

# Belgian Space Law: Adapting the Rules to Technological Reality

Status of the revision of the  
Belgian space legislation

UNCOPUOS Legal Sub-Committee 52<sup>nd</sup> session  
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# Current Status (1)

- Law 17/09/2005 + Implementing Regulation 19/03/2008
- Authorization by the Minister for:
  - any activity of launching or flight operation of space object, or
  - transfer of such an activity
- Environmental Impact Assessment (ground / space)
- Limited Liability of the Operator in case of Damage caused by Space Object

# Current Status (2)

## Application & Implementation Issues

- Article VI OST: « *national activities in outer space* » (?)
- ‘Operator’: He who holds final control (?) on the space object
- ‘Space Object’: any object launched in outer space (?)

# Activity in Outer Space

What about passive or non-operated objects?

e.g.:

- space debris

- objects without autonomous propulsion or orientation means

- no control in outer space after positioning in orbit or decommissioning

- no 'Operator'

- no applicable law

Launching State(s) remain(s) liable

# Solution

## New Definitions:

- **‘Space Object’**: Any object launched or meant to be launched **in an earth orbit or beyond** + launcher by assimilation (cf. Art. II.1, + Art. IV.1, 1975 Reg. Conv.)
- **‘Operator’**: He who holds final **authority** over the operation of the object

## New Provision:

- For **passive objects**, Operator is he who holds final authority over **the launch and the in-orbit positioning** of the object  
(= He who orders the launch)

# Status of Revision Process

- About to be presented by the King to Parliament
- Expected entry into force: End 2013
- Revised law applicable to first implementation cases (QB50 Project, Suborbital Flight projects)