

"The law of the sea and its institutions as a pathway for the further development of space law"

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The international law of the sea is one of the oldest branches of international law and its first principles date back to ancient times (e.g. the Rhodian Law of the Sea (c. 800-900 A.D.)). In many areas it remains a model for other, newer branches. This is also the case with space law, which in many respects has tried to model itself on the institutions of maritime law. While this was successful at the level of fundamental principles, such as the freedom of exploration or the concept of the common heritage of mankind, in many aspects on which the realization of these principles depends, space law did not follow this model and somehow piled up at the level of regulating cooperation between states, ignoring the importance of private actors. At the same time, the law of the sea is aimed not only at protecting the rights and interests of the international community as such and of states as actors in the establishment of rules of navigation, but is also addressed to private entities, defining their rights and obligations, regulating the liability regime and its security. The objective of this paper is to identify the main principles that set the stage for private actors and the implementing rules of the law of the sea, as well as the institutions that govern them, which the authors believe could serve as a path for the development of space law in the era of private space exploration.