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Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law

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Note by the Secretariat

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* A/AC.105/C.2/L.253.



I. Introduction

In accordance with the agreement reached at the forty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee (A/AC.105/826, para. 38) and endorsed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its forty-seventh session,¹ the Secretariat invited international organizations to submit reports on their activities relating to space law for the information of the Subcommittee. The present document contains a compilation of the reports received by 7 January 2005.

II. Replies received from international organizations

European Centre for Space Law

A. Background

1. The European Centre for Space Law (ECSL) was set up in May 1989 under a charter that was slightly revised in 2001 and to which persons adhere without committing those legal entities to which those persons belong. The main purposes of the Centre are, in particular, to promote the knowledge of and interest in the law relating to space activities, through the promotion of research activities, including the dissemination of information and the organization of workshops and colloquiums.

2. ECSL relies on a network of national points of contact, established in Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Although adhering to ECSL objectives, each national points of contact has its own activities and structure.

3. ECSL is administered by a Board of 10 members elected at the biennial General Assembly of ECSL. The next scheduled meeting will be held in June 2005. The Board elects its Chairman and Vice-Chairman from among its members and meets three times a year to discuss, report and adopt guidelines.

4. Financial support is mainly provided by the general budget of the European Space Agency (ESA) and supplemented with small contributions from the members of the Centre. The main output of the Centre consists of a summer course (lasting two weeks and hosted by a faculty of law), a practitioners' forum, participation in the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, a space law database, publications such as the ECSL newsletter, and proceedings of the summer course and other colloquiums organized by the International Institute of Space Law (IISL). ECSL maintains contacts with other institutions working for the promotion of space law in and outside Europe.

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth session, Supplement No. 20 (A/59/20)*, para. 158.

B. Information on the activities of the European Centre for Space Law

1. Practitioners' forum

5. The practitioners' forum was held on 12 March 2004 at ESA headquarters, in Paris, and a broad overview of new issues in Earth observation and data policy was provided this time. There were around 60 participants from a wide variety of backgrounds including interested individuals, institutions and enterprises. The aim of the meeting was to provide participants with an opportunity to exchange views with "professionals" (e.g. academics, politicians, scientists, lawyers), while at the same time protecting confidential information. Sergio Camacho, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, and representatives of the European Commission, the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT) and ESA were among the speakers who participated in the forum. The morning session was chaired by Sergio Marchisio, Vice-Chairman of ECSL and Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

2. Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition of the International Institute of Space Law

6. The European semi-finals of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition of IISL were held at the ESA European Space Research and Technology Centre (ESTEC) facilities in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, from 24 to 25 March 2004. It was hosted by the European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students (ERASMUS) communication and user centre, and it benefited from the International Space Station mock-up module and a television studio, which allowed the competition to be broadcast. The case involved issues relevant to international responsibility and liability on board the International Space Station. Eleven teams registered to participate in the event, including teams from Poland, Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Footage of the different rounds was available on the Internet.

7. The team from Europe competed against the South-East Asia round winner (Bangalore University, India) and the winner of the round in the United States of America (Georgetown University, United States). The team from Leiden University (the Netherlands) reached the finals of the competition, held at about the same time as the International Astronautical Federation (IAF)/IISL meeting in Vancouver, Canada, from 4 to 8 October 2004.

3. Symposium "Legal Aspects of Commercial Utilisation of the International Space Station: a Dutch Example"

8. The symposium "Legal Aspects of Commercial Utilisation of the International Space Station: a Dutch Example" was organized on 26 March 2004 by the International Institute of Air and Space Law (the ECSL point of contact in the Netherlands) and the E. M. Meyers Institute at Leiden, in cooperation with ECSL and ESA/ESTEC. It was chaired by Judge V. S. Vereshchetin (Judge of the International Court of Justice) and attended by some 60 participants.

4. International Institute of Space Law/European Centre for Space Law symposium

9. The annual IISL/ECSL space law symposium was held in Vienna on 29 March 2004, during the forty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee. It was chaired by P. Jankowitsch, former Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The theme of the symposium was New Developments and the Legal Framework Covering the Exploitation of the Resources of the Moon. The proceedings of the symposium will be published in the IISL proceedings of the Vancouver colloquium. Speakers came from Europe (in particular, the ECSL Board members), the United States and the region of Asia and the Pacific.

