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SPAIN: TOWARDS A NATIONAL SPACE LEGISLATION AND A SPANISH SPACE AGENCY?

**Abstract**

Although Spain is a Party in most of the Treaties related to outer space, the "Corpus Iuris Spatialis" (the 1967 Outer Space Treaty; the 1968 Rescue agreement; the 1972 Liability Convention; and the 1974 Registration Convention), Spain has not yet adopted a national space law with a few exceptions.

Moreover, two important national institutions related to the exploration and exploitation of the outer space have been created; the National Institute of Aerospace Technology (INTA) and that reports to the Ministry of Defence, and the Centre for Technological and Industrial Development (CDTI), that reports to the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism.

Furthermore, Spain is a State Member of European Union, the European Space Agency and other international organizations and has ratified many bilateral and multilateral international agreements related to the outer space activities and policy.

The need for a unified Spanish Space Legislation and a Spanish Space Agency becomes more evident every day. This paper will analyze some recent law developments and the increasing public debate about the necessity of the creation of a Spanish Space Agency.