

7 June 2010

English only

**Committee on the Peaceful Uses
of Outer Space**
Fifty-third session
Vienna, 9-18 June 2010

**Request for observer status with the United Nations
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: application
of the International Association for the Advancement of
Space Safety (IAASS)**

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its fifty-second session, in 2009, the Committee took note of the application of the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety, a non-governmental organization, for permanent observer status with the Committee. The related correspondence and the statutes of that organization were before the Committee in conference room paper A/AC.105/2009/CRP.8. The Committee agreed to postpone its decision on the granting of permanent observer status to IAASS until the next session of the Committee, taking into account the need for further information (A/64/20, para. 312).

2. The present document contains further information provided to the Secretariat by IAASS. Conference room paper A/AC.105/2009/CRP.8 is also attached to this document.



COPUOS Chairman
Office for Outer Space Affairs
United Nations Office at Vienna
Vienna International Center
Wagramerstrasse 5,
A-1220 Vienna
AUSTRIA

Noordwijk, 11 May 2010

cc.: Mr. Niklas Hedman

Dear Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Board of the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety (IAASS), I have the honour and pleasure to respectfully submit confirmation of our application for the status of Observer Organization at UNCOPUOS.


The IAASS was established in 2004 in the aftermath of a series of ground and flight accidents which took place within months, starting with the Soyuz launch accident of December 2002 in Pletzesk, followed by the tragic loss of the Shuttle Columbia, the explosion of the Brazilian VLS-1 rocket at Alcantara Launch Center, which took 21 lives, and the accident at the Indian solid rocket processing facility. The rationale that brought the IAASS into existence was that the risk level of space systems is often of international interest and nature. Space safety engineers and scientists should therefore apply themselves to internationally advance the safety disciplines while policy makers, and regulatory and legal experts should concurrently work toward establishing an orderly regime for the international civil and commercial use of space. Space safety is about international cooperation to preserve the space environment, ensure common criteria for acceptable international safety risk, and keeping safety uncompromised by commercial competition.

The IAASS is the premiere worldwide professional space safety association. Several top experts in space safety are members of the Association, including former US Senator and first American to orbit, John Glenn, who is Honorary Member. Currently the membership of the association includes professionals from 21 countries in 5 continents. The membership of the association is made of experts from the aerospace industry, space agencies and academy. The Board of the association includes representatives elected by the IAASS General Assembly, but it includes also regional representatives elected by local members to ensure the widest possible international composition. The Association pays great attention to space safety research and education matters. We arrange conferences, highly specialized training courses and publication of unique textbooks. In 2009 the IAASS has published with Elsevier the first ever university textbook on *Safety Design for Space Systems*, which is sold-out and in reprint. A follow up book on "*Space Safety Regulations and Standards*" will be in the bookstores in August 2010, while a third book on space operations safety is currently in work. Furthermore before summer the IAASS will published on its website a study with the title "*An ICAO for Space?*" which is a

unique and original contribution to the debate about possible models for a future regulatory regime for the outerspace region of commercial, civil and military interest. Wide recognition of the Association dedication and efforts is continuously growing. For example, the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs commended in 2008 the efforts of IAASS in promoting "...remediation, understanding and measures in respect of space debris". The Association is neither linked to nor financed by space agencies, aerospace companies or other organizations, but now and then applies for sponsorships for specific events like conferences and workshops mainly for the sake of making the registration fee affordable, to support the participation of academic personnel, young professionals and students, and to cover the costs of the two IAASS awards. (*Jerome Lederer Space Safety Pioneer Award* and *Vladimir Syromiatnikov Safety-by Design Award*).

Why are we applying to the status of UNCOPUOS Observer Organization? The business of space is fraught with risks not only for the crew on board and for ground personnel, but also for the public on ground, at sea or travelling by air. Furthermore, also the space and ground environment are at risk and may become unsustainable. Currently there are thousands of objects tracked on-orbit, which are a potential direct threat to manned and unmanned orbiting space assets, and indirectly to terrestrial space based safety critical services (Earth monitoring, GPS, etc.). There are also important atmospheric pollution effects from chemical rockets propulsion, and environmental impacts on ground in case of spillage of toxic fuels due launch failures or spacecraft re-entries. As spectacularly demonstrated by the on-orbit collision back in February 2009, further international cooperative efforts are needed to balance the multiple civil/commercial interests in space with viable practical measures to ensure the global interest. We firmly believe that procrastination is no longer viable and that a historical passage is approaching. Sooner than later space will be cooperatively managed as we do for international airspace or high seas. The UNCOPUOS will play a renewed pivotal role in such matters and we wish therefore very much to have the opportunity to join the efforts and contribute our independent technical expertise as suitable for an Observer Organization.