5. Thirteenth European Centre for Space Law Summer Course on Space Law and Policy

10. The thirteenth ECSL Summer Course on Space Law and Policy was held at the School of Law of the University of Graz, from 6 to 17 September 2004. Financial support for the course was provided by the Federal Ministry for Transport, Transport and Technology of Austria, the provincial government of Styria and ECSL.

11. A total of 53 students and 4 tutors from several European countries participated in the course. For the first time, students from countries in Central and Eastern Europe, such as Albania, Estonia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine (including two students from Colombia and Kenya studying in universities in Europe) also participated. As in previous years, the course was divided into two parts: one was general, relating to the international legal framework of space activities, such as the five United Nations treaties on outer space and the concept of the “launching State” (in which Vladimír Kopal participated; and the other was technical, focusing on issues such as remote sensing, the European Telecommunications Satellite Organization (EUTELSAT), EUMETSAT, ESA—European Union relations.

12. The course, which is traditionally complemented by a general exercise to be prepared over two weeks, concluded with a general simulation of international negotiation. In 2004, the exercise was based on a hypothetical call for tenders issued by ESA on the topic of digital divide. Students were divided into eight groups, each of which represented a consortium of public and private entities. At the end, a panel of experts selected the best one.

6. Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

13. Of particular interest to ECSL objectives was the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, chaired by V. Cassapoglou (Greece) during the forty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee. In addition, the registration practices and space objects registry of ESA were presented to the Legal Subcommittee.

14. ECSL also submitted a report on its activities relating to space law (A/AC.105/C.2/L.248) to the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-third session.

7. Conference on Legal and Ethical Framework for Astronauts in Space Sojourns

15. The Conference on Legal and Ethical Framework for Astronauts in Space Sojourns was held on 29 October 2004 at United Nations Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) headquarters, in Paris. Marcio Barbosa, Deputy Director-General of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and Chairman of IAF, and Jean-Jacques Dordain, ESA Director-General, opened the Conference. Closing remarks were made by Adigun Ade Abiodun, Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Conference was organized by the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) of UNESCO, and the Institut du droit de l'espace et des télécommunications (IDEST) of the Faculté Jean Monnet, Université Paris-Sud XI, with technical assistance from ECSL.

8. ECSL newsletter

16. Three issues of ECSL newsletter (Nos. 26, 27 and 28) contained reports of activities, announcements, as well as articles on outer space law. The fourth issue is scheduled to be published soon.

9. ECSL legal database

17. The ECSL legal database (<http://www.esa.int/SPECIALS/ECSL>) constitutes a basic tool for the promotion of space law and its knowledge at the European and non-European levels. It is open to professionals, practitioners and students from different fields. It facilitates the work of government ministries and organizations in preparing for discussions at sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and other conferences, as well as the study of national legislation.

18. Its functioning is mainly based on links to other legal databases created by universities and research centres, international entities such as the Office for Outer Space Affairs, regional organizations, national space agencies and others. It offers direct access to fundamental space law texts, a selected bibliography by topic (offering, when possible, the opportunity to download materials directly from the site) and other information.

19. The ECSL legal database is aimed at helping users familiarize themselves with space law and offers results and achievements of space law conferences and forums that are held worldwide. ECSL, through its database, also intends to promote the work carried out by national points of contact, space law institutes, universities, research centres, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, UNESCO and other organizations and institutions, as well as national space agencies. The final result is expected to be a network linking all institutions, educational centres and research facilities related to space law.

10. Other initiatives

20. In order to help teachers and students, ECSL has prepared a new brochure entitled *In Orbit over the Space Law*, which contains as a brief introduction, a specific bibliography complemented by related information, web-site references and a general bibliography, to serve as a teacher's tool for the preparation of lessons.

