

GREECE

National mechanism:

Law 4508/2017 (Government Gazette 200/A'/ 22-12-2017) on "Authorization of space activities -Registration in the National Register of Space Objects- Establishment of a Greek Space Organization and other provisions," as amended by Law 4712/2020/146/A'/29-07-2020.

Description:

The above-mentioned law establishes, inter alia, as necessary conditions for the licensing of space activities: (a) adequate provision for the mitigation and management of space waste or residues according to technological developments and international practices (b) the non contamination of space or celestial bodies or adverse changes in the environment.

In addition, the law provides for the reporting entity to report on the impact of the space object on the environment for each space activity. Reports are submitted before the object launches, after its launch, and at the end of its operational life.

Further, it is possible to issue a joint ministerial decision of the Ministers of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media and Environment and Energy, which will define the content of the reports, the requirements and the technical standards, which the activity of the organization must comply with. Until this decision is adopted, relevant national, European and international standards, as well as relevant good practices, are applied.

Applicability:

In the case of space activities, they should be: (a) carried out within the Greek territory, (b) exercised outside the Greek territory, if premises, personnel, movable or immovable property belonging to the Greek State or under its jurisdiction are used, (c) exercised, irrespective of location, by individuals of Greek nationality or legal entities based in Greece and only if provided for in an international agreement or treaty, (d) carried out by individuals or legal entities, national and foreign, within the Hellenic Republic territory or for which facilities are used, personal, movable and immovable property of the Greek State or within the jurisdiction and under the responsibility of the Greek State as the "Launching State" under International Law.

Relation to international mechanisms:

Greece participates as a member at the European Space Agency (ESA) and, in this context, it applies and actively participates in the formulation of legal texts, standards, guidelines and good practices in the area of space activities.

In addition, national law provides for:

(a) the implementation of existing national, European and international standards, as well as the relevant existing good practices, until the adoption of the Joint Ministerial Decision on the definition of the content of environmental impact reporting by space activities.

(b) that for the issue of any decision to authorize space activities, the Minister of Digital Governance may request technical assistance from third parties, such as Greek, European and International Organizations and agencies, experts, specialists and scientists in order to lay down conditions as to the location of the space activities or the site of the main establishment of the operator or the provision of insurance for space and space objects.

Link to other national mechanisms:

None.

References:

None.