I thank you very much for your kind attention, respectfully

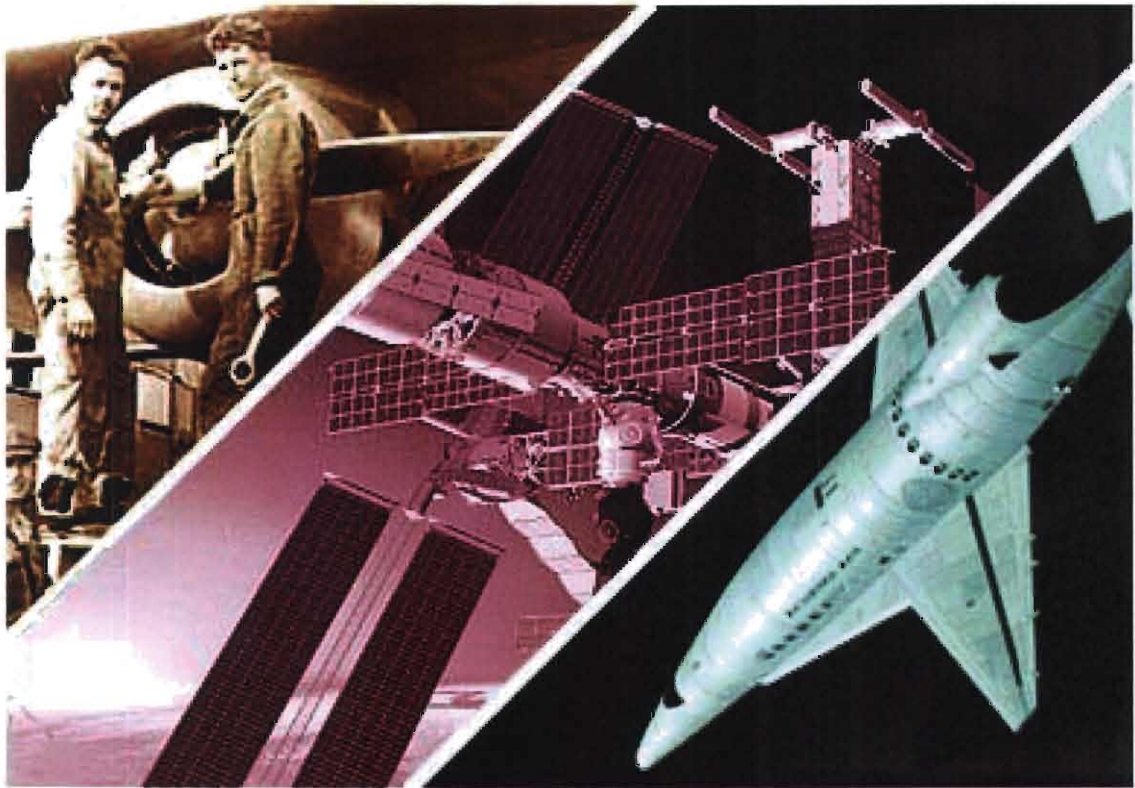

for Alex Soons
IAASS Executive Director

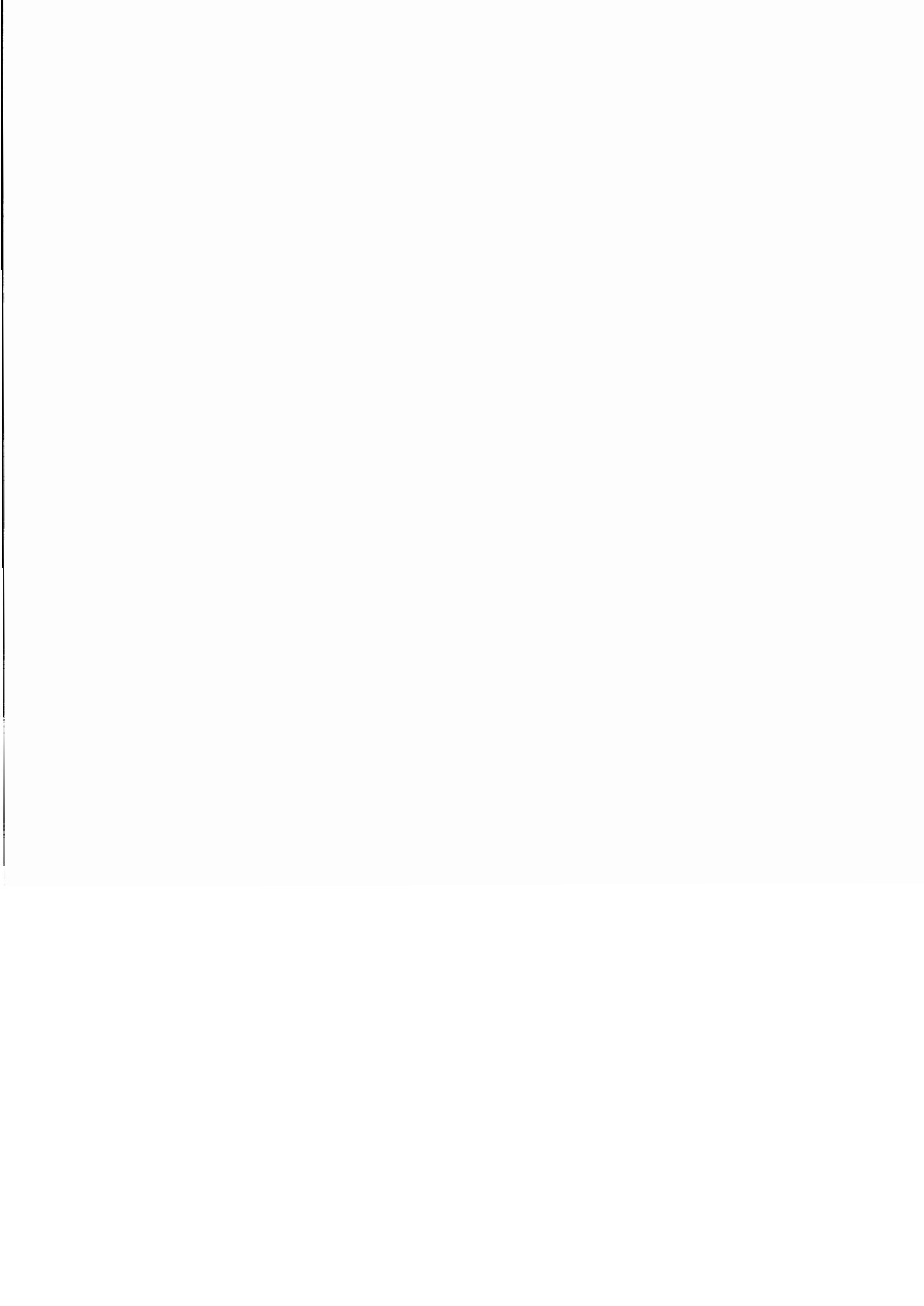
Huygensstraat 44-2A
2201 DK Noordwijk
The Netherlands