21. ECSL also updated the brochure *Space Law Teaching in Europe*, which contained information on faculty addresses, teachers, courses and their evaluation systems based on credits. It can be considered a tool complementing, with a particular emphasis on Europe Education Opportunities in Space Law: a Directory, published by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in 2004.

22. Several members of ECSL belonging to the Board, such as IISL and others at the national level, participated in various conferences. Their contributions are published in law journals and entered into the ECSL legal database.

C. Future activities

23. Other than the regular ECSL activities described above that will continue during 2005, mention should be made of the ECSL Workshop on Natural Disasters and the Role of Remote Sensing: Legal, Institutional and Economic Considerations, co-organized with the Centre régional de télédétection des Etats de l’Afrique du Nord (CRTEAN), which is to be held in Tunis.

24. ECSL will be represented at the fourth European Conference on Space Debris, to be organized by the European Space Operations Centre in Darmstadt, Germany, from 18 to 20 April 2005.

25. ECSL will remain in close contact with COMEST with regard to the preparation of its proposal on ethics and space law, to be submitted to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization General Conference. ECSL will also remain in contact with the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Unidroit) secretariat.

26. ECSL is considering setting up a network liaison between institutions with a space law database, as referred to at the forty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee, in 2003.

European Space Agency

A. Information on the activities of the European Space Agency

1. In 2004, ESA continued to be represented at the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its working groups.

2. Representatives of the Department of Legal Affairs, Procedures, Rules and Organizational Matters of ESA continued to lecture at the regular session of the International Space University; at the ECSL Summer Course held at the Faculty of Law of the University of Graz, Austria; at the Faculté Jean Monnet, at the Université Paris-Sud XI; and at the Institut de formation universitaire et de recherche du transport aérien in Aix-en-Provence. The lectures focused, in particular, on the legal implications of the following topics:

(a) Space application programmes, using outer space as a tool for Earth observation, management of natural resources and of disasters, telecommunications and transport, such as navigation via satellite and related liability issues;

(b) Cooperation on the International Space Station, detailing the three-layered structure of Space Station agreements: an intergovernmental agreement signed by 15 partner States, four similarly worded memorandums of understanding between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States and each of the other cooperating agencies, and a series of implementing arrangements;

(c) The international space institutions and related activities, regulatory acts and policies, European space institutions;

(d) Law and policy of satellite navigation.

3. ESA contributed to the ECSL/UNESCO/IDEST Symposium, on a Legal and Ethical Framework for Astronauts in Space Sojourns, held at UNESCO headquarters, in Paris, from 27 to 29 October 2004. The starting point for the symposium was the status of astronauts under the conventions adopted under the auspices of the United Nations in the 1960s and 1970s. ESA presented the evolution of that status through the development of the International Space Station agreements and related programme documents. Subsequently, ESA outlined the rights and obligations of astronauts as private persons under applicable national law. A book on the contribution of ESA to the symposium will be published in the course of 2005.

4. Finally, ESA continued to support the initiatives of its member States with regard to their respective national space legislation, especially with a view to their harmonization. A representative of the Legal Department of ESA participated in the panel discussion of the Project 2001Plus workshop on the theme “Towards a harmonised approach for national space legislation in Europe”, organized jointly by the Institute of Air and Space Law of the University of Cologne and the German Aerospace Center (DLR) in Berlin on 29 and 30 January 2004.

International Law Association

A. Information on the activities of the International Law Association

1. The International Law Association (ILA), originally known as the Association for the Reform and Codification of the Laws of Nations, was founded in Brussels in 1873. Its objectives still stand: the study, elucidation and advancement of international law, public and private, the study of comparative law, the making of proposals for the solution of conflicts of law and for the unification of law and the furthering of international understanding and goodwill.

2. The activities of the Space Law Committee of ILA were initiated in New York in 1958, during the 48th international conference of the Association.² Since then, the Space Law Committee of ILA has reported on its work to the biennial conferences of ILA.

