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TERRUM.

International Agreement Between Mexico and Russia Regarding the Enhancement of Cooperation and Exploitation of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.

By Gerardo Reyes.

November 15, 2022
Year 17 No. 06

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Mexico is one of one-hundred ninety-three members of the United Nations[1] that has the most International Treaties signed. Particularly, Mexico has Interinstitutional Agreements on Outer Space with CONAE[2], NASA[3], ASI[4] and ABAE[5] that respectively are the space agencies of Argentina, USA, Italy and Venezuela[6]. Further, Mexico is currently in negotiations with the Space Agency of Europe and some Asian Countries, such as Japan and China[7].

In September 28, 2021 the Mexican Space Agency signed an Agreement with the Russian Authorities in order to enhance the cooperation and exploitation of outer space for peaceful purposes. Article three of the agreement states that among other areas of cooperation between the parties, the partnership will entail:

1.- Exploration of the outer space,
2.- Awareness of the earth from the outer space,
3.- Satellite communications,
4.- Satellite navigation,
5.- Manned space missions and
6.-Protection of the Space Environment.

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The alliance shall be executed through common projects, joint experiments, exchange of information, exchange between scientific and engineer staff, expert congresses and symposia[8]. Furthermore, the parties will be able to consult specific matters through their competent bodies.

The information exchanged between the parties will be ranked in three different levels. "Regular Information", "Secret Information" and "Classified Information". Information that cannot be disclosed to protect the homeland security of Mexico and Russia will be labelled as "Secret Information". There is also, "Classified Information" which is the restricted use of data that does not compromise national security[9].

The tax implications of the "International Agreement Between Mexico and Russia to Enhance the Cooperation and Exploitation of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes" are regulated in articles thirteen and fourteen of the International Document, where the parties agreed to exempt importation and exportation duties of Space Shuttles,

1.- https://www.un.org/es/about-us/member-states
2.- Comisión Nacional de Actividades Espaciales.
3.- National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
4.- Agenzia Spaziale Italiana.
5.- Agencia Bolivariana para Actividades Espaciales.
6.-https://www.gob.mx/sre/documentos/informacion-sobre-el-acuerdo-entre-mexico-y-rusia-en-materia-espacial?idiom=es
7.- https://www.gob.mx/sre/documentos/informacion-sobre-el-acuerdo-entre-mexico-y-rusia-en-materia-espacial?idiom=es
8.- Article 4 of International Agreement Between Mexico and Russia Regarding to Enhance the Cooperation and Exploitation of the Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.
9.- Article 10 of International Agreement Between Mexico and Russia Regarding to Enhance the Cooperation and Exploitation of the Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.

Carrier Rockets, including its spare parts and any natural or artificial material needed to enforce the contract purpose. In addition, the benefits regulated at the "Double Income Taxation Avoidance Treaty between Mexico and Russia"[10] of June 2004 will apply to both parties.

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Finally, in terms of state responsibility, the parties submit themselves to the rules of the "Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects" of March 1972 and will fully cooperate in the clarification of any matter under investigation.

It should be emphasized that the Outer Space Agreement between Mexico and *"The Third Rome"*[11] has been signed during the Russian invasion of Ukraine and because of this, the public opinion within and outside of Mexico was not the most favorable. Additionally, it should be stressed that Mexico did not impose any economic sanction against the occupying country.

Apparently, the Ukrainian President, Volodímir Zelenski read such agreement and consequently called on Mexico and other Latin-American Countries to support Ukraine during the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS). At the general meeting, Zelenski reminded the countries of the "Latin-American Independence Heroes" such as Miguel Hidalgo, Simon Bolivar and José de San Martín. He further declared that those leaders wouldn't support a country that loots a smaller nation[12].

On the other hand, the lack of information and social media misguidance has led a false narrative on the goals of the "International Agreement Between Mexico and Russia to Enhance the Cooperation and Exploitation of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes" and the involvement of GLONASS. The Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS) of the Russian Federation is a tracking system composed of twenty-four satellites that began work in 1982[13]. The aforementioned caused quite a commotion, because the implementation of the Russian tracking system by the closest "neighbor" of the United States of America would provoke several concerns to the Homeland Security of the U.S. Nevertheless, the Outer Space Agreement did not incorporate GLONASS, but it did not close the door for potential deployment in Mexico either.

It is a fact that the agreement between the Mexican and the Russian Space Agencies has been made, but, for such agreement to enter into full force and effect the Mexican Senate and Russian Federation Council must ratify the Outer Space Covenant. Whereby, the real intentions of both States regarding to the studied treaty will be unveiled after the referred approval.

