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National space law developments with particular focus on the Middle East region (5)

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THE REGIONAL PREFERENCE FROM A SPACE LAW AND POLICY PERSPECTIVE AND THE EUROPEAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION AS A POTENTIAL MODEL FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

Abstract

This paper aims to provide the European perspective, stressing on the intergovernmental organisation of the European Space Agency and to elaborate on the ESA's procurement framework for regional industrial development as a potential model for the Middle East. Space activities are rising across the Middle East and many of these countries are members of the World Trade Organization (WTO). This means that they would have to abide by WTO trade principles including competition rules. However, the Middle East countries, especially Gulf countries, developed national procurement frameworks applicable to the oil and gas industry to protect the national industry participation and to promote the local employment. Similar rules of procurement could be proposed for the space industry in order to develop and secure the space industry in the Middle East region. To balance the criteria of regional preference with the WTO competition rules, ESA's industrial space policy could be a model for the Middle East.