3. The Space Law Committee has permanent observer status with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and reports annually to the Committee and its

² See *Space Activities of the United Nations and International Organizations* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.99.I.24), chap. IV, sect. F. Special reference was made to the Buenos Aires International Instrument on the Protection of the Environment from Damage caused by Space Debris, which was adopted by the sixty-sixth conference of the International Law Association (ILA), held in Buenos Aires in 1994, and to the ILA draft convention on the settlement of disputes related to space activities adopted by the sixty-eighth ILA conference, held in Taipei, Taiwan Province of China, in 1998.

Legal Subcommittee on the progress of its work on space law.³ For more detailed information, reference should be made to the ILA conference reports, which reflect the work of the Space Law Committee of ILA, including surveys and debates conducted during the working sessions of each conference, as well as the resolutions adopted by ILA.

4. The most recent biennial conferences were held in London in 2000, New Delhi in 2002 and Berlin in 2004. At the London conference, the Space Law Committee focused on the analysis of the space law treaties to determine their consistency with the present international context, where commercial space activities have grown at an unprecedented scale. At the New Delhi conference, in its last stage of research on the topic, the Committee submitted its final report on the review of space law treaties in view of commercial space activities: concrete proposals (see para. 11 below).

5. The seventy-first conference of ILA was held in Berlin in August 2004. The Chairperson of the Committee, Maureen Williams of the University of Buenos Aires, and the General Rapporteur, Stephan Hobe of the University of Cologne, Germany, referred to specific aspects of commercial activities in outer space, such as remote sensing and national space legislation.

6. The members of the Space Law Committee are specialists of renown, many of whom are well known to members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee. The headquarters of ILA are in London. Lord Slynn of Hadley is Chairman of the Executive Council of ILA. During the 1990s, the Space Law Committee was chaired by Karl-Heinz Böckstiegel and the General Rapporteur was Maureen Williams. The Director of Studies is Christine Chinkin of the London School of Economics, who recently succeeded Alfred Soons of Utrecht University in that position. The current officers took over in 2001, following the autumn meeting of the Executive Council in London.

7. In 2004, as in previous years, the Space Law Committee reported to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Likewise, frequent reference was made to the contributions of ILA to the subject on the occasion of the United Nations/Brazil Workshop on Space Law, held in Rio de Janeiro from 22 to 25 November 2004, in which the officers of the Space Law Committee were invited to participate as speakers.

8. In April 2004, at the forty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee, the representative of the Space Law Committee referred to the conclusions of the seventieth conference of ILA, held in New Delhi, and introduced various questions that formed part of the work of the Committee for the seventy-first conference, which was to be held in Berlin in August 2004. In June 2004, the representative of the Space Law Committee made a presentation to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space concerning the progress made, inter alia, on the various legal issues surrounding commercial space activities, in particular those contained in the report on the legal aspects of privatization and commercialization of space activities with special reference to remote sensing and national space legislation, which was

³ See "The role of the International Law Association in the development of the law of outer space", *Project 2001: Legal Framework for the Commercial Use of Outer Space*, K. H. Böckstiegel, ed. (Berlin, Bonn, Cologne and Munich, Carl Heymanns Verlag, 2002).

submitted to the conference of ILA held in Berlin in August 2004 and subsequently adopted at its plenary session.

9. For the preparation of the report for the Berlin conference, the Chairman of the Space Law Committee invited three distinguished members of the Committee, to produce a preliminary study concerning the major issues involved: two special rapporteurs for remote sensing, José Monserrat Filho of Brazil and Niklas Hedman of Sweden to deal, respectively, with the position of developing and developed countries; and one special rapporteur for national space legislation, Frans von der Dunk of the Netherlands.

10. On the basis of the preliminary results and taking into account the comments and suggestions provided by Space Law Committee members and further developments of the law in that domain, the Chairperson and the General Rapporteur of the Committee prepared the final text for the Berlin conference in 2004, which consisted of two closely interwoven sections, namely:

(a) A section on remote sensing, dealing, inter alia, with Earth observation satellites and their predominantly commercial aspects, including a discussion to establish whether the Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space (General Assembly resolution 41/65, annex) were still realistic, the need to clarify certain concepts and terms, the advisability of encouraging bilateral and regional agreements on the matter to fill gaps left by the Principles and the problems brought about by the use of satellite data in national and international courts, particularly as evidence in boundary disputes; the section was entrusted to Maureen Williams, the Chairperson of the Space Law Committee;

(b) A section on national space legislation, which took into account the progress made by developed and developing countries, especially in connection with article VI of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI), annex) (Outer Space Treaty) and the scope and implications of the requirement of “authorization” and “supervision” of private entities carrying out activities in outer space, an issue on which Stephan Hobe proposed an additional protocol, which was adopted in 2002 by the New Delhi conference. Those aspects were entrusted to Mr. Hobe, the General Rapporteur of the Space Law Committee.

B. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties

11. Over the years, the topic of the status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space has been closely related to the work of the Space Law Committee of ILA, in particular, on the occasion of the London conference, in 2000 and the New Delhi conference, in 2002. A resolution on the subject was adopted at the New Delhi conference in 2002.⁴

⁴ Resolution 1/2002, entitled “Review of space treaties in view of commercial space activities”. (*Report of the Seventieth Conference, held in London, 25-29 July 2000* (International Law Association, London, 2000)).

C. Work carried out between the conferences of the International Law Association held in New Delhi in 2002 and in Berlin in 2004 and in the period that followed

1. Remote sensing

12. As indicated in paragraph 10 above, ILA has focused on remote sensing and national space legislation. Drawn from the report on remote sensing and from further discussion at the working session of the Berlin conference, the general feeling on the topic is as follows:

(a) The Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space are, at the global level, the only international instrument providing specific rules and criteria on the subject. Most of them at present are declarative of customary international law and, therefore, binding;

(b) Given that remote sensing technologies are today a commercial activity par excellence and that space activities carried out by private entities are growing at an unrelenting pace, it would appear to be appropriate to begin drafting guidelines to cover certain gaps in the Principles and to provide interpretative criteria to clarify some of the general principles;

(c) The definitions laid down in Principle I (General Assembly resolution 41/65, annex) are not consistent with the present international context. The Principles are silent on significant aspects of remote sensing in today's world, including the distribution, dissemination and commercialization of data that are collected by Earth observation satellites and subsequently processed;

(d) The Principles make no mention of the scope and implications of certain terms embodied therein, such as "access to data on the part of sensed states", "needs of developing countries", "reasonable costs", "consultations" and "state responsibility";

(e) There is no consensus within the Space Law Committee, nor within the doctrine at large, on the need to have a binding international instrument on remote sensing;

(f) The general feeling, particularly at the intergovernmental level, is that premature solutions should be avoided, especially as no serious claims have been raised so far;

(g) Consequently, the political arena does not appear to be in favour of drawing up binding rules;

(h) A realistic course of action at the present time would be the enactment of domestic law on remote sensing coupled with a revision by governmental bodies and private institutions of the most controversial and/or incomplete aspects of the Principles;

(i) Domestic legislation should address, in a first stage, issues relating to the protection and distribution of data and licensing procedures, with a view to giving greater transparency to remote sensing activities;

(j) Developed and developing countries provide current examples of national space legislation, and bilateral and regional agreements provide examples on remote sensing, addressing issues on which the Principles remain silent;

(k) As to the protection of data obtained by remote sensing, it seems advisable that national laws, in the light of article VI of the Outer Space Treaty, deal with questions relating to the authorization and supervision of private activities in space;

(l) Taking into consideration the high number of States parties to the Outer Space Treaty, article VI thereof may be seen as part of the domestic legislation of a significant number of members of the international community;

(m) International cooperation is called upon to play a major role in carrying out remote sensing activities, particularly in resolving differences between developed and developing countries;

(n) It appears timely, within the framework of commercial space activities and their various applications, to start considering guidelines and suggestions on the value of data collected by Earth observation satellites and their value as evidence in international and national litigation. In that way, ILA would be making an important contribution to a debate that, in the first years of this millennium, is gradually gaining momentum.⁵

13. Given the absence of political will to develop the Principles further, the Space Law Committee agrees on the importance, at this stage, of encouraging bilateral and regional agreements on the subject.

