



Instituto Iberoamericano de Derecho aeronáutico y del espacio
Organismo Consultivo de la ONU

The Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law is a non-governmental and non-profit organization dedicated to aeronautical and space law in the Ibero-American region.

Since 1974, the Ibero-American Institute has been a Permanent Observer to the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC) and regularly participates in its annual meetings: the Executive Committee and the Group of Experts on Political, Economic and Legal Matters of Air Transport (GEPEGTA). On May 14, 1976, the Institute was granted “Special Consultative Status” by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and on June 12, 2012, it obtained Observer Status at the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

Its main goals are to promote knowledge of aeronautical and space law in the Ibero-American, Spanish, and Portuguese regions, and to achieve the unification of legal criteria by organizing international congresses, seminars, publications, and participating in international forums related to these topics.

The aims of the Ibero-American Institute align with those of the United Nations and focus on matters within the scope of the United Nations, ICAO, and COPUOS: namely, the research and development of international law, specifically aeronautical and space law.

The Institute regularly submits the conclusions of its international congresses to the United Nations, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

With the establishment of new Working Groups on Air Transport, Space, and the Environment, the Ibero-American Institute aims to further promote research in these areas.

Each year, the Ibero-American Institute organizes an international congress in one of the Ibero-American countries, addressing topics in Air and Space Law with the participation of expert speakers from various nationalities. These congresses serve as a forum for reflection and exchange of ideas and knowledge, which are then used to draft conclusions that are approved by the plenary assembly and later sent to the UN, ICAO, LACAC, and to embassies and airlines of Ibero-American countries for their consideration.

To date, the Institute has organized forty-eight international congresses on Aeronautical and Space Law, the most recent of which was held in Santa Cruz de Tenerife (Spain).



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1. 60th Anniversary of the Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law – held within the framework of the XLVIII Ibero-American Conference on Aeronautic and Space Law

In 2024, the Institute celebrated its 60th anniversary, marking a historic milestone for the organization. The Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law was founded on April 24, 1964, at the University of Salamanca, an institution created in 1218 as a *Studium Generale*—a forerunner of the modern university—and officially recognized as a university in 1252.

Since its founding, the Institute has been dedicated to the study, research, discussion, and dissemination of aeronautical and space law.

To commemorate this anniversary, a special ceremony was held as part of the XLVIII Ibero-American Conference on Aeronautic and Space Law, which took place in Santa Cruz de Tenerife from October 9 to 12. The opening ceremony featured the participation of Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar, Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), whose presence gave the event significant institutional recognition at the international level.

The full program is available on the Institute's official website, and a commemorative video of the 60th anniversary can be viewed on the Institute's YouTube channel.

Noteworthy were the round tables, keynote lectures, and research papers presented on the following space law-related topics:

- “Dark and Quiet Skies”
- “Challenges of Space Traffic”
- “The Present and Future of Aerospace Activities”

Among the participants were distinguished members of the Institute, including Dr. Elvira Prado Alegre and Professors Carmen Muñoz, Juan Manuel Faramiñán, and Santiago Ripol, the latter in his capacity as President of the Institute.

The speakers' presentations will be compiled into a document that will include the conclusions reached, which will be submitted to various international organizations, including COPUOS.

At the end of the conference, participants visited the Institute of Astrophysics of the Canary Islands (IAC), a world-renowned research center located in the Canary Islands, Spain. Founded in



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1975, the IAC is considered one of Europe's leading astrophysics institutes. Its significance lies in the exceptional quality of its skies for astronomical observation and its state-of-the-art infrastructure, which attracts the global scientific community. Research institutions from over 20 countries—including Spain, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, France, Japan, and Sweden—participate in its observatories, making it a benchmark for international collaboration in astronomy. In 2016, British scientist Stephen Hawking was named Honorary Professor of the IAC.

2. Closing of the Sixth Edition and Launch of the Seventh Edition of the University Postgraduate Program “Specialist in Aeronautical and Space Law”

One of the Institute's most important initiatives is the current university postgraduate course “Specialist in Aeronautical and Space Law,” aimed at university graduates—primarily in Law, Aeronautical and Space Engineering, Economic and Administrative Sciences—as well as professionals from the airport, aeronautical, space sectors and military personnel.

The course is taught by a select group of jurists specializing in air and space law, university professors, engineers, senior government officials, staff of international organizations, airline consultants, lawyers, and diplomats.

The course is offered in collaboration with the Universidad a Distancia de Madrid (UDIMA).

The postgraduate program “Specialist in Aeronautical and Space Law” was launched in 2020 and grants 36 ECTS credits, equivalent to 950 academic hours. It is open to participants from Ibero-American countries and Spain. To date, students from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Spain, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Guinea (due to historical ties with Spain) have taken part.

Six editions have been completed to date, and the seventh edition, currently in preparation, will begin in October 2025. This is a specialized course in air and space law aimed at professionals seeking to deepen their expertise in this legal field.

Since Aeronautical Law also represents a fundamental part of the Institute's mission, it is important to highlight the Tenth Edition of the “Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation



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Course,” organized by the School of Aeronautical and Space Engineering. The Ibero-American Institute contributes to this university postgraduate course through the participation of distinguished instructors specialized in Aeronautical and Space Law. This program includes 110 contact hours (equivalent to 10 ECTS credits) and is delivered both in-person and in blended formats over a nine-week period, from May 9 to July 6.

3. COPUOS 2024

The Institute participated in the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), held from April 15 to 26, 2024, during which Mr. Santiago Ripol—President of the Institute—was elected Chair of the Legal Subcommittee.

4. Activities

a. On February 23, 2024, the XIV International Scientific and Practical Conference titled “Legal Paradigm for Ukraine’s Recovery: Challenges and Prospects” was held, organized by the Law Faculty of the National Aviation University of Ukraine. The conference aimed to promote academic dialogue on legal values as key determinants of Ukraine's development strategy within the framework of European integration. Professor Juan Manuel de Faramiñán Gilbert, Emeritus Professor of Public International Law and International Relations at the University of Jaén and member of the Institute’s Governing Board, delivered a presentation titled *“The Twinning Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine on Satellite Navigation and the Galileo Program.”*

b. On March 18 and 19, 2024, the conference *“Towards a Lunar Village? Building Sustainable Habitats and Society on Earth and in Space”* was held in Darmstadt, Germany. Mr. Jordi Sandalinas, member of the Institute, participated with a paper titled *“Lunar Enterprises and Sustainability: Legal Pathways for the Use of Lunar Water Ice as Propellant in the Space Economy.”*



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c. The Fifty-Sixth Meeting of the Group of Experts on Political, Legal and Economic Aspects of Air Transport (GEPEJTA/56) of the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC) was held in San Salvador on July 18 and 19, 2024.

The meeting was attended by representatives from Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, the Dominican Republic, and Uruguay. Observers from ALTA, IATA, and the Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law also participated. A more detailed report on this meeting is available on the Institute's official website.

d. Navigare Journal

Issue No. 3 of the *Navigare* Journal has been published on the Institute's official website, and Issue No. 4 is forthcoming. *Navigare* was created as an initiative of the Institute's alumni with the main goal of strengthening academic and professional networks across the Ibero-American community.