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THE APPLICATION OF SPACE OR AIR LAW FOR HYPERSONIC VEHICLES

**Abstract**

During the last years, a new form of aircrafts has been coming up. Through upcoming innovations, several states are involved in the development of a hypersonic vehicle.

A hypersonic vehicle is capable to fly from 4 to 6 mach, which is comparable to 6400 km per hour. That means, long distance flights will be reduced in time in the future. As an example a flight from Brussels to Australia normally takes about 21 hours. A hypersonic vehicle can make the same distance in about 4 hours and 40 minutes. Additionally, a hypersonic vehicle can reach the stratosphere and is environmentally friendly by using hydrogen as fuel.

The legal challenge in this case consists of the application of space or air law, especially the delimitation of space and air.

This work will be focused on the definition of hypersonic vehicles under the aspect of international, European and national regulation, including the registration of such a vehicle.

Once the definition is set, my main focal point will be the question of responsibility and liability in the cases of damages that result from a hypersonic vehicle.