2. National space legislation

14. The Berlin working session on national space legislation recognized the importance of the “building-block” procedure for further space legislation, as was applied in the context of Project 2001 and Project 2001Plus1, conducted from the University of Cologne. The report indicated that there was not much State practice concerning national requirements for private space activities. Taking into account the international legal obligation, stated in article VI of the Outer Space Treaty, to enact national space legislation, in particular for cases of private activities in outer space, and also considering the strong need for national space legislation because of the increased privatization and commercialization caused by globalization, the search for practical solutions by the Space Law Committee of ILA seemed of great importance. Therefore, the building-block pattern should also be followed within the work of the Committee. That procedure seems indispensable and should be observed

⁵ The British Institute of International and Comparative Law Working Group on Earth Observation Data in the Legal Sector was possibly one of the first to address the problem. The Group was composed of lawyers and experts with vast experience in the interpretation of satellite-collected data in national and international courts. A panel reported on the matter to the annual conference of the British Institute held on 22 June 2001. On that occasion, Robin Cleverly and Chris Hackford brought a variety of interesting issues to the attention of the participants of a working session. The prevailing opinion at the moment is inclined to reject any such value because of the wide margin of interpretation left to the expert. A number of cases decided by the International Court of Justice in recent times clearly illustrate that the problem is one of substance and goes far beyond a procedural issue.

when enacting national space legislation. With regard to remote sensing activities, such building blocks should also include the following:

- (a) An obligation on States to continuously authorize and supervise space activities;
- (b) An obligation on States to register space objects;
- (c) Appropriate regulations on compensation to be paid by the State held responsible, according to international law, for an action or space activity of a non-State entity;
- (d) A compulsory insurance requirement for non-State actors, as a necessary consequence thereof.

3. Present work of the Space Law Committee of the International Law Association for the Toronto conference, to be held in 2006

15. On the basis of the results of the Berlin conference and taking into consideration the conclusions on remote sensing and national space legislation, as well as the relation between both topics and registration issues, the Space Law Committee of ILA has become involved in an overview of State practice underlying all three questions. To that end, a questionnaire is being circulated to members in December 2004 as a “pre-stage” to the preparation of the report of the Committee for the Toronto conference, to be held in 2006. The problems arising from the use of Earth observation data in international and national litigation, in particular in boundary disputes, will continue to be analysed. In addition, space debris and dispute settlement, on the basis of the ILA International Instrument on the Protection of the Environment from Damage Caused by Space Debris and the ILA Draft Convention on the Settlement of Disputes Related to Space Activities, will remain under permanent review of the Committee.

D. The United Nations/Brazil Workshop on Disseminating and Developing International and National Space Law: Latin America and the Caribbean Perspective, held in Rio de Janeiro from 22 to 25 November 2004

16. The Chairperson and the General Rapporteur of the Space Law Committee of ILA were invited to take part as speakers in the Workshop on Disseminating and Developing International and National Space Law: Latin America and the Caribbean Perspective, as well as specialists of note from the Committee, including Vladimír Kopal (Czech Republic), Frans von der Dunk (Netherlands), Armel Kerrest (France) and one of the hosts of the Workshop, José Monserrat Filho (Brazil). At one of the sessions of the Workshop, which was held in Rio de Janeiro from 22 to 25 November 2004, the Chairperson of the Space Law Committee, Maureen Williams, was responsible for the presentation of the discussion paper on space law and remote sensing activities, with Joanne Gabrinowicz (United States) and Monserrat Filho acting as commentators. The main objective of the discussion paper was to establish where we were, where we are now and, in the most realistic terms, where we would like to be concerning the legal framework to govern remote sensing in the regional and international scenarios, given the growth of commercial

space activities at the present time. The General Rapporteur of the Space Law Committee, Stephan Hobe, in his discussion paper on current and future development of international space law, gave a complete overview of the past 50 years of space legislation, emphasizing the commercial applications of space activities today; Vladimír Kopal acted as commentator for the paper. Frans von der Dunk was entrusted with the treatment of current and future developments of national space law and policy and Armel Kerrest addressed the topical issue of space law and technological cooperation.