10.- "Convenio Entre el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos y el Gobierno de la Federación de Rusia para Evitar la Doble Imposición en Materia de Impuesto Sobre la Renta" in spanish.
11.- "Two Romes fell, a third stands, and there will not be a fourth one," said the Middle Age monk Philotheus, referring to Moscow. https://www.rbth.com/lifestyle/334192-moscow-nicknames
12.- https://politico.mx/zelenski-responde-a-amlo-tras-criticas-por-nominacion-al-premio-nobel-de-la-paz-a-quien-apoyaria-miguel-hidalgo
13.- https://www.cronista.com/internacionales/que-es-y-como-funciona-glonass-el-sistema-ruso-que-preocupa-a-ee-uu/

What are the controversies triggered by Glonass in Mexico, the Russian satellite system accused of espionage?

In the first weeks of October, a series of controversies have been sparked by the Global Navigation Satellite System (Glonass) and the agreement entered into Mexico and Russia for the exploration and use of outer space, as the versions regarding the areas of cooperation between the two countries contradict each other. The controversy generated is due, in part, to the fact that the Russian system has been accused of espionage, which has caused Mexican authorities to reiterate time and again that Glonass is not included in the signed agreement. However, what has been made known by the Russian embassy in Mexico is contrary to this. The actions contemplated within the agreement range from scientific studies to commercial launches and navigation, including astrophysical research and planetary studies; satellite communications; study of space matters; provision of space launch services for spacecraft, as well as the use of information technologies and the services derived therefrom. *www.infobae.com/america/mexico/2022/10/10/cuales-son-las-controversias-que-detono-glonass-en-mexico-el-sistema-satelital-ruso-senalado-de-espionaje/* October 10, 2022.

Mexico's president gives power and money to the armed forces.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) expressed his opposition to the militarization of Mexico in previous administrations, but has given the military more power than any predecessor. What began as a plan to tackle the drug cartels in Felipe Calderon's administration has turned into a militarization of civilian functions such as running ports, building a tourist railway, running social programs, and so on. This began after the Federal Police was replaced with the National Guard, where military officers are patrolling the streets which is argued that this is a way for civil authorities to disregard their responsibility to provide security to their citizens. However, AMLO's efforts to militarize the country did not stop there. The Guacamayas, a group of hackers, obtained a document exposing AMLO's plan to have the armed forces run a commercial airline, utilizing the presidential jet that he has failed to sell, a vital proposal made during the 2018 elections. *www.economist.com/the-americas/2022/10/13/mexicos-president-gives-power-and-money-to-the-armed-forces* October 13, 2022.

Mexico agrees to take Venezuelan immigrants expelled from US.

In the efforts to address the most acute irregular migration, the United States will be expelling irregular Venezuelan immigrants to Mexico. The joint actions between the United States and Mexico were designed to reduce the number of people fleeing the humanitarian and economic crisis in Venezuela, however, their attempts to cross the US-Mexico border has placed their lives in the hands of smuggling organizations. The American government accepted the Mexican government's request to substantially increase work visas for Mexican citizens. However, this could represent great trouble for Mexico considering immigrant shelters on the border have little to no news as to what will happen to those expelled and sent to Mexico. *www.mexiconewsdaily.com/news/mexico-agrees-to-take-venezuelan-migrants-expelled-from-us/* October 19, 2022.

The end of the Quédate en México program for migrants wishing to enter the United States of America.

The Quédate en México program, which detained migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border for the duration of their asylum application process, is coming to an end The Federal Government was criticized by international organizations for the implementation of the program, as the migrants were living in overcrowded, unsanitary, and unsafe conditions while their legal asylum status was being solved. Therefore, the Government of Mexico and the United States of America have reached an agreement to reform the program in question, establishing that 24,000 places will be allocated for people fleeing the humanitarian and economic crisis in Venezuela and seeking to reach the United States of America. *www.elpais.com/mexico/2022-10-25/el-gobierno-mexicano-pone-fin-al-programa-quedate-en-mexico-para-los-inmigrantes-que-quieren-ingresar-a-ee-uu.html* October 25, 2022.

Equal marriage approved throughout Mexico.

The State of Tamaulipas approved the ruling on equal marriage. With this modification, the measure is authorized so that people of the same sex can get married in the 32 states of the Mexican Republic. Equal marriage has been one of the biggest demands of the LGBT+ community to the authorities in Mexico and the world. The first State to do so, was Mexico City in 2010, along with the approval of LGBT+ parental adoption. In addition, in 2015, the Supreme Court of Justice (SCJN) pointed out that the constitutions or civil codes of some States violated human rights by not recognizing egalitarian marriage, so it ordered to accept it. *www.milenio.com/estados/aprueban-matrimonio-igualitario-en-todo-mexico* October 26, 2022.

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