

**Draft ESA/ECSL Statement, 64th session of the UN COPUOS Legal Subcommittee.**

**Agenda item 5. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity-building, to promote their implementation**

Mister Chair,

I would like to start by acknowledging your leadership and the exemplary way you have chaired the work of this Subcommittee. I also wish to extend my gratitude to the Office for Outer Space Affairs for its thorough preparation, dedicated support, and guidance, and to commend Ms. Holla-Maini for her outstanding effort as Director of the Office.

Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the European Centre for Space Law, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address this Subcommittee under this item.

The European Centre for Space Law, also known as the ECSL, was established in 1989 under the auspices of the European Space Agency (ESA). Its objective is to foster, promote and enhance knowledge on space law and policy in Europe and beyond. It does so through capacity building initiatives such as workshops, symposia, seminars and many other teaching, outreach and networking events. The Centre brings together Students, Academics, Professionals and Institutions and encourages interdisciplinary exchange.

The ECSL works to strengthen Europe in space law and supports the responsible, sustainable development of space activities under the rule of law. Its network of National Points of Contact in ESA Member States helps ensure that knowledge and opportunities in space law reach diverse communities, building capacity and advancing the implementation of international space law at both national and regional levels.

Allow me to outline some of the Centre's recent initiatives and upcoming milestones:

- The European Rounds of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court, organised in partnership with the International Institute of Space Law, give students a valuable chance to explore public international law and space law in depth. Teams from across Europe compete, with the annual European champion going on to face other regional winners at the World Rounds, held during the International Astronautical Congress. The 2025 edition, hosted at ESA Headquarters in Paris this April, brought together 15 universities, more than 40 students, and judges to debate "The Legality of Space Activities in Conflicts."

The University of Luxembourg won the 2025 European Rounds and will represent Europe in Sydney during the IAC.

- The ESA/ECSL Executive Course on Space Law and Policy offers a high-quality, tailored programme designed for government representatives and industry professionals, with a strong emphasis on the practical legal aspects of regulating and conducting space activities. This course helps to raise awareness and promote the implementation of international space law in both the public and private sectors. The next edition will take place at ESA's Space Operations Centre in Darmstadt, Germany, in June 2025, and will focus on the legal requirements involved in developing and managing a space mission.
- The ESA/ECSL Summer Course on Space Law and Policy is designed for students at all levels, offering a comprehensive programme of lectures delivered by academics, practitioners from international and national space institutions, and technical experts. Each year, the course covers a range of topics focused on international, regional, and domestic legal and policy frameworks governing space activities and applications, intending to spark participants' interest in this field and provide them with a solid foundation for their future careers or academic research. The 2024 edition, held at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, brought together over 50 participants, while the next edition will take place at the University of Technology in Tallinn, Estonia, in August 2025.

The ESA/ECSL also promote the implementation of international space law through a range of forums, symposia, and conferences. Notably, the IISL/ECSL Symposium, co-organised annually with the International Institute of Space Law brings together academic experts and leading practitioners in the field of space law, policy and regulation to discuss pressing issues and to propose solutions to the international community.

Dear Mister Chair, Dear delegates, let me conclude by inviting you to this year's Symposium, held on the 14th of May 2025, from 10.00 to 13.00 in Room M-Plenary of this International Centre, where a panel of prestigious speakers will discuss the principle of Due regard in outer space and its current legal implications during the morning session of this Subcommittee.

Dear Mr Chair, Distinguished delegates, the ECSL is looking forward to the work of this Subcommittee and will continue to foster collaboration and growth in the field of space law.

Thank you.