility for accidents to the general question of the admissibility of autonomous cars. And answering them requires far more than the opinion of a few lawyers. Politicians must succeed in drafting a set of rules that reflects a consensus throughout society on how to deal with artificial intelligence. Last year, for example, the German legislature took its first steps in this direction with the convening of the Ethics Committee for Autonomous Driving and the reform of the German Road Traffic Act.

The lecture will shed light on the results of the expert commission and the new regulations. In addition, it dares to address questions of legal responsibility that have so far been completely open and provides an overview of future regulatory requirements.