

Portugal:  
UNOOSA - ICAO

Portugal started its venture into the Space Industry in the late 80's, finally launching its first satellite on September 26, 1993. This satellite, under the name of PoSAT -1 was created in order to gain a deeper perception of the world. For the next decade Portugal remained relatively inactive in the space realm. This changed once the decision to join the European Space Agency was made in 1998 and soon Portugal has become one of the most prominent space players in Europe. By 2000 Portugal had officially become part of the European Space Agency, and then soon enough joined the European Southern Observatory. It has AVIDLY continued to encourage space technology and exploration and believes that this is truly a field that deserves to be invested in.

Topic 1:  
The Environment and Space Activity:

In order to fully utilize space to its full potential, this including its economic and social capacity, an emphasis must be made to maintain the stable environment of earth. Already humans are beginning to pollute the space orbits, if this continues serious damage can be done to our future in space, and even our to our own planet earth. Portugal encourages stricter laws that enforce companies or space programs to guarantee they work in means that don't harm the environment. This has already been happening in Portugal itself, where several private companies who work independently or in partnership with the European Space Agency have pledged themselves not only to the topic of space, whether for scientific or economic reasons, but also to the maintenance of the environment of space. A country's presence in space is extremely paramount and requires a moral responsibility of taking care of their surroundings. Space Debris is a prime example of this; instead of simply ignoring its existence till it becomes a life-threatening problem, companies should dedicate some of their time to creating technology that gets rid of it. Space industries should be required to dedicate part of their funds towards the conservation of space as well MAKING SURE that any technology they use is not harmful to both earth and the cosmos. Ultimately, Portugal encourages space exploration and believes that every country should dedicate some of their resources towards it. However a commitment should be made not only to exploring and creating a mark in outer space, but also towards its preservation.

Topic 2: Militarization of space and international law:

Portugal encourages space exploration due to its relevance for the future of the human race. Due to the importance of this field, a need for stricter and more specific laws regarding military presence in space, as well as division of resources and areas exists. In truth, in order to prevent a space arms race, sterner laws and guidelines are necessary and should be created and enforced as soon as possible. Portugal has already signed the Outer Space Treaty in which weapons of mass destruction are banned from orbit of the earth, moon, and in space in general. Even though the Outer Space Treaty exists and has been signed by a majority of the countries on earth, many nations have found loopholes and do not take it seriously. This kind of laxness can potentially lead to a space arms race. If the U.N. continues to remain lenient, we might all find ourselves in a situation in which several nations have already created weapons in secret and are ready to use them. Some might offer to simply limit space traveling however the economic possibilities and the technologies advancements that can be gained from space exploration are so immense that there is a need for stricter laws towards this topic and for this to be enforced. This can include on what kind of space technology can be sold/made, whether countries have to be more public in their work towards space and other topics that in the whole will encourage peace and prosperity throughout all States. Portugal believe that through teamwork and cooperation, not only will the country's economic and social status increase, but the whole of humankind will prosper. In order to spread this success, countries with lacking space programs can join another space agency (just as Portugal did with the European Space Agency) and participate through that.

Topic 3: Space Commercialization

Portugal strongly believes that Space is an extremely profitable venture and this should be taken advantage of. Like many other nation, Portugal has already introduced the export of private shipment using space shuttles. The cooperation of private companies is highly contribution to space commercialization and can both help create a profit, as well as advance space

technology. For this to become a standard reality, clearer rules and regulations need to be instilled. Currently Portugal is encouraging its youth to participate in different space ventures. In fact, various Portuguese space companies (many which are start up companies formed by the previously mentioned youth) have signed several contracts with the European Space Agency, leading to highly profitable mergers that boost both economic and technological aspects. This introduction of space to the youth is being funded by the FCT, the Portuguese government fund that encourages technology and innovation, both crucial aspects that Portugal believes is pivotal to help build a superior future. FCT also helps supervise any dealings with the ESA (European Space Agency). Portugal also encourages entrepreneurs and businesses to use space technology for non-space industrial and commercial uses. By mixing these two corporations, technology can become an even more profitable venture. Space commercialization should be encouraged as it can help raise money, which can be donated to other causes, including space environmental issues and even towards solving problems on earth. In short, Portugal strongly supports Space commercialization as it helps boost the economy and create thousands of new jobs.