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**Session 5 Promoting Education in Space Law**

*The Educational Programme of the  
European Centre for Space Law (ECSL)*

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## The European Centre for Space Law (ECSL) and its activities

- **The Centre commenced on May 12 1989.**
- **Not a law faculty or institute of law or political studies, nor an establishment in which students can follow courses and obtain qualifications.**
- **An institution working in the sector of space law educational programmes and providing assistance in implementing initiatives of the European Space Agency (ESA, Convention signed in Paris in March 1975)**

## ESA Role in Space Law

- **ESA main aim is to play a federative role in Europe in the area of space research and technology and their applications.**
- **ESA should also help coordinate national efforts in the field of space law as a natural extension of this work.**
- **ESA had become an observer and actor within the international space community and particularly within COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee.**

# The need for an ECSL

By the end of the eighties, came the idea of setting up ECSL, as

a flexible instrument,

open to the various communities, law faculties, political science research institutes,

scientists, company lawyers,

practitioners, academic community and students.

# Charter of ECSL, as amended on 2001 and 2004

- Principles embodied in the Charter:
- growing complexity of the sources of space law, both international and national;
- multidisciplinary character of space law;
- steady enlargement of the space users;
- role of ESA to facilitate the exchange of scientific and technical information.

# ECSL Charter

## *Article 2:*

- ECSL as promoter of knowledge of and interest in the law relating to space activities.

## The ECSL National Points of Contact (NPOCs).

- ECSL as an instrument for promoting the establishment and development of national centres for space law research and giving them technical and other advice.

# ECSL institutional features

- Membership open to natural and legal persons from ESA Member States, Associate States and States having concluded cooperation agreements with ESA
- ECSL relies on ESA's legal personality
- Organs: two-yearly General Assembly, Board and Secretariat
- Financing: contribution from ESA, membership fees, voluntary contributions
- Located at ESA Headquarters in Paris

# The ECSL educational programme

- Activities directed towards students
- A) The Manfred Lachs Moot Court Competition: organization of the European semi-finals, either at ESA headquarters or in an European Law Faculty, with a colloquium on a specific topic;
- ECSL covers the costs of the team taking part in the final round at the yearly World Space Congress

# The ECSL educational programme

- Activities directed towards students
- B) The Summer Course on Space Law and Policy (from 1991)
- Attended by academics, technicians, government consulting and students from ESA Member States
- Lectures provide general knowledge and examine special fields
- Students prepare for mock pleading

# The ECSL educational programme

- Activities directed towards practitioners.
- A) The Practitioner's Forum (since 1992)
- A yearly gathering of practicing lawyers and professionals to provide them with an update of their knowledge and information
- One-day session on latest developments in special fields of space law
- Informal character of the Forum open to discussion and exchange of views

# The ECSL educational programme

- Activities directed towards practitioners.
- B)Capacity building: ECSL Regional Workshops in developing countries
- 1. Workshop on Space Law and Remote Sensing, Rabat, Royal Moroccan Centre for Remote Sensing, attended by 80 professionals and practitioners from several African countries
- 2. Workshop on Remote Sensing for Sustainable Development: Legal Aspects, Tunis, Regional Centre for Remote Sensing of Northern African States

# Other ECSL activities

- Organization of workshops and legal colloquia (i.e., Prague, 1997; Perugia, 1999)
- ECSL Newsletter
- ESALEX, the ECSL's database. It includes the databases of NPOCs and the libraries of the Leiden and Cologne Universities.

# Conclusions : The results of ECSL 12 years of activities

- International law, comparative law, private law, commercial and insurance law, patent law: the flow of knowledge from one to the other must be encouraged.
- The requirements: sound knowledge of international law; dedicated teachers; broad legal documentation; contacts with the private sector.
- ECSL is one example, which meets the needs of the European context.

# **The main objective of the ECSL**

- **to foster the exchange of information among interested stakeholders and to help to improve and promote the teaching of space law.**
- **to provide updated information on Europe's contribution to space activities beyond Europe,**
- **to enhance the European position in the field of space law practice, teaching and publications.**

- **Visit the ECSL website at**
- **[www.esa.int/SPECIALS/ECSL/](http://www.esa.int/SPECIALS/ECSL/)**