

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

63<sup>rd</sup> session, 15 April 2024 – 26 April 2024, Vienna, Austria

**Agenda item 4 – General exchange of views****Statement on behalf of the European Centre for Space Law**

Chair,

Let me first extend my commendation for your election and wish you a successful term chairing this Subcommittee. I would like to express my gratitude to the outgoing Chair Nomfuneko Majaja for her excellent work in the past two years and thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their outstanding work in preparation of this session. As this is the first time the European Centre for Space Law, ECSL, takes the floor since the appointment of the new Director of the Office, Aarti Holla-Maini, I would like to take this opportunity and congratulate her for her leadership and wish her further success in her mandate.

Distinguished delegates, let me express my gratitude for this opportunity to address the Subcommittee. The ECSL, operating as part of the European Space Agency, would like to highlight its support to this Subcommittee and its Member States for continuing to foster opportunities for inter-sectoral dialogue related to space law, space policy and space diplomacy activities. The ECSL will continue to offer capacity building opportunities for both students and professionals, and share the expertise of its members to promote activities benefitting the global space community, focusing of course on European regional developments as per its mandate.

Since the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Subcommittee, the ECSL engaged in a variety of capacity-building initiatives. To highlight a few, I would like to firstly mention the successful organisation of the European Regional Rounds of the Manfred Lachs Moot Court Competition, for which the International Institute of Space Law has entrusted the ECSL with in its capacity as “Regional Organiser”. With the local coordination support of the University of Jaén, Spain in 2023 and the University of Vienna, Austria in 2024, a new generation of law students were able to exercise their skills in international space law. The competition continues to attract many talents to the space law profession, indicated as many of its alumni now sit among us. The ECSL is happy to note that from 2025 onwards, the European Regional Rounds will annually be held at the headquarters of the European Space Agency in Paris.

In 2023, the ECSL together with the Space Generation Advisory Council, organised an in-person Model United Nation simulation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

at the headquarters of the European Space Agency in Paris. The simulation offered an opportunity to discuss the topic of space sustainability and mirror discussions taking place here this week.

Pertaining to its annual Summer Course on Space Law and Policy, the ECSL would like to extend its gratitude to the Ludovika University of Public Service for the co-organisation of the 2023 edition in Budapest, Hungary, focusing on the topic of the relationship between space and telecommunications law. This year's edition of the summer course will take place in Athens, Greece with the support of the local co-organiser National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

The ECSL also offered opportunities for working professionals to partake in roundtables and workshops on diverse matters relevant to practical matters of space law and policy, including separate discussions on non-legally binding instruments, national space laws and space arbitration as part of the practitioner's forum, and a dedicated workshop on a "Zero Debris Future" co-organised with ESA's PROTECT Accelerator. We would like to continue offering tailor-made courses for professionals and contribute to wide-sector capacity building, including through the support of UN OOSA's Space Law for New Space Actors project and its technical advisory missions.

Distinguished delegates, the ECSL would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who continuously engage in and support the activities of the Centre. I am honoured and deeply grateful towards all your efforts and appreciation.

The ECSL has successfully operated as part of and from the Headquarters of the European Space Agency with its full support 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. Going forward, ECSL would like to continue engaging a wide variety of actors and encourage interdisciplinary exchange for its 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.