QUESTION ITU‑R 259/5[[1]](#footnote-1)1, [[2]](#footnote-2)2

**Operational and radio regulatory aspects for planes operating in  
the upper level of the atmosphere**

(2015)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

*considering*

*a)* that the radio spectrum is a limited resource;

*b)* that aircraft, commonly referred to as space planes, are being developed which can fly at altitudes of over 100 km;

*c)* that some of the aircraft referred to in *considering b)* use non-orbital trajectories;

*d)* that there may be a need to provide air traffic control and navigation to aircraft referred to in *considering b)*;

*e)* that the boundary between the Earth’s atmosphere and space is usually assumed to be 100 kilometres above the Earth’s surface,

*noting*

that existing terrestrial civil aeronautical services are designed to support aircraft flying at altitudes of up to 21 km,

*decides* that the following Questions should be studied

1 How will planes be operated including a description of the various phases of flight?

2 During which phases of flight described in *decides* 1, will, if at all, need to be supported by air traffic control systems and what sort of systems are expected?

3 What radio links will be required to support planes operations and under what radiocommunication service definition will they fall?

*further decides*

1 that the results of the above studies should be included in Recommendations and/or Reports;

2 that the above studies should be completed by 2027.

Category: S2

1. 1 This Question should be brought to the attention of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 2 In the year 2023, Radiocommunication Study Group 5 extended the completion date of studies for this Question. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)