

[Legal regulation of space objects]

Abstract

The space sector has experienced an unprecedented boom in recent years. The number of launched space objects is constantly rising, and new technology allows people to reach outer space much more efficiently than before. At the same time, private companies have taken interest into outer space and are looking for ways to generate profit from the final frontier. But how are issues related to the outer space and cosmic objects addressed legally? Where does outer space begin and what can be defined as a cosmic object? Although the space shuttle took off into an orbit like a rocketship, it returned to the Earth's atmosphere like an airplane. So, will it be space or aerial object? Or maybe both? There are many interesting and complex issues associated with space law and space objects. However, international treaties that form the basis of space law went into force more than 50 years ago. Will those legal institutes that were created in a completely different geopolitical situation be obsolete? Does current space law give us satisfactory answers to questions of jurisdiction or liability for damage caused by space objects? The diploma thesis tries to find answers to these, and other questions related to space law in the context of space objects. At the same time, however, it does not remain only in the present, but relying on the analysis of individual legal regulations and international practice, it tries to offer the reader a glimpse into the near future. The thesis also analyzes the genesis of space law. This introduces the reader to the trends and discussions that have existed in space law since its inception and which are likely to accompany space law for a long time to come. However, the main part of the thesis is focused on answering key questions about space objects. Some of these questions are seemingly basic, such as what is classified as a space object, and some are complicated that will need to be resolved in the future, such as whether space stations will be subject to current institutes of space law.

Klíčová slova: [Space Law, Space Object, The Outer Space Treaty]