



Res nullius in law – things belonging to no one

Pursuant to the law in force in the European Union - having its roots in the Roman law, the things belonging to no one may be bought by the so-called appropriation (lat. occupatio). Appropriation shall be realized by a simple taking possession of a thing belonging to no one (res nullius). The object of appropriation may be nobody's things on land, in air and sea (omnia quae terra mari saelo capiuntur).

The law in force allows appropriation of things belonging to no one; at the same time, there are no regulations that would prohibit the appropriation of things beyond the Earth's atmosphere. The officially approved appropriation of celestial bodies has recently been performed only in the United States (1980), Spain (2010) and Norway (2013).

A thorough analysis of the international space law and the property law on the acquisition of property leads to the conclusion that the acquisition of the ownership of celestial bodies can be legally effective.