

NPOC Space Law Austria Event
Final programme

Date and Time: Monday, 7 June 2021, 6 pm (CEST)

Online, at the margins of the 60th session of the Legal Subcommittee of UNCOPUOS

The role of private actors in shaping national space law and policy – dynamics and stumbling blocks

In contrast to the early days of the space age, national space laws and policies today are often driven by interests and needs of the private sector. This result of commercialisation and privatisation of space activities reflects the changing role of the state in the exploration and use of outer space. While this is understandable, it bears the risk of fragmentation and custom-designed regulation at the national levels, which may not encompass the broader spectrum and can fail to consider possible future developments. It may turn out, at a later stage, that the rules are not precise enough or, conversely, set up too many constraints. Different countries have recently experienced the need to change or amend their national regulatory frameworks.

Another question is to what extent space activities today are indeed “private”. For a variety of reasons, the market for space-based services is volatile. Often public money becomes involved at a certain stage, be it in the form of direct investment in companies and institutions, be it as grants and subsidies, or be it in the role of the state as a customer and purchaser of space-based services.

The event will analyse a few examples of space activities, which have influenced, if not triggered, national space laws and policies. Experts who have been involved or closely witnessed national regulatory and policy developments, will talk about their experiences and share insights and ideas for the future. The space activities discussed will include launch services, telecommunication, Earth observation, space resource utilization, and recent developments in the small satellite industry.

The format will be a panel discussion in which the moderator puts four almost identical questions to the panellist to highlight possible differences and similarities in the various sectors. The audience will be invited to put questions via the chat. The event will be recorded and made available online.

The space industry sectors represented will be: - Launch services
- Small satellite activities
- Satellite communication services
- Space resources utilisation

The questions will be:

- 1) Please, describe briefly the space sector in which you are active.
- 2) To what extent is this sector “private” or “public”? Is the State involved as an owner of companies, by grants or subsidies, or as a customer and purchaser of services?
- 3) Were you involved in the development (or amendment) of national space law or policy, a close witness, or otherwise directly affected by it?
- 4) What were the biggest challenges before, during, and after the finalization (or amendment) of the respective national space legislation or policy? Which interests and needs of the private sector would you see for the future?

Speakers are:

For launch services: Prof. Steven Freeland (Western Sydney University; Bond University, Australia)

For space resources utilisation: Brian Israel (NASA, USA)

For satellite communication services: Elina Morozova (Intelsat, Russian Federation)

For small satellite activities: Prof. Otto Koudelka (Graz University of Technology, Austria)

Moderator: Irmgard Marboe (University of Vienna, NPOC Space Law Austria)

Please, **register** for the event by Monday, 7 June 2021, **2 pm**: npocspace.law@univie.ac.at