

8 April 2013

English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-second session
Vienna, 8-19 April 2013
**Information on the activities of international
intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations
relating to space law**

**Information on the activities of international
intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations
relating to space law**

I. Introduction

The present document was prepared by the secretariat on the basis of information received from the following international non-governmental organizations: the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL) and the International Institute of Space Law (IISL).

**II. Replies received from international intergovernmental and
non-governmental organizations**

European Centre for Space Law

A. Background information

The European Centre for Space Law (ECSL) was established in 1989, on the initiative and under the auspices of the European Space Agency (ESA), with the support of a number of pioneers in the field. It functions under a charter, amended in October 2009, which defines its missions, structure and objectives. The current Chairman of ECSL is Sergio Marchisio, of Sapienza University (Rome).

The main objective of ECSL is to build up and spread, in Europe and elsewhere, an understanding of the legal framework relevant to space activities. Information



exchange among interested stakeholders and improving and promoting the teaching of space law are the two major tools for reaching that goal.

A flexible and open structure

ECSL has a flexible and open structure. The Centre brings together mainly professionals, lawyers, academics and students and encourages interdisciplinary exchanges. The ECSL General Assembly, open to all members, meets every three years and elects the ECSL Board which functions are to oversee and assist in the running of the activities. The Executive Secretariat is in charge of the management and growth of the Centre's activities.

Management

Members of the ECSL Board, which is responsible for the management of the Centre, are elected by the General Assembly for a period of three years. Board members have outstanding backgrounds and experience in space law and commit themselves to actively promoting the objectives of ECSL at the national and international levels. The Board's Members for the triennium 2013-2016 were elected at the end of 2012.

Membership and network

Membership, open to natural or legal persons from ESA members or associated States, is a prerequisite for voting at the triennial General Assembly and receiving ECSL publications, such as the ECSL Newsletter and the Summer Course Proceedings. ECSL has international membership and a network of National points of contact (NPOCs), which have been set up in more than 10 ESA Member States in order to facilitate contacts among members and the organization of activities.

Summary of 2012 activities:

2012 ECSL Practitioners' Forum

The 2012 Practitioners' Forum took place on March 16, 2012 at ESA Headquarters in Paris and focused on the theme "Insurance of satellite activities from the cradle to the grave – Legal Aspects". The Forum discussed the legal aspects of insurance issues from the development and manufacturing of a satellite through the shipment to the launch site and integration on the launch vehicle to the actual launch, in-orbit deployment and ongoing space operations.

2012 European Round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition

The ECSL set up, as the official regional organizer, the European Rounds of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of the University of Bucharest, Romania, the then newest ESA member state, in April 2012. Fourteen teams composed by thirty eight university students registered for this competition and sent in their memorials, four of the teams withdrew from the oral round. The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece, winner of the European Round, represented Europe at the World Final of the Competition, which took place during the 63rd International Astronautical Congress in Naples, Italy, in October 2012 and went on to be the World finalist and

runner-up. The National Law School of India University from Bangalore, India won the Final, which was judged by three members of the International Court of Justice.

The 21st ECSL Summer Course on Space Law and Policy

The Twenty-first edition of the ECSL Summer Course on Space Law and Policy was organized from August 27 to September 8, 2012 in cooperation with the Neapolis University of Pafos, Cyprus. There were 41 students coming from 14 countries of different parts of the world. The students followed lectures on space law and policy issues given by speakers — either academicians or practitioners specialized in the space field. The Course was completed by an inter-active work on a case study dealing with international space cooperation.

2012 Workshops and conferences

The ECSL and the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) jointly organized in 2012 a Symposium on: “Transfer of ownership of space objects: Issues of responsibility, liability and registration” during the 51st session of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The event was coordinated by Tanja Masson-Zwaan, President of IISL, and Sergio Marchisio, the ECSL Chairman. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation in its Report that the Symposium had constituted a valuable contribution to its work. (Presentations and details can be found on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (www.oosa.unvienna.org/oosa/en/COPUOS/Legal/2011/symposium.html)).

