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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-fifth session
Vienna, 4-15 April 2016
Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
Capacity-building in space law

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Note by the Secretariat

1. At its fifty-fourth session, in 2015, the Legal Subcommittee recommended that States members and permanent observers of the Committee inform the Subcommittee, at its fifty-fifth session, of any action taken or planned at the national, regional or international level to build capacity in space law (A/AC.105/1090, para. 134).
2. The present document contains a reply received from Austria.

* A/AC.105/C.2/L.297.



Austria — Capacity-building 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 Law Faculty of 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". The aim of these courses is to give interested students an introduction to space law-related issues and to provide insights into recent developments in the field of space law. International guest professors and lecturers are invited on a regular basis. Students also have the possibility to visit the United Nations in Vienna and learn more about the work of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. Since the courses are taught in English they are attended by many international exchange students. In addition, seminars in international law with a special focus on space law are held on a regular basis.

On 17 June 2015, at the occasion of the 58th session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS), the National Point of Contact Space Law Austria (NPOC) at the University of Vienna together with the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) organised a conference entitled "US and European geospatial data policies: challenges of open data policy". Professor Joanne Irene Gabrynowicz, former Director of the National Center for Remote Sensing, Air, and Space Law at the University of Mississippi School of Law, and Professor Irmgard Marboe, Professor of Public International Law at the University of Vienna and head of the NPOC, presented a comparison of European and United States of America policies and perspectives on the use of geospatial data. Between May and July 2015, the Webster University, Vienna Campus, offered the course "International Law and Politics of Outer Space" in the Master's programme on International Relations.

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 UNCOPUOS and ESPI in Vienna. Further, a textbook and a casebook dealing with basics of space law have been published. A second edition is in progress.