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MULTI-AGENCY COOPERATION IN THE RESOLUTION OF HARMFUL INTERFERENCE
AGAINST GNSS: THE CASE OF ITU AND ICAO**Abstract**

Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSSs) are considered one of the most critical technological achievements of the 21st century, supporting vital applications in modern global society, such as transport, agriculture, banking, search-and rescue and countless others. Due to the low transmission strength of space signals, however, GNSS services are heavily reliant on an interference-free environment. Their vulnerability to harmful interference becomes even more sensitive in case safety-of-life services such as air navigation, where a signal disruption might cause a direct loss of human lives. Sources of intentional harmful interference have increased in number and variety, threatening the regular operation of air services in several areas of the globe. The international agency mainly entrusted with the prevention and resolution of harmful interference is the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the relevant rules are to be found in the Radio Regulations. In the present case, the issue additionally falls within the scope of international air law and the competence of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The aim of this paper is to draw the attention to areas of international law that support the use of space applications and, indirectly, the enjoyment of the rights established by the *corpus juris spatialis*, and analyse the legal linkages as well as the cooperation mechanisms in place between different specialised institutions. The analysis will be structured in two parts. The first one is legal in nature, and will examine the substantive provisions of the Radio Regulations and the Convention on International Civil Aviation of 1944 relevant to prevent and resolve harmful interference against GNSS services. The second part will move to the institutional level, and will focus on the inter-agency cooperation efforts between the ITU and ICAO. Particular attention will be reserved to the existing operational practices and to the Memorandum of Cooperation established between the two agencies in 2012 to promote cooperation in the matter of GNSS interference. An assessment of the effectiveness of the existing mechanisms will be done, as well as recommendations *de lege ferenda*.