

AUSTRIA, Item 9

**Sixty-first Session
of the Legal Subcommittee
of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Statement by Mr. Thomas Loidl, Austria
1 April 2022**

Agenda item 9

Capacity-building in Space Law

Madame Chair,

Capacity building in space law is essential as it is an important instrument to disseminate knowledge about international space law and gives interested students insights into recent developments in the field of space law and policy. Capacity-building activities of Austrian universities also serve to train the next generation of international lawyers well versed in the field of international space law.

On this occasion let me highlight the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition (MLMC), which is the student competition in the field of international space law with the longest history. Since 1992, the competition is organised every year by the International Institute of Space Law (IISL).

This renowned Moot Court Competition covers the geographic area of all five UN regional groups: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and North America. The competition in the European region is organized by the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL).

Every year, more than 60 teams participate in the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition and the Moot Court provides a unique learning experience for future space lawyers. The legally demanding challenges of the competition foster a better understanding of international space law by the participating students and thereby contribute to capacity building in this field.

In 2022 and again due to the ongoing pandemic, the oral part of the European competition took place in a virtual format just a few days ago from 22-28 March 2022. The final of the European competition is set to take place today, on the first day of the 61st Session of the Legal Subcommittee.

These virtual rounds of the European competition were organized by the National Point of Contact of the European Centre for Space Law of the University of Vienna and were financially supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, which is in charge of space matters.

Austria wishes the regional winners all the best for the world finals, which will take place in conjunction with the International Astronautical Congress this September in Paris.

In concluding, I would like to refer you to the website Austria-in-Space (<https://austria-in-space.at/en/space-law/>), which contains extensive information on Austrian space activities including in the field of space law.