

**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 2018**

**“The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rescue and Return  
Agreement: Relevance and Challenges”**

Monday, 9 April 2018  
15.00 – 18.00

Board Room D  
Building C  
Vienna International Centre

On the occasion of the 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Legal Subcommittee  
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

## INTRODUCTION

In 2018 the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts, and the Return of Objects Launched in Outer Space (ARRA), celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. After the Outer Space Treaty, the ARRA has the highest number of member states, and must be acknowledged as a successful legally binding international treaty.

The draft history of the ARRA reflects its origin as an instrument of the cold war era, where ensuring the security of astronauts and space objects landing or crashing on foreign territory was seen as a prime objective. Today, the political situation and space sector has dramatically changed. This Symposium will debate if the ARRA is still relevant today, potential challenges and ways forward.

In particular, the ARRAs relevance will be examined in light of the rapid privatisation, increased international cooperation and overall growing level of activity characterising the modern space sector. The benefits of adhering to the principles of the ARRA will be highlighted, but also the challenges relating to the practical interpretation and application of the principles in a changing environment. The symposium will conclude with a deliberation of how the UN COPUOS Legal Subcommittee can address these challenges within its bodies and the UNISPACE+50 context.

*Coordination Committee of the Symposium:*

*Kai-Uwe Schrogl (IISL), President*

*P.J. Blount (IISL)*

*Joanne Gabrynowicz (IISL)*

*Diane Howard (IISL)*

*Sergio Marchisio (ECSL), Chair*

*Mari Eldholm (ECSL)*

## PROGRAMME

**Welcome by Chair of LSC, President of IISL and Chair of ECSL  
Andrzej Misztal, Kai-Uwe Schrogl and Sergio Marchisio**

**Elina Morozova, Intersputnik:** The drafting and history of the Rescue and Return Agreement

**Niklas Hedman, UNOOSA:** “Return to sender” - Fifty years of the Rescue Agreement and the role of the United Nations

**Alexander Soucek, ESA:** The return of space objects: Legal annotations and practical experience

**Andrew Kuh, UK Space Agency:** Perspectives on the concept of astronaut and private space flight

**Jose Monserrat Filho, Brazilian Association of Air and Space Law:** Contemporary aspects of the Rescue Agreement turning 50

**Setsuko Aoki, Keio University Law School:** The future of ARRA and how to meet the challenges: The role of UN COPUOS Legal Subcommittee and UNISPACE+50

**Concluding remarks:**

**Kai-Uwe Schrogl, President - IISL**

**Sergio Marchisio, Chair - ECSL**

**Andrzej Misztal, Chair, Legal Subcommittee**