

IISL COLLOQUIUM ON THE LAW OF OUTER SPACE (E7)  
National space law and security – an update (5)

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NATIONAL SPACE SECURITY DOCTRINES: STRETCHING THE BOUNDARIES OF  
INTERNATIONAL SPACE LAW?

**Abstract**

One of the most significant development in the space field has been the formulation of national doctrines referring to space as a war-fighting domain, arguing the inevitability of a conflict therein and calling for the establishment of specialized forces with defensive and offensive space capabilities. Similar developments have a notable impact both at domestic and international level. On one side, they influence the approach to space of the countries that have issued them as well as the implementation of domestic space-related projects. On the other side, they have the potential to destabilize international relations in the space domain and create the conditions for an arms race and armed confrontation in outer space (or connected to outer space). The purpose of the present paper is to: a) review national space security doctrines; 2) assess their legal and political implications; 3) evaluate whether their formulation and implementation puts into question the notion of ‘peaceful uses’ of outer space.