

How does the set of Best Practices interact with the EU proposed Code of Conduct ?

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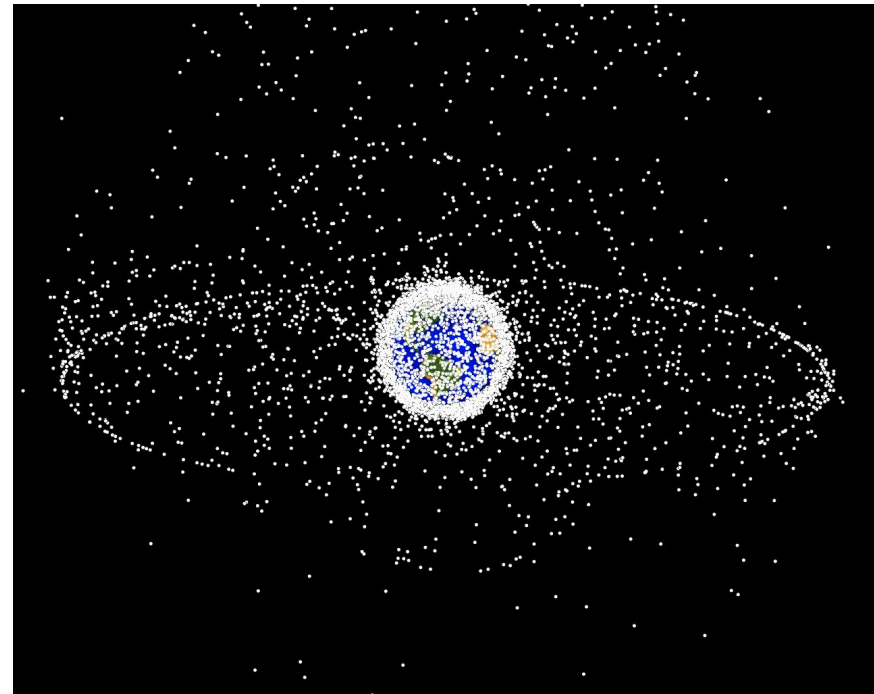
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Long Term Sustainability of Space Activities**

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- **More than 4600 satellite launches since 1957 till end of 2008;**
- **About 880 operational satellites;**
- **380 active spacecraft on the GEO;**
- **13000 tracked and catalogued objects by the US SSN (larger than about 5 to 10 cm in LEO, 1 m in GEO)**



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Increased crowding in low earth orbit as well as in the geostationary orbit creates new challenges.

Managing the orbital and spectral resources will require a new discipline and possibly new international mechanisms to ensure a safe and sustainable use of outer space.

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Beyond high level political agreements being considered today by the international community, i.e. the proposed « PPWT » at the Conference on Disarmament and the draft EU Code of Conduct, a technically based bottom up approach is needed to agree on « Best practices » and encourage responsible use of outer space by all.

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A good model of how the international community can make progress via a bottom-up approach towards safer and sustainable space operations is the excellent « space debris » work done by the Inter Agency Space Debris Committee (IADC) over many years. This led to the adoption of UN COPUOS Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines in 2007, endorsed by UNGA Resolution 62/217 of 21 Dec. 2007.

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In June 2007, at its 50th session, I proposed to COPUOS delegations that the Committee should tackle the issue of “Long Term Sustainability of Space Activities” with a bottom-up approach based on the model of the Space Debris Mitigations Guidelines.

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In line with this proposal, France launched an initiative in early 2008:

The setting up of an informal working group of space faring nations and commercial satellite operators devoted to the topic of « Long Term Sustainability of Space Activities ».

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The purpose of this informal working group (20 space faring nations and 3 large commercial operators) was to start developing information exchange mechanisms and consensus-based “Best Practices Guidelines” which will contribute to a safer and sustainable outer space.

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The informal working group has prepared an information report which addresses the various issues affecting the Sustainability of Space Activities:

- Space debris mitigation and remediation**
- Improving the safety of space operations**
- Managing the electromagnetic spectrum**
- The impact of space weather and other natural causes**
- Review of existing international mechanism(s) to improve the safety and sustainability of space activities**

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- **The working group's report is not quite completed yet but is already in its Revision 4 and should be ready by the end of 2009.**
- **Many space faring countries have contributed to the preparation of the report, as well as international organizations ITU, WMO, ISES, IAASS.**
- **But just as important is the very active contribution from the commercial satellite operator industry.**

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- **France proposed to COPUOS during its 52nd session (3-12 June 2009) that the topic of “Long Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities” be taken up as a new agenda item of COPUOS/STSC in 2010 under a multi-year work plan.**
- **This was approved by COPUOS last week.**
- **The information report prepared by the informal working group will serve as a basis for COPUOS consideration of this new topic.**

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This bottom-up approach to « Best Practices » can be seen as the development of implementation guidelines of higher level political agreements such as the EU proposed Code of Conduct.

It does not address the issue of deployment of weapons in outer space, which is addressed by the Conference on Disarmament.

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Hopefully, this bottom up, consensus based approach to the development of “Best Practices” will contribute to safer and sustainable outer space activities for the long term.

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Thank you for your attention.