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STATE PRACTICES REGARDING LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE CAUSED BY SPACE OBJECTS AND  
THEIR IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL SPACE LAW

**Abstract**

State practices, in particular the legislative actions taken by the competent authorities in States at the national level, is merely an indication of the implementation of the instruments of international space law as part of the international responsibility of States for outer space activities under Art. VI of the Outer Space Treaty (OST). Moreover, state practice, i.e. the adoption of national laws, would constitute subsequent practice for treaty interpretation according to the Vienna Convention on the Law of the Treaties or contribute to the formation of customary international law as being of one of the constituent elements, thus leading to a change in the international rules enacted by the international instruments. It is therefore important to examine state practices and their interaction with international law.

This study examines the above-mentioned interaction between state practices and international space law with regard to liability for damage caused by space objects. In particular, it is found that the definition of damage, liable party and insurance requirements for licensing activities differ from the rules of the Liability Convention enacted under the umbrella of UNCOPUOS. Therefore, the state practices on liability for damage caused by space objects are examined and analyzed as to whether these practices are merely an implementation of international space law, a subsequent practice for treaty interpretation, or an element towards the creation of customary international law in the future.