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Current Developments in Space Law with Particular Consideration for Latin America (5)

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THE PROPOSAL OF A PUBLIC -PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AS AN ELEMENT OF EVOLUTION  
OF SPACE LAW IN COLOMBIA

**Abstract**

Colombia's space policy has been chaotic and inefficient. Since its inception in 1979, to date, it has not been able to consolidate any space project or create a real institution in charge of the subject.

Nevertheless Colombia, began the process of creating a space policy and a space law framework, on the occasion of the launch of the satellite Libertad 1 (2006) by the University Sergio Arboleda. The first step that was given in this respect was the creation, by means of decree No. 2442 of the President of the Republic, in July 2006, of the Colombian Space Commission. The second step came whit with the planned acquisition of a telecommunications satellite, with the expedition of a CONPES, a important document of the Ministry of Planning, which establishes the legal framework of this project. Some changes in tax law and procurement regulations were made in occasion of this project.

The third step is the result of the work of the commission on the purchase of a Remote Sensing Satellite whit the creation of a new CONPES.

The aforementioned projects have moved the members of the commission to take advantage of the great reform of the Colombian public administration in order to propose the creation of a real space agency. The role of the new agency would be the creation and implementation of a space policy in order to carry out the various projects. Nevertheless, the project was rejected and the bill was not adopted. Unfortunately the projects, neither gave results or satellites were purchased

In this situation, the evolution of the legal framework was stopped and only a few small changes were made.

However, a new interpretation of the Bill 1508 of 2012 on the legal regime of the Public-Private Partnerships in Colombia, is allowing an important evolution of space activities and may be the future and the basis of space activities in Colombia and the legal framework of these activities

This paper seeks to expose the evolution of the legal framework in space activities in Colombia and analyze this new interpretation of a Public-Private Partnerships bill, to determine how it could be the basis of the new Colombian space legal framework.