

**Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space****Legal Subcommittee**

61<sup>st</sup> session, Vienna, 28 March – 8 April 2022

**Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law – Agenda Item 5****ECSL statement**

Thank you very much Madame Chair for the floor.

Let me first join the previous speakers in congratulating you in having been elected Chair of the Legal Subcommittee. We would also like to extend our genuine gratitude to Mr. Niklas Hedman and his staff's achievements for their work, especially considering the hurdles of a hybrid session.

Dear Madame Chair, distinguished delegates, let me thank you for providing us with the opportunity to address this subcommittee. The European Centre for Space Law is looking back on a very eventful year and to illustrate the range of space law related activities, let me give you some examples of capacity building opportunities fostered by the ECSL since the last session of this subcommittee.

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 by organising workshops, symposia, seminars and many other teaching, outreach, and networking events. The Centre brings together students, academics, professionals, and institutional members and encourages interdisciplinary exchange.

In 2021, the ECSL inter alia supported and organised the following events:

**2021 European Rounds of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition**

The ECSL held the European Regional Rounds of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition in May/June of 2021 in a virtual format. The case at hand addressed “Mega-Constellations, Autonomous Space Operations and Freedom of Scientific Investigation”, which is a most current topic. There was a record number of participants, with more than 100 students and 27 teams in Europe.

### **2021 ECSL Summer Course on Space Law and Policy**

In August 2021, the ECSL held its 29<sup>th</sup> ECSL Summer Course in a virtual format. We had 50 students from around the world learning from academic and technical experts, as well as practitioners. They followed lectures on space law and policy issues, with a focus on the sustainable use of outer space, space resources exploitation and agreements leading to the Moon.

### **2021 ECSL Practitioners' Forum**

The ECSL Practitioners' Forum, an event dedicated to industry professionals, dealt with "Future Satellite Applications: legal and regulatory aspects" and consisted of three high level panels dedicated to the current use of AI in space technology and its legal consequences; blockchain capabilities; and the rise of quantum computing and its potential for space applications.

### **2021 ECSL Young Lawyers' Symposium**

Every year, the ECSL invites young scholars and professionals to take part in the Young Lawyers' Symposium (YLS). The aim of the YLS is to allow early career scholars and professionals to present a space law related topic in an international forum, exchange ideas and network. 2021 saw the second online edition of the Symposium, which centred around three panels on:

- The legal consequences of non-binding instruments in space law
- Do we need a new legal regime for Mars?
- New legal aspects of Satellite Remote Sensing

### **2021 ESA/ECSL Executive Course on Space Law and Regulation**

The Executive Course is a tailor-made course for government representatives and industry professionals, with a strong focus on the practical aspects of the legal dimensions relevant for regulating and conducting space activities. The course is organised together with legal and technical experts from ESA. Last year's course had a record number of applications.

### **ECSL Members' Happy Hour**

A new event introduced at the end of last year is the ECSL Members' Happy Hour, which is an exclusive event for ECSL members to share ideas, thoughts, and views on current space

(law) topics and occurrences. In December 2021, the topic discussed was “Envoys of Humankind”, whilst the February 2022 edition dealt with the issue of “Space Debris”.

### **2022 European Rounds of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition**

The 2022 European Rounds of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court were organised by the ECSL in collaboration with the local co-organiser, the University of Vienna, and again held online, due to ongoing restrictions. Last week, 3 successful days of preliminary rounds, judged by more than 50 judges, were followed by two semi-final rounds and one final round open to all participants within Europe.

### **2022 IISL/ECSL Symposium**

Dear Madame Chair, dear Delegates, let me briefly inform you about the upcoming IISL/ECSL Symposium that will take place next week on 5 April from 15.00 – 17.00 CEST at the margins of this LSC. The highly distinguished guest speakers will be delving into the often discussed and important topic of “National Laws and Regulations to Ensure Space Sustainability”.

Dear Madame Chair, dear distinguished members of the subcommittee, the ECSL is looking forward to the work of this 61<sup>st</sup> session.

With this I would like to conclude my intervention on behalf of the ECSL. Thank you.