

25th SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND ECONOMICS (E3)
National and international space policies and programmes for socio-economic development (1)

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INTERNATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES VIS A VIS OTHER
SPACE SECURITY INITIATIVES

Abstract

The long-term sustainability of the outer space faces various risks. Ensuring that the space environment is safe and stable should be of high importance to the global community. The draft Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities was published by the EU in 2008 with a revised draft released in September 2010. Among its concerns, the draft takes into account that space debris constitutes a threat to outer space activities and potentially limits the effective deployment and exploitation of associated space capabilities and strives for the formation of a set of best practices aimed at ensuring security in outer space could become a useful complement to international space law.

With more actors active in space activities and thus more objects in space some rules of the road will need to be established in order to protect the space assets so that they could benefit the human kind in a sustainable way. Space environment is very fragile and it is not a question if we should protect it but how we should do it. This paper will analyze the EU proposal for the International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities. It will examine its current status, aims, challenges, and the way forward in the context of several other international initiatives, which aim to assure the long term sustainability of the outer space