

26th SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND ECONOMICS (E3)
28th IAA/IISL Scientific-Legal Round Table "Space and the Polar Regions (Arctic and Antarctica)"
(Invited Papers) (5-E7.6)

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SPACE AND THE POLAR REGIONS - CASES OF SATELLITE APPLICATIONS, POLICIES AND
REGULATIONS

Abstract

Although the polar regions have different legal regimes, they have one thing in common: they both are of interest for the international community. No claims of sovereignty can be effectuated with regard to Antarctica according to the Antarctic Treaty of 1959. The Arctic region is however, an interesting mix of iced land masses that are subject to the sovereignty of certain states and iced water which in case of an ever advancing melting due to global warming can become and is already subject to maritime claims to sovereignty of certain states. It is the purpose of this introductory paper top this panel to highlight the legal situation of these two areas under consideration from a point of view of international law. This will then allow to draw some conclusions with regard to certain space applications concerning the polar regions.