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IMPACT OF GERMANY'S RECENT SPACE POLICY AND PROGRESS TOWARDS A NATIONAL
LEGISLATION

Abstract

The impact of Germany's recent space policy and this nation's progress towards a national legislation in regards to space activities will be examined and discussed in this paper. The topic of this paper is of great relevance as Germany is one of Europe's leading space faring nations. Not only is it the largest financial contributor to the European Space Agency as of 2012, but also cooperates internationally with other major space faring nations such as the United States of America, Russia, Japan and India, in regards to space activities. Furthermore, Germany is extensively involved in the European undertakings in space. For example, Germany takes part in the production of the Ariane-5 launcher, is greatly involved in the Galileo project which deals with satellite navigation, and plays a major role in the 'Global Monitoring for Environment and Security' (GMES) initiative. This country's substantial expertise in space technology also plays a role in its relevance in the international field of space activities. The current administration of dealing with Germany's space activities will be examined within this paper along with its progress towards a national legislation. In this regard, the administrative tasks of the German Aerospace Center (Deutsches Zentrum fuer Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V., DLR) are of relevance and will be analyzed to define the DLR's space activity management. Moreover, the 'Law Governing the Transfer of Responsibilities for Space Activities' of August the 22nd, 1998 will be studied in order to reveal what is currently being regulated and to anticipate the content which the future German legislation should additionally be composed of. The German Telecommunications Act will also be taken into consideration for this purpose.