

Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities

Information Paper for “Expert meeting collecting preliminary inputs for consideration at the international conference in Vienna in 2024”

submitted by Luxembourg and Belgium

16 October 2023

I. Introduction

At the sixty-sixth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities under the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS agreed that an event would be held in Luxembourg during the Space Resources Week (SRW), entitled “Expert meeting collecting preliminary inputs for consideration at the international conference in Vienna in 2024” (“expert meeting”). This event will be co-hosted by Belgium and Luxembourg (co-hosts) and organized in cooperation with the United Nations (A/78/20, para. 232).

In order to inform the States members of the Committee and prepare for intersessional meetings, which will discuss the organizational matters as well as nominations and agenda, Luxembourg and Belgium wish to share some relevant information with regard to the expert meeting.

II. Logistic Arrangements of the Expert Meeting

Date: The Space Resources Week will take place on 25-27 March 2024. Co-hosts propose to hold the expert meeting on 26 March 2024.

Venue: EUROPEAN CONVENTION CENTER, 4 Pl. de l'Europe, 1499 Neudorf-Weimershof Luxembourg (<https://eccl.lu/>). The Space Resources Week and the expert meeting will take place at the same venue and will be held in different conference rooms. Both events remain separate and independent.

Conference room: Co-hosts have arranged for a conference room with a maximum capacity of 200 places.

Considering that the expert meeting will be held in a hybrid format, the venue is equipped with internet connection, audio-visual projection equipment and other supplies needed for in-person and remote participation.

Welcoming remarks: Co-hosts would like to ask the working group to reserve 20 minutes for welcoming remarks from the host organisations.

Breaks, lunch and reception: Co-hosts are happy to invite all speakers and participants of the expert meeting to lunch and a reception. The reception will take place at the end of the expert meeting. Co-hosts also propose two coffee breaks during the expert meeting.

In order to benefit from the open and inclusive environment for the experts' exchanges, co-hosts would like to propose to organise the coffee breaks, lunch and the reception in coordination with the SRW.

Interpretation services: Co-hosts do not provide funding for interpretation services nor do offer interpretation services themselves in all official United Nations languages. In case the Working Group decides that the expert meeting will be held in all official United Nations languages, it shall inform the chairs of the working group as early as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements and secure additional funding by delegations.

Transportation: Local public transport in the country including from/to airport is free in Luxembourg. The venue is located less than 30 minutes from the airport.

Accommodation: Co-hosts recommend making a reservation at following hotels in Luxembourg-City: Melia, Sofitel, Novotel, Mama Shelter, all situated in Kirchberg, near to the event venue. The co-hosts can assist the participants in getting a preferential rate (details to follow).

Please note that the event period is a very busy period in Luxembourg. Therefore, we invite you to make the reservations as soon as the co-hosts will provide you with details.

Co-host do not offer free accommodation nor provide support to cover travel expenses nor daily subsistence allowance. Individual participants from developing countries should contact UNOOSA for support for travel and accommodation.

Visas and immigration requirements: All necessary visa facilitations for participants will be assured in accordance with the provisions of the EU Visa code.

Due to the currently increased waiting times for visa appointments it is advisable to start the visa application process as early as possible – at least 6 weeks in advance.

All relevant information can be found here: <https://maee.gouvernement.lu/en/services-aux-citoyens/visa-immigration.html>

Practical information about Luxembourg can be found on <https://www.visitluxembourg.com/plan-your-stay/practical-information>

III. Space Resources Week 2024

While recognising that the expert meeting and the Space Resources Week are two separate events, co-hosts of the expert meeting wish to create an opportunity for an informal exchange between the participants of both events.

SRW is organised by the European Space Resources Innovation Centre (ESRIC), in collaboration with the European Space Agency (ESA), the Luxembourg Space Agency (LSA) and the Luxembourg Institute for Science and Technology (LIST).

The theme of SRW 2024 is *“Shaping global priorities and coordinating efforts to advance space resource utilization towards cleaner space activities beyond exploration”*. The SRW will bring together space agencies, thought leaders, scientists, and business visionaries in a multidisciplinary forum. With this edition, we aim to strengthen the foundation on which the field of space resources is built, align the scientific and commercial needs and capabilities, and collectively develop a sustainable space resources architecture for the future.

The event is expected to attract many participants and speakers. All presentations are expected to be held in person.

The organisers of the SRW would like to extend their sincere invitation to all delegations and participant of the expert meeting to attend the SRW and are happy to provide free registration for in-person participation. For further details, please contact dovile.matuleviciute@space-agency.lu.

Information about SRW can be found on <https://www.spaceresourcesweek.lu/>