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TWO REGIMES APPLICABLE: NEW FORMS OF THE USE OF THE SPACE AND THE RADIO FREQUENCY SPECTRUM

Abstract

Each new form of use of outer space, including the search and use of space resources, or the plans to create permanent human settlements on celestial bodies, open both the question of their compatibility with the law of outer space, especially the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, and of the need of allocation of specific frequency bands to these radiocommunication services. The contribution analyses the interplay between the international law of outer space and the legal framework of the International Telecommunication Union, starting from the parallel debates on the status of the geostationary orbit. It discusses the scope of the respective international treaties, their differences, and concludes by assessing whether further synergies between the UN system of registration of space objects and the ITU registration of radio-frequency assignment and the associated positions on the geostationary orbit would be possible and advisable.