



Space Law & Space Debris
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Outline

- Space Debris – What are we talking about?
- The Problem – Why is space debris a (legal) concern?
- Space Law – Applicability to the space debris problem or only near miss?
- “Conclusions”

The Space Debris Problem

- Space Debris – What are we talking about?

“all man-made objects, including fragments and elements thereof, in Earth orbit or re-entering the atmosphere, that are non-functional”

- The Problem – Why is space debris a (legal) concern?

“the current space debris environment poses a risk to spacecraft in Earth orbit. ... [and]..., there is also the risk of damage on the ground, if debris survives Earth’s atmospheric re-entry.”

[potential of space debris] *“to damage spacecraft, leading to loss of mission, or loss of life in the case of manned spacecraft.”*

“a prudent and necessary step towards preserving the outer space environment for future generations”

Space Law – Applicability or „near miss“?

- Prevention and minimization of risks posed by space debris
 - Illegality of generating space debris as such?
 - Obligation to prevent or at least to minimize the risks related to space debris?
 - Collision avoidance, in particular exchange of data and manoeuvring?
 - Removal and recycling?
 - Allocation of financial burden and technology transfer?
- Materialization of risks
 - Responsibility?
 - Liability?

„Conclusion“

- Is space debris a legal concern?

“Yes.”

- Are there “close conjunctions” between space debris and current space law?

“Many.”

- Does space law need clarification and further development to become a fully operational rule-based framework?

“Definitely.”