

IISL COLLOQUIUM ON THE LAW OF OUTER SPACE (E7)  
A new look at (how far are we with) Space Traffic Management (3)

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INTERNATIONAL LEGAL SAFETY ASSURANCE OF SPACE NAVIGATION

**Abstract**

A safe movement of technical devices in all spaces such as airspace, body of water or land surface, is ensured by maintaining the necessary distances between them in accordance with a particular rule established by States at both: national or international level. Nowadays there are rules for flying aircraft, navigation on rivers and seas and of course, road traffic. These rules are mandatory for any person who directly operates the relevant technical device, for example, aircraft - for pilots, seacraft and rivercraft (in other words ships) – for steering, transport vehicle – for car driver and so on. However, in order to ensure the safety of any kind of navigation compliance with the above described rules is not enough. So, there is also a need for rules, intended for individuals providing support, maintenance and movement of technical devices in any space as well as providing control for all these processes. This article proposes to establish a similar international legal regime for the use of outer space through the adoption by States of special flight rules for space objects intended for persons directly operating these objects and also rules for managing space traffic, intended for persons who organize, ensure and control the movement of objects in outer space. The question of the need for international regulation of the movement of objects in outer space at the official level was raised only in 2015 of the LSC of the UNCOPUOS. Subsequently, this issue was included in the program of activities of this Committee. In addition to various problems that may arise for states in establishing an international legal regime for space traffic control, significant difficulties can be subdivided into problems of a legal and technical nature. The situation is much more complicated with the preparation of projects for the development of international flight rules in outer space, which provide for the rights and duties of persons directly operating (piloting) spacecraft or any other space objects (astronauts or operators of unmanned objects). The development of such projects is not recorded in the work plans of the UNCOPUOS and other international and national organizations. Thus the purpose of this research is to determine the main international legal requirements that must be used by persons who directly operate space objects. International flight rules and space traffic control rules should create an international legal regime for ensuring the safety of space navigation.