



General Assembly

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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

National legislation and practice relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

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II. Replies received from Member States

Algeria

[Original: French]
[13 January 2012]

Algeria currently has no legislation relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space.

Australia

[Original: English]
[31 January 2012]

The Australian Government recognizes that there is no internationally accepted definition of “outer space”; correspondingly, neither is there any definition of “outer space” in Australian domestic law. The most relevant Australian legislation, the Space Activities Act 1998, was amended in 2002 to replace the words “outer space” with a description of an area beyond the distance of 100 km above mean sea level. This was not, however, an attempt to define the term, a position that was made clear in the explanatory memorandum presented in the Australian Parliament at that time. Rather, the effect of the amendment was to clarify the application of the Act to launches or attempted launches up to a clearly defined point, in order to provide certainty to industry. The Australian Government considers that further discussion at an international level on the definition of “outer space” may be useful, but does not regard this as a current priority.

France

[Original: French]
[19 April 2011]

France has no legislation relating specifically to the definition and delimitation of outer space. The recent law of 3 June 2008 on space operations contains no provisions relating to that issue.

Thailand

[Original: English]
[21 February 2012]

Thailand currently does not have national legislation or a national practice relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and airspace.