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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-fourth session
Vienna, 13-24 April 2015
Item 8 of the provisional agenda*
Capacity-building in space law

Building capacity in space law: actions and initiatives

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its fifty-third session, in 2014, the Legal Subcommittee recommended that member States and permanent observers of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space inform the Subcommittee, at its fifty-fourth session, of any actions taken or planned on a national, regional or international level to build capacity in space law (A/AC.105/1067, para. 120).
2. The present document contains a reply received from Austria.

* A/AC.105/C.2/L.295.



I. Information received from member States

Austria

1. Actions to build capacity in space law

During the past years, a number of Austrian universities have taken concrete steps with the aim to promote space law and draw the students' interest to this particular area of law.

At the University of Vienna, two space law courses are offered each year, "General Legal Framework of the Use of Outer Space Technologies" and "Special Legal Issues of the Use of Outer Space Technologies". International guest professors and lecturers are regularly invited to give interested students an insight into current issues and recent developments in the field of space law. Students also have the possibility to visit the United Nations in Vienna and learn more about the work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

In addition, seminars in international law with a specific focus on space law are held on a regular basis. In the framework of these seminars students can give presentations and write seminar papers on current space law related topics.

On 29 March 2014, at the occasion of the fifty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee, the National Point of Contact Space Law Austria organized a symposium dedicated to small satellites under the title "Small Satellites: Chances and Challenges" at the Law Faculty of the University of Vienna. Experts from various fields in the area of space technology and space law talked about small satellite missions from the practical, the legal, and the economic perspectives. An edited volume which will contain the presentations held during the symposium as well as some further contributions is in preparation.

The University of Graz has been offering a Seminar of Space Law and Policy for several years. Each year up to 35 students are provided with a broad overview of international, European and national space law and space policy. This is achieved through a combination of traditional teaching and active working with case studies, culminating in a moot court or model United Nations exercise. Students further have the possibility to go on a field trip to space institutions such as the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) in Vienna. The growing number of people interested in space law without legal background has also increased demand for general rather than specialized space law literature and so provides a basic idea of legal but also of political, economic, technical, social and ethical aspects of the use of outer space. The recent publication by Alexander Soucek "Space Law Essentials Vol. 1 Textbook" and by Anita Rinner, Hannes Mayer, Yvonne Karimi-Schmidt, Christian Brünner "Space Law Essentials Vol. 2 Casebook" is the unique combination of theory and practice in space law. As a novel tandem concept, the books offer a compact access to space law in a modern, user-orientated format.