

Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**62nd session, 20 March 2023 – 31 March 2023****Vienna, Austria**

Agenda item 4 – Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations relating to space law

Statement on behalf of the European Centre for Space Law

Madame Chair,

Let me first extend my commendation and gratitude for your work in chairing this Subcommittee session. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation towards the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their excellent work in preparation of this hybrid session, and congratulate the Acting Director Niklas Hedman and his team for their ongoing efforts.

Distinguished delegates, let me express our gratitude for this opportunity to address the Subcommittee. The European Centre for Space Law, operating under the auspices of the European Space Agency, would like to highlight its achievements in promoting a wide range of space law related activities and capacity building opportunities by sharing its most important activities of the past year, as well as to provide a brief outlook of upcoming events.

In May 2022, the European Centre for Space Law, together with the Space Generation Advisory Council, organised the first virtual edition of a Model United Nations simulation, focusing on the topic of space resources. The simulation offered students and young professionals an excellent opportunity to delve into important discussions mirroring those taking place here this week.

In August 2022, the European Centre for Space Law organised the 30th edition of the Summer Course on Space Law and Policy with the support of NOVA Law School in Lisbon, Portugal. 50 students and young professionals from across Europe followed a variety of lectures on current space law and policy topics. We would like to thank the Portuguese Space Agency and our other local partners for helping us enhance the learning experience of the participants.

Continuing this successful event, we are looking forward to organising the next edition of the Summer Course in Budapest, Hungary, with the support of the National University of Public Service, in August of this year.

In September 2022, the annual edition of the European Centre for Space Law's Practitioners' Forum was held at the ESA booth during the International Astronautical Congress in Paris, France. This edition was opened by the ESA Director General and focused on the "role of law and policy in fostering a sustainable space sector".

The following month, the European Centre for Space Law organised, together with the Norwegian Space Agency and the University of Oslo, a symposium on the topic of

“adapting regulations for the rising number of spaceports” offering European regulators, operators and academics a chance to discuss different perspectives and needs.

In January this year, the European Centre for Space Law held an edition of its Executive Course on Space Law and Regulations, offering an introduction to current aspects of relevant space law issues for government representatives and industry professionals. Following the positive feedback on the usefulness of this type of tailor-made courses, we are aiming to offer two more editions in the course of 2023, adapting the programme and highlighting different aspects in each edition to best fit the participants’ needs.

Finally, looking ahead, one of the most important initiatives, the 30th edition of the European Regional Rounds of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court will be co-organised with the University of Jaén, Spain, where it will once again be held in person next month.

The moot court competition continues to be an excellent opportunity for students to engage in a fruitful debate and hone and put their skills in international space law to the test. The competition attracts many talents to the space law profession, among many of us.

Distinguished delegates, the European Centre for Space Law would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who continuously engage in and support the activities of the Centre. We are honoured and deeply grateful towards all your efforts and appreciation.

The European Centre for Space Law has successfully operated under the auspices of and from the Headquarters of the European Space Agency for the past 34 years, and will continue to follow its objectives to foster, promote and enhance knowledge on space law and policy in Europe and beyond, by engaging a wide variety of actors and encouraging interdisciplinary exchange for its wide range of activities.

Distinguished delegates, I welcome, and remain available for, any inquiries and information exchange.

I yield the remainder of my time to the Chair. Thank you.