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SPACE BASED DATA POLICIES AND THE NEW CHALLENGES OF OPEN DATA AND BIG DATA

Abstract

This article puts into perspective the public, private, political and legal issues that have marked the construction of Earth observation from Space, from its origins in the 1960's to the present day in the era of Open Data and Big Data.

It details the most salient features of its legal framework to clarify under what conditions such observation is lawful, how investors or operators can protect the results of their efforts, and how their data should be made available on a competitive market or to the general public on a free or non-discriminatory basis.

It takes into account the technical and political upheavals that have affected this activity, at national, European and international levels, following the rise of the conquest of space, the development of computing, the Internet, mobile applications, the globalized digital economy, and the advent of New Space; All of this has coincided with the emergence of legislation that, on the one hand, ensures intellectual protection, reservation, control and even exclusivity for the use of space data, and, on the other hand, can impose free and open access to such data, while preserving certain restrictions.

It also looks at the opportunities and threats posed by the rise of the New Space economy, GAFAMs and artificial intelligence on the future of satellite Earth observation.

Finally, it recalls the various legal and institutional levers available to stakeholders to preserve a fair balance between the respective economic, operational or scientific interests of stake-holders and the more general interests of other current or future data users.