

8 April 2013

English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-second session
Vienna, 8-19 April 2013
Capacity-building in space law

Building capacity in space law: actions and initiatives

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its fifty-first session, in 2012, the Subcommittee recommended that member States and permanent observers of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space inform the Subcommittee, at its fifty-second session, of any actions taken or planned on a national, regional or international level to build capacity in space law (A/AC.105/1003, para. 135).
2. The present document contains the reply received from Austria.



I. Information received from member States

Austria

[Original: English]

Actions to build capacity in space law

Space law forms part of the general course in international law which is a compulsory subject at all Austrian law faculties (Vienna, Graz, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Linz). In addition, some faculties offer specialized courses on space law as an optional subject.

At the University of Vienna, two courses are offered on a regular basis, the courses “General Legal Framework of the Use of Outer Space Technologies” and “Special Legal Issues of the Use of Outer Space Technologies”. Not only Austrian students, but also exchange students, mostly from Australia, show interest in attending these courses. Guest professors and lecturers are invited on a regular basis.

Furthermore, space law seminars are held in the summer semester as well as in the winter semester 2012/2013. Students make presentations on current topics and subsequently write a seminar paper.

The University of Graz also offers courses on space law in the summer semester. An officer of the European Space Agency (ESA) is invited as lecturer on a regular basis. Approximately 30 students are participating in the seminar. Regularly, half of the students are exchange students, mainly from South-East Europe. In order to successfully complete the seminar, the students participate in a United Nations simulation.

In March 2012, the National Point of Contact (NPOC) for Space Law at the University of Economics and Business in Vienna organized an excursion dedicated to “Space Law in Vienna”. More than 40 international students had the opportunity to witness the opening of the 51st Session of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, including the symposium organized by the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) and the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL), and to visit the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI).

Six Austrian students participated in the ECSL Summer Course on Space Law and Policy 2012 organized by ECSL. The NPOC for Space Law in Austria selected the Austrian participants. Members of the NPOC Space Law in Graz held a lecture and a tutorial. In 2013, the ECSL Summer Course on Space Law and Policy will take place in Austria (in Klosterneuburg, near Vienna) between 1 and 14 September. It will be organized with the support of the Austrian NPOC for Space Law and the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG).

Space Law Curriculum

Austria welcomes the work on the Space Law Curriculum under the auspices of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. It will be a helpful tool for professors and lecturers in many different countries. The Space Law Curriculum should be regarded as a continuous task for the Office which should also facilitate regular updates of it.