

# **ESPI and international cooperation activities**

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June 2017

## Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) was set up by the General Assembly in 1959 to govern the exploration and use of space for the benefit of all humanity: for peace, security and development. The Committee was tasked with reviewing international cooperation in peaceful uses of outer space, studying space-related activities that could be undertaken by the United Nations, encouraging space research programmes, and studying legal problems arising from the exploration of outer space.

The Committee was instrumental in the creation of the five treaties and five principles of outer space. International cooperation in space exploration and the use of space technology applications to meet global development goals are discussed in the Committee every year. Owing to rapid advances in space technology, the space agenda is constantly evolving. The Committee therefore provides a unique platform at the global level to monitor and discuss these developments.

### ESPI cooperation activities:

- Call for Paper: Global Space Law Essay Competition “Fresh view on the Outer Space Treaty”
- Reports in cooperation with other institutes/universities
- Space regional reports i.e. Latin America, Africa ..
- ESPI-GRULAC diplo space meetings

On the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Outer Space Treaty the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) and the German Aerospace Center (DLR) invite students and young professionals globally to submit a paper which offers a fresh view on the Outer Space Treaty.

### **Aim of this competition:**

The aim of this competition is to write a paper which has a fresh legal view on the Outer Space Treaty. As such, the paper should not discuss the history of the Outer Space Treaty nor just discuss the current legal obligations, or even ambiguous legal obligations, under the Outer Space Treaty. Rather, the paper should consider an actual fresh legal view on the Outer Space Treaty, presenting new legal obligations that should be included, solutions to overcome diverging interpretations of current legal obligations or solutions that fill a void in the existing legal obligations in the Outer Space Treaty. This fresh legal view, however, should not just be an interpretation or perspective in the interest of one or a minority of States. The new legal obligation or solution should take into account the needs and interests of the whole international community and thus should be able to gain the acceptance of said whole international community. It is strongly encouraged that the paper only focus on one issue, rather than try to discuss a number of issues. This will allow the paper to adhere to the word limit while still offering an in-depth study. Beyond this limitation, participants are free to choose their subject, although it is encouraged to choose a unique and novel subject.

The most innovative, interesting or well-written papers will be accumulated and published. Moreover, the selected papers will be used as working material to support the discussion of the 16th Space Generation Congress Working Group titled, "Outer Space Treaty: The Next Fifty Years". (The Space Generation Congress (SGC) is the annual meeting of the Space Generation Advisory Council, and will be held in Adelaide, Australia on 21 - 23 September, 2017 prior to the 68th International Astronautical Congress (IAC).)

By submitting a paper participants consent to publication of their paper or part of it.

**Deadline:** 30 July 2017 (CET, 23:30h)

Please send your contribution in both a word and pdf format simultaneously to the following two e-mail addresses to ensure, from a technical point of view, that your contribution is well received: [Annette.Froehlich@espi.or.at](mailto:Annette.Froehlich@espi.or.at); [Annette.Froehlich@dlr.de](mailto:Annette.Froehlich@dlr.de)

We look forward to your contribution and thank you for taking part in this space endeavor!

## ESPI Studies in Space Policy:

### **"Space resource utilization - A view from an emerging space faring nation"**

in cooperation with University of Cape Town/Space Lab

- *analyses the aspect of space mining from the point of view of developing countries which very often possess vast amounts of natural resources;*
- *Space mining is considered a brand new avenue which could bring along countless economic opportunities, yet it may have adverse impacts on the economies of emerging countries, which more often than not find themselves to be in politically and/or economically fragile situations.*
- *These countries very often have a history of exploitation of natural resources that led to civil unrest and conflicts. Realizing that mining has a profound impact on the national GDP, but also on the environment and physical well-being of workers, asteroid mining brings along an unprecedented challenge, thus fostering interest and prompting the need for new technologies and industries.*
- *It requires the political system, the public, educational institutions and media entities to increase their awareness of the emerging phenomenon of natural resource gathering in outer space. It is time to take action; even for those nations currently in possession of a plethora of natural resources, as those highly demanded resources are expected to be exhausted within the next century*