



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
21 January 2004

Original: English/French/Spanish

Committee on the Peaceful

Uses of Outer Space

Legal Subcommittee

Forty-third session

Vienna, 29 March-8 April 2004

Item 12 of the provisional agenda*

Practice of States and international

organizations in registering space objects

Practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects: replies from Member States

Note by the Secretariat

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* A/AC.105/C.2/L.247.



I. Introduction

1. At its forty-sixth session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space endorsed the agreement by the Legal Subcommittee to begin consideration of a new agenda item entitled “Practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects” under the four-year work plan for the period 2004-2007.
2. In accordance with the work plan adopted at the forty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee, Member States and international organizations were invited to submit reports on their practice in registering space objects in accordance with the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (“the Registration Convention”) (General Assembly resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex) and Assembly resolution 1721 B (XVI) of 20 December 1961). The present note was prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of reports received from Member States by 15 January 2004.

II. Replies received from Member States*

Czech Republic

[Original: English]

1. The Czech Republic is a party to the Registration Convention. It has established a National Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space by the Czech Republic under its national space programme. The Register is maintained by the Institute of Atmospheric Physics of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. The Register includes information on the MAGION 1, MAGION 2 and MAGION 3 satellites that was originally recorded in the Czechoslovak National Register of Objects, established on 13 January 1979 and used until 1 January 1993 (ST/SG/SER.E/INF.12). There is no special law or regulation on this subject in the Czech Republic.
2. It has been a long-standing policy of the Czech Republic to communicate detailed information on its space objects to the Secretary-General, in accordance with article IV of the Registration Convention, as early as possible after launch. Information is also provided when a space object is no longer functional or is no longer in orbit around the Earth. The Czech Republic regards such information as very important in facilitating the protection of the outer space environment.

Germany

[Original: English]

1. In accordance with article II of the Registration Convention, launching States are required to maintain an appropriate register of objects launched into outer space.
2. The German national register of objects launched into outer space is maintained as an annex to the Aircraft Register of the Federal Republic of Germany

* The replies are reproduced in the form in which they were received.

(Luftfahrzeugrolle) and space objects are recorded under “Spacecraft” (Raumfahrzeuge).

3. The register consists of five parts. In the first part, the registrar records the details of the space object: its register number, type, designation and the launching State. In the second part, the date and location of the launch are recorded and, in the third part, the basic orbital parameters. The fourth part is for details of the general function of the space object and the fifth for its date of registration.

4. The information to be recorded in the register is provided by the owner of the spacecraft. Subsequent to the registration, the registrar furnishes the information to the Federal Foreign Office, which submits it to the Secretary-General.

5. As at January 2004, 24 spacecraft were registered in the German Register. The first was the AMSAT Oscar 10 satellite, launched in June 1983 and registered in spring 1984. The most recent entry was the BIRD satellite, launched in October 2001 and registered in June 2003. A sample extract from the register (registration of the CHAMP satellite) is provided in the annex.

Annex

Extract from the Aircraft Register of the Federal Republic of Germany—Spacecraft*

Luftfahrzeugrolle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland – Raumfahrzeuge – Aircraft Register of the Federal Republic of Germany – Spacecraft –				
Band: R Vol: R		Blatt: 21 Page: 21		
1. Eintragungsnummer Register number	Datum und Ort des Starts Date and location of launch	Bahndaten Basic orbital parameters	Allgemeine Funktion	Tag der Eintragung des Luftfahrzeuges
2. Art de Luftfahrzeuges Type of aircraft				Tag der Löschung des Luftfahrzeuges
3. Startstaat (Eintragungsstaat) Launching State (register State)				
4. Bezeichnung des Weltraumgegenstandes Designation of space object				
I	II	III	IV	V
1. D-R021	15.07.2000	1. 93,51 min	Kleinsatellitenmission zur geowissenschaftlichen Grundlagenforschung (Erdschwere- und Atmosphärenphysik) NBL-Leitprojekt	17.11.2000
2. Satellit Satellite	Kosmodrome Plesetsk, Russland Kosmodrome Plesetsk, Russian Federation	2. 87.275		
3. Bundesrepublik Deutschland Federal Republic of Germany		3. 474,05 km		
4. CHAMP		4. 418,23 km		

* The registration data are reproduced in the form in which they were received.

Morocco

[Original: French]

Morocco is in the process of acceding to the Registration Convention. Information regarding objects launched by Morocco will be communicated to the Office for Outer Space Affairs for entry in the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space as soon as the accession of Morocco to the Registration Convention has been officially announced to the United Nations.

