

The Sustainable Commercialisation of Space: The Case for a Voluntary Code of Conduct for the Space Industry

By Margarita Chrysaki

The rapid growth in the number of private companies and start-ups active in the space sector has not gone hand in hand with a critical reflection on the most appropriate ways to guarantee that this industry operates in a sustainable manner. There is a risk that the technological developments delivered by the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and the private capital invested in the space industry will widen the gap between the current legal order in space policy and the need to ensure that the interests of hu mankind are sufficiently protected with respect to the development of the space industry's activities. This article presents the case for a voluntary Code of Conduct for the space industry based on the concept of 'do not harm', underpinned by the definition of guiding principles and intervention principles and complemented by a compliance mechanism. Through this efficient and effective tool, the implementation of the sustainability principle will be fully embedded in the space industry's activities.