

consequences, without of course shirking their several liability toward third states. The partners may also explicitly agree not to submit a claim against another partner or agency or person connected with them, in the event of damage resulting from an activity undertaken as part of the space station project. The conditions and scope of such an agreement have yet to be determined.

The space station concept is based on a form of international cooperation in the framework of a permanent human settlement located in outer space, which by definition is beyond all earthly jurisdiction. Thus the partners have discussed rules by which to sanction human behaviour on the space station. For example, they have endeavoured to establish rules which, taking into account the specific circumstances and existing international law, will recognize the jurisdiction of the partners' courts and make it possible to apply rules of substantive law in criminal, civil (especially where civil liability is concerned) and administrative matters.

In sum, the negotiators for each partner are in the process of creating international instruments that will combine to set the scientific, technical and political parameters, not to mention the legal, economic and commercial aspects of the vast joint international undertaking of the space station project in the 1990s.