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LEGAL REGULATION OF SPACE TOURISM: ISSUES AND PROSPECTS

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Introduction. In the modern period Space tourism is a narrow segment of the space industry the aim of which is to give the ability for tourists to become astronauts and experience space travel for recreational, leisure, or business purposes [1]. In our opinion, this is a promising and very popular development for the international tourism industry. Soon, according to public opinion polls, many people have a great desire to fly into space. As noted by several researchers from the European Space Agency, space tourism is space or suborbital flights for entertainment or research purposes, at private expense. However, the emergence of demand for space travel, the active development of space vehicles and space temporary accommodation for travellers (hotels), and the emergence of commercial enterprises and travel agencies in space tourism - all lead to the rapid emergence and development of legal regulation of private space flights.

Materials and methods. The object of research is a legal regulation of relationship that arises in the process of human space or suborbital flight for entertainment or research purposes, at private expense. Research methods: The structural-functional method is used when considering the theoretical and legal foundations of international and domestic space law. The essence of problems in the field of space tourism and prospects of their solution are investigated by the formal-logical method. The empirical basis of the study is the generalized practice of applying international law in the field of private space travel.

Results. The legal regulation of space relations applies similar principles that apply to the high seas. One of them is *res communis*. The essence of this principle is that space belongs to everyone, but at the same time does not belong to anyone, that is, no country can claim it. But that doesn't mean the high seas and outer space are free from national laws. International law allows countries to assert jurisdiction outside their territory in several ways, including via the nationality principle, which covers crimes committed by a country's citizens outside its borders, and the universality principle, which allows countries to prosecute anyone for serious crimes against international law such as piracy. At the same time, the application of this principle cannot be equated to the absence of legal regulation in general. Under international law, countries can assert their jurisdiction outside their territory in several ways. One is the principle of citizenship, which covers crimes committed by

citizens abroad, and the other is the principle of universality, which allows countries to prosecute anyone for serious crimes against international law.

Space relations are generally governed by five key international treaties: the 1967 Agreement on the Principles Governing the Activities of States for the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, launched into space in 1968, the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects 1972, the Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space 1975, the Agreement on the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies 1979 [2]. The main special act of international space law, which is the basis of legal regulation of space tourism can be considered a document entitled "Principles of procedure and criteria for selection, appointment, training and certification of members of the main crews of the ISS and visiting expeditions" in 2002. According to this document, there can be not only professional astronauts but also participants in space flights. In addition, the document defines the conditions of admission and stay of such persons on the ISS [3].

Given the commercial nature of space tourism, it should be borne in mind that these relations are regulated by international commercial law, and to some extent by national commercial law, because the basis for obtaining the status of space tourist is the conclusion of a space tourism agreement. That is, the requirements for such agreements are also part of the legal regulation of space tourism as well as the agreements themselves.

Conclusions. International space law and international commercial law need to be harmonized and unified in the field of space tourism. This can be done by adopting new special international documents to regulate space tourism. These documents should be based on the legal definition of "space tourism", the conditions of its implementation and the basic requirements for space tourism agreements. Such provisions must be implemented in national legislation, taking into account the specifics of the legal systems of countries.

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