

# Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

## Legal Subcommittee

*Unedited transcript***635<sup>th</sup>** Meeting

Tuesday, 4 April 2000, 3 p.m.

Vienna

*Chairman: Mr. KOPAL (Czech Republic)**The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.*

**The CHAIRMAN:** I now declare open the 635th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We will now continue our consideration of agenda item 9.

**Review of the concept of the “launching State”**  
(*cont.*) (agenda item 9)

**The CHAIRMAN:** I have no names inscribed on my list of speakers. Does any delegation wish to take the floor at the present time? I see none. We will continue our consideration of this item tomorrow morning.

We will now continue our consideration of agenda item 10.

**Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fortieth session**  
(*cont.*) (agenda item 10)

**The CHAIRMAN:** I have one name on my list of speakers, the distinguished representative of Argentina, to whom I give the floor.

**Mr. S. SAYÚS** (Argentina) (*interpretation from Spanish*): With regard to the identification of

items for the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, my delegation believes that high-profile items should be included on our agenda with the greatest possible participation and which are a good base for possible consensus.

In this context we note with satisfaction that several delegations have expressed interest in the topic proposed by Argentina, the commercial aspects of space activities, and feel that it should be included on the Subcommittee's agenda. During the discussion on space-related topics in the recent past, and in particular during the UNISPACE III Conference, there was a trend towards the growing participation of commercial companies in space-related matters, an area which initially was exclusively governed by the State.

My delegation believes that under the topic of commercial aspects of space activities, we could include a consideration of various legal items pertaining to commercial activities in outer space.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you for your statement. I have no other names on my list: does any delegation wish to speak? I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Greece.

**Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU** (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): As concerns a proposal already made by the distinguished representative of

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Argentina, in principle my delegation does not object to the inclusion of such an item on the Subcommittee's agenda. However, there is merely a "restriction": the commercial aspects of space and the legal aspects limited to international law, in other words, not including the subject of private law and related issues. This could cause a problem as it falls outside the terms of reference, unless we were to review the terms of reference of the Subcommittee.

This does not imply that my delegation in any way objects to a consideration of the linkage between the two major legal topics.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you for your comment. Are there any other speakers at this time? I see none. I have been informed that some progress was made in the informal consultations this morning on proposals for new agenda items for the Subcommittee. I have also been informed that informal discussions will continue again this afternoon, in the time remaining following the meeting of the working group on agenda item 9.

We will continue our consideration in the plenary of the Subcommittee of agenda item 10 tomorrow morning.

I will shortly adjourn this meeting of the Subcommittee to allow the working group on agenda item 9 to convene, under the chairmanship of Mr. K. Schrogl of Germany. Before adjourning this meeting, I would like to inform delegates of our schedule of work for tomorrow morning. We will continue and conclude consideration of agenda

item 9, "Review of the concept of the 'launching State'". We will also continue consideration of agenda item 10, "Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fortieth session". We might also conclude consideration of this item at that meeting, depending on the progress made this afternoon and tomorrow.

Thereafter, time permitting, the working group on the definition of outer space and the utilization of the geostationary orbit will convene to adopt its report. Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule? I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Greece.

**Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU** (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): In order to make things easier, and also in view of the fact that we have concluded our consideration of certain subjects, could we try to end the session early on Thursday afternoon? This is a procedural matter, after all: we would propose that we finish tomorrow at midday the consideration of the substance of our work, and in the afternoon consider the draft report, in order to save time.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I am in the hands of the distinguished delegates; it depends on the efforts that are made to end our session as expeditiously as possible. Are there any other comments or suggestions? I see none. The meeting is therefore adjourned.

*The sitting adjourned at 3.20 p.m.*