Myanmar

[Original: English]

Myanmar reported that it did not currently have any report to submit on the practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects.

Peru

[Original: Spanish]

1. Peru has not launched any space objects to date. However, the National Aerospace Research and Development Commission (CONIDA) of Peru endeavours to keep a record of launches and believes that the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space should be continuously updated by the Office for Outer Space Affairs. It also believes that reports on the deactivation of space objects and tracking information on their trajectories when returning to Earth should be made available to Member States.
2. This opinion is based on the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (General Assembly resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex) and, in particular, articles I and IV of the Registration Convention.
3. For that purpose, Peru recommends that Member States maintain updated records of the relevant information at a national focal point, which, in the case of Peru, is CONIDA.

Sweden

[Original: English]

1. Swedish space legislation comprises two national legal instruments, published in the Swedish Code of Statutes: the Space Activities Act (Svensk författningssamling (SFS) 1982:963) and the Space Activities Decree (SFS 1982:1069).¹

¹ The texts of the Act and Decree furnished to the Office for Outer Space Affairs by the Government of Sweden will be made available to the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-third session.

2. The rules on registration of space objects are governed by the Space Activities Decree, which has two major functions: it defines the role of the Swedish National Space Board regarding the authorization and supervision of space activities and sets forth the national requirements for the registration of space objects for which Sweden is considered the launching State in accordance with article I of the Registration Convention.

3. The Swedish National Space Board, which is a central governmental agency under the Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communication, maintains the register of space objects. After the launch of a space object for which Sweden is regarded as the launching State, the Swedish National Space Board, in its capacity as registrar, furnishes the relevant information to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for submission to the Secretary-General. At present, there are 10 space objects registered in the Swedish register (see annex).

Annex

Register of Swedish objects launched into outer space*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Registration number</i>	<i>Launch date (and site)</i>	<i>Nodal period</i>	<i>Inclination (degrees)</i>	<i>Apogee (km)</i>	<i>Perigee (km)</i>	<i>Function/end-of-life measures</i>	<i>General mission</i>
Viking	1986-19B	22 February 1986 (Kourou, French Guiana)	262.2 minutes	98.78	13 530	814.4	17 May 1987	Investigation of plasma physics and the auroral phenomena.
Tele-X	1989-27A	2 April 1989 (Kourou, French Guiana)	24 hours	0		35 790 (Geostationary, 5° E)	16 January 1998/ "Graveyard orbit"	Telecommunications, direct television broadcasting and data communication.
Sirius 1^a	1989-67A	27 August 1989 (Florida, United States of America)	24 hours	0.8		35 790 (Geostationary, 13° E)		High-power television broadcasting.
Freja	1992-64A	6 October 1992 (Jiuquan, China)	108.9 minutes	63	1 756	601	14 October 1996	High-resolution measurements in the upper ionosphere and lower magnetosphere.
Astrid	1995-2B	24 January 1995 (Plesetsk, Russian Federation)	105.1 minutes	82.9	1 026	968	27 September 1995	Investigation of near-space plasma with emphasis on neutral particle phenomena.
Sirius 2	1997-71A	12 November 1997 (Kourou, French Guiana)	24 hours	0		35 790 (Geostationary, 4.8° E)		High-power television broadcasting and data communication.
Sirius 3	1998-56B	5 October 1998 (Kourou, French Guiana)	24 hours	0		35 790 (Geostationary, 28° E until October 1999, thereafter 5° E)		Broadcasting satellite for television, radio and data with 15 high-equivalent isotropically radiated power (EIRP) transponders.
Astrid 2	1998-72B	10 December 1998 (Plesetsk, Russian Federation)	105.1 minutes	83	1 014	968	24 July 1999	High-resolution measurements of electrical and magnetic fields in the auroral region.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Registration number</i>	<i>Launch date (and site)</i>	<i>Nodal period</i>	<i>Inclination (degrees)</i>	<i>Apogee (km)</i>	<i>Perigee (km)</i>	<i>Function/end-of-life measures</i>	<i>General mission</i>
Munin	2000-075C	21 November 2000 Vandenberg Air Force Base, United States of America	110.5 minutes	95.4	1 800	698	12 February 2001	Nanosatellite for auroral research built by the Swedish Institute of Space Physics in Kiruna, Sweden.
Odin	2001-07A	20 February 2001 (Svobodny Cosmodrome, Russian Federation)	97.09 minutes	97.83	631	605		Scientific satellite for astronomy and aeronomy.

* The registration data are reproduced in the form in which they were received.

^a Brought in orbit in 1996.