Documentation and publications

(a) Legal database

The ECSL Legal Database, updated in 2011, can be consulted via the ECSL homepage (www.esa.int/SPECIALS/ECSL/index.html). It contains an extensive bibliography on space law as well as legal texts relating to ESA, the United Nations and other international and national institutions involved in the development of space activities. The ECSL website site is also intended to promote the work carried out by the ECSL national points of contact, space law institutes, universities, research centres, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and other organizations, as well as national space agencies, in order to create a network among all institutions, educational centres and research facilities working in the area of space law. The ECSL legal database contains also a large bibliography which intends to be a useful tool for students and practitioners.

(b) Space law teaching in Europe

The booklet “Space law teaching in Europe” is an ECSL initiative, first issued in 1991 and revised in 1993. The booklet includes a list of space law teaching institutions, universities and educational centres in Europe. It also provides detailed information on teaching staff, credits, tuition fees and the duration of the different courses, together with illustrations of the institutions listed. The fifth edition will be published soon.

(c) Newsletter

The ECSL newsletter features articles on legal issues and others topics of interest to the space community, as well as on the ECSL activities. All the newsletters are available on the ECSL website. The last newsletter n.39 was published in March 2013, we are preparing the newsletter n.40 for the summer 2013.

B. Major events and projects planned for 2013

Board meetings

The last Board was held on March 15, 2013 and the next meeting is scheduled at ESA Headquarters in Paris in October 2013.

2013 Practitioner's Forum

The annual edition of the Practitioner's Forum was held on March 15, 2013, at ESA HQ and dealt with: "Registration of satellites – Legal aspects and practise".

The 2013 IISL-ECSL Symposium at the Legal Subcommittee

The 2013 IISL-ECSL Symposium was held on the first day of the 52nd session of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, focusing on the topic of "The UNIDROIT space protocol".

European Rounds of the Manfred Lachs Moot Court Competition

The 2013 edition will be held on May 9-11, 2013 at the Faculty of Law of the Sapienza University in Rome, Italy. The World Semi Finals and Finals of the Competition will take place in Beijing, China, in September 2013, during the 64th International Astronautical Federation's Congress.

Summer Course on Space Law and Policy, 2013

The Twenty-second ECSL Summer Course will be held in September 2013, at the Faculty of Law of the University of Vienna, Austria.

International Institute of Space Law

A. Recent and forthcoming conferences

December 2012: 7th Eilene Galloway Symposium on Critical Issues in Space Law, Washington DC

The 7th Eilene Galloway Symposium was held on 6 December 2012, at the Cosmos Club in Washington DC, in cooperation with the National Center for Remote Sensing, Air and Space Law at the University of Mississippi School of Law. The topic was "Regional and Global Space Organizations and the Law". On 5 December 2013, the 8th Eilene Galloway Symposium on Critical Issues in Space Law will be held.

March 2013: IISL / ECSL Symposium for the COPUOS-LSC delegates, Vienna

On 8 April, on the occasion of the 52nd Session of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the IISL and ECSL will organize the annual Symposium for delegates of the Legal Subcommittee. The topic is “The UNIDROIT Space Protocol”. The event will be followed by a reception.

October 2013: Colloquium and related events, Beijing, China

From 23-27 September, the IISL will hold its 56th Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space in Beijing, China. The Colloquium will have the following session-topics.

- N. Jasentuliyana Keynote Lecture on Space Law & 5th Young Scholars Session
- Settlement of Space-Related Disputes
- International Regulations of Space Communications: Current Issues
- Legal Aspects of Space Debris Remediation
- Recent Developments in Space Law

The 28th Scientific/Legal Roundtable will be held in Beijing on “Space and the Polar Regions - Issues of Satellite Applications, Policies and Regulations” and another joint session with IAF will be held, addressing Legal Framework for Cooperative Space Endeavours.

B. Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition

In 2012, the winner of the World Finals of the 21st Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition was the National Law School of India University. The runner up was the team of the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens. The University of California, USA and Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria were Semi-Finalists. It was the first time an African regional round had been held. Three Judges of the International Court of Justice in The Hague judged the World Finals. The 2012 competition addressed the “Case concerning On-orbit Collision, Non-cooperative Satellite Removal, and Damages”, written by James Rendleman.

The World Finals of the 22nd Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition will be held during the 2013 Colloquium in Beijing. Three Judges of the International Court of Justice will judge the Finals, and regional rounds will be held in Europe, North America, the Asia Pacific, as well as, for the first time, Africa. In total more than 60 teams have registered for the regional rounds. Three ICJ Judges have been invited. The 2013 competition addresses the “Case concerning the Operation of a Lunar Station”.

The names of all participating universities, as well as the Judges of the written briefs, of the semi-finals and of the finals will be listed in the Moot Court Brochure that will be available on the IISL website.

The IISL is grateful to all sponsors of the regional rounds and of the world finals, and to its moot court committee. The 23rd competition will be held in 2014.

C. Research and publications

Submissions to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

The IISL submitted input on two issues at the request of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. One addressed the nature of suborbital flights, and the other the legal issues of debris mitigation.

Furthermore, the IISL is working on input for the Expert Group D of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

IISL Proceedings

The 2011 Proceedings is the first volume published by Eleven Publishing International. The book is available to delegates of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for a specially reduced price and one complimentary copy is exceptionally offered for the library.

Some Pioneers of space law

The book on 'Some Pioneers of Space Law', edited by Prof. Hobe, has been submitted to the publisher.

Report of the Standing Committee on the Status of Space Law Treaties

The 2012 report of the Standing Committee is published on the IISL website and in the IISL Proceedings.

D. Election, awards and statutes

Elections

The General Assembly elected the following members of the Board:

- Vice President: Prof. Kai-Uwe Schrogl, ESA.
- Directors: Prof. Setsuko Aoki, Japan; Prof. Elisabeth Back Impallomeni, Italy; Dr. Tare Brisibe, Chairman Legal Subcommittee, UNCOPUOS; Prof. Joanne Gabrynowicz, USA; Dr. Les Tennen, USA; Prof. Lesley Jane Smith, Germany; Mr. Skip Milton, USA; Prof. Maureen Williams, Argentina; and Prof. Haifeng Zhao, China.

In addition, Prof. Jonathan Galloway, Prof. Toshio Kosuge and Dr. Sylvia Ospina became Honorary Directors. About 20 new IISL members were elected in October 2012 and March 2013.

Awards

In 2012 the following awards were given. The IISL Distinguished Service Award was granted to Corinne Jorgenson, in recognition of her years of outstanding and dedicated service to the Institute, inter alia as editor of the Proceedings for over ten years and as member of the Board and Executive Secretary.

The Diederiks-Verschoor award was granted to Olavo Bittencourt Neto of Brazil for his paper titled “The Elusive Frontier: Revisiting the Delimitation of Outer Space.”

Statutes

The General Assembly approved major changes in the Statutes and Bylaws of the Institute. Apart from general streamlining and increasing transparency, the main changes concern:

- Elections: the Nominating Committee for the Board is now elected by the General Assembly, not the Board, and is called the Election Committee. All members vote on all candidates by electronic means/mail before the meeting.
- Membership: a new category of Prospective Members is established, to allow students and young professionals to join the Institute. These members do not pay dues and do not have a right to vote.

E. More information

Please visit the IISL websites: www.iislweb.org for general information, and www.iislweb.org/lachsmoot for the Manfred Lachs space law moot court competition.

F. Membership

The IISL warmly welcomes delegates of the Legal Subcommittee to apply for membership in IISL. Nomination forms are available on the website.
