

**Important notice**

Non-Delegates

In order to attend the Symposium please submit your name to the Office for Outer Space Affairs and present this invitation, together with an appropriate identification document at the entrance of the Vienna International Centre.

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**International Institute of Space Law (IISL) and  
European Centre for Space Law (ECSL)**

**SPACE LAW SYMPOSIUM 2012**

**Transfer of ownership of space objects:  
Issues of responsibility, liability and  
registration**

Monday, 19 March 2012  
15.00 – 18.00h

Conference Room M01  
Building M  
Vienna International Centre

On the occasion of the 51st session of the Legal Subcommittee  
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

## INTRODUCTION

The international space law treaties were drafted at a time, when States were the main actors and the development of a commercial market for transfer of space objects and control of space objects could not be foreseen. Therefore, the existing treaties do not contain any provisions relating specifically to transfer of ownership of a space object and the responsibilities that this entails leading to a legal vacuum. The registration procedures of States and international organizations with regard to space objects vary widely from one national jurisdiction to another. To prevent the emergence of a “flag of convenience” phenomenon in space and to provide legal certainty with respect of issues concerning responsibility and liability, a sound and well-tailored legal framework has to be put in place. Against this backdrop, the space community faces now the legal challenge to regulate the effects arising from the transfer of ownership of space objects. This year’s edition of the IISL-ECSL Symposium intends to provide a new impetus to the international debate by encouraging a dialogue between leading academicians and distinguished stakeholders.

### *Chairpersons:*

**Tanja Masson-Zwaan**, President IISL

**Sergio Marchisio**, President ECSL

### *Coordination Committee of the Symposium:*

**Kai-Uwe Schrogl** (Board of Directors, IISL), Chairperson

**Joanne Gabrynowicz** (Board of Directors, IISL)

**Corinne Jorgenson** (Executive Secretary, IISL)

**Karolina Rybarova** (Executive Secretary, ECSL)

**Mildred Trögeler** (Resident Fellow, ESPI)

## PROGRAMME

### *Words of welcome by the Presidents of IISL and ECSL*

Speaker: Tanja Masson-Zwaan, Sergio Marchisio

### *Legal aspects of transfer of ownership and transfer of activities*

Speaker: Armel Kerrest, University of Brest, France

### *Practice of States and international organizations in registering the transfer of ownership of space objects*

Speaker: Mildred Trögeler, ESPI, Austria

### *Satellite ownership transfers and the liability of the launching States*

Speaker: Setsuko Aoki, Keio University, Japan

### *UNIDROIT Registration of security interests and the Registration Convention: relevance for the transfer of ownership issue*

Speaker: Martin Stanford, UNIDROIT, Italy

### *Towards “flags of convenience” in space?*

Speaker: Frans von der Dunk, University of Nebraska, USA

### *Regulatory options for dealing with the transfer of ownership*

Speaker: Olavo de Bittencourt Neto, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil

### *Concluding Remarks*

**Tare Brisibe**, Chairperson of the UNCOPUOS Legal Subcommittee

**Tanja Masson-Zwaan**, President of the IISL

**Sergio Marchisio**, President of the ECSL