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LEGAL PROBLEMS AND THEIR SOLUTIONS WITHIN THE REALM OF REMOTE SENSING AND  
SPACE COMMUNICATIONS

**Abstract**

The paper discusses the methodologies and approaches of a research project which shall examine two cases of legal problems related to remote sensing and space communications with particular emphasis on:

- 1) the subject of distribution of data gained through remote sensing on legal terms acceptable to industrialised and developing countries and
- 2) the concept of "acceptable" use of direct satellite broadcasting within the geographical or regional context of the MERCOSUR countries of South America.

The cases shall be reviewed in the light of recent legal briefs and presentations at the COPUOS- and IISL-sponsored conferences and colloquia in Space Law. International treaties and declarations of principle relating to Outer Space shall be the point of departure. Developmental comparison shall be made with the recent developments in the international Law of the Sea.

Of particular interest is the direction of legal changes to the current corpus lex and custom relating to Space Law. Will differences of opinion and interests between the developing countries and developed countries examined in the study point in the direction of a movement of the "res communis" nature of outer space and celestial bodies toward an appropriation-friendly legal regime as has recently happened with the Law of the Sea?

The project builds upon the analysis of legal regime change carried out in connection with the first Space Law Masters Thesis in Finland "An International Legal Regime for Outer Space: Various Types of Regime Change".