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30 Years of the Moon Agreement: Perspectives (2)

Author: Prof. Mahulena Hofmann
University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg , Mahulena.Hofmann@uni.lu

MOON AGREEMENT AS A TOOL OF PLANETARY PROTECTION

Abstract

The paper is a part of a study on the Protection of the Environment of Celestial Bodies performed by an international IAA team and edited by Petra Rettberg, Mark Williamson and Mahulena Hofmann (rapporteur: Marc Haese). From the legal point of view, one of the crucial issues connected with the study was, to which extent the Moon Agreement is capable to influence present practices of planetary protection: It remains questionable whether - despite the limited ratification list - the MAs regime can influence present methods, whether and to which extent it corresponds the practices of the COSPAR and is in a position to contribute to the evolution of a new, customary regime in this area. The study observes a close analogy between the COSPAR and the MA rules and does not exclude further developments based on the MA regime.