IAASS

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SPACE SAFETY

*Manifesto
For
Safe and Sustainable Outer Space*





COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF
OUTER SPACE
Fifty-second session
Vienna, 03-12 June 2009
Agenda item 15
Other Matters

Request for observer status with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Outer Space: application from the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety (IAASS)

Note by the secretariat

1. At its thirty-third session, in 1990, the Committee considered guidelines for granting observer status with the Committee to international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The possible criteria suggested by the Outer Space Affairs Division to the Committee at the time were the following:
 - (a) As part of its programme, the organization should be concerned with matters falling within the competence of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;
 - (b) The aims and purposes of the organization should be in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;
 - (c) The organization should be a recognized international organization and should have an established headquarters, an executive officer, and a constitution, a copy of which is deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In the case of a non-governmental organization, it should be a non-profit organization.
2. Having considered the matter, the Committee at its thirty-third session, agreed, that in the future non-governmental organizations which request observer status with the Committee should have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and should, as part of their programmes, be concerned with matters falling within the competence of the Committee.
3. While the Committee's decision did not specifically include the elements referred to in 2(c) above, it has been the practice of the Committee, since its decision in 1990, to have before it the constitution or statutes of the organization or entity requesting observer status.

4. On 4 May 2009 the Office for Outer Space Affairs received an application for observer status with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space from the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety. The related correspondence and documentation received from IAASS is attached in the annex to this document for consideration by the Committee.

Dr. Mazlan Othman
Director
Office for Outer Space Affairs
United Nations Office at Vienna
Vienna International Center
Wagramerstrasse 5,
A-1220 Vienna
AUSTRIA

Katwijk, 04 May 2009

Dear Director,

I have the honour and pleasure of writing to you on behalf of the Board of the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety (IAASS), to apply for the status of Observer Organization at UNCOPUOS.

The IAASS is the premiere worldwide professional space safety association. Many of the top worldwide experts in space safety are members of the Association including former US Senator and first American to orbit, John Glenn, who is Honorary Member. The Association pays great attention to space safety research and education matters. We arrange conferences, highly specialized training courses and publication of unique textbooks. Wide recognition of the Association dedication and efforts is continuously growing. Last year, for example, the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs commended the efforts of IAASS in promoting "...remediation, understanding and measures in respect of space debris" (see enclosed report).


The IAASS was established in 2004 in the aftermath of a series of ground and flight accidents which took place within months, starting with the Soyuz launch accident of December 2002 in Pletzesk, followed by the tragic loss of the Shuttle Columbia, the explosion of the Brazilian VLS-1 rocket at Alcantara Launch Center, which took 21 lives, and the accident at the Indian solid rocket processing facility. The rationale that brought the IAASS into existence was that the risk level of space systems is often of international interest and nature. Space safety engineers and scientists should therefore apply themselves to internationally advance the safety disciplines while policy makers, and regulatory and legal experts should concurrently work toward establishing an orderly regime for the international civil and commercial use of space. Space safety is about international cooperation to preserve the space environment, ensure common criteria for acceptable international safety risk, and keeping safety uncompromised by commercial competition.

Why are we applying to the status of UNCOPUOS Observer Organization? The business of space is fraught with risks not only for the crew on board and for ground personnel, but also for the public on ground, at sea or travelling by air. Furthermore, also the space and ground environment are at risk and may become unsustainable. Currently there are thousands of objects tracked on-orbit, which are a potential direct threat to manned and unmanned orbiting space assets, and indirectly to terrestrial space based safety critical services (Earth monitoring, GPS, etc.). There are also important atmospheric pollution effects from chemical rockets propulsion,

and environmental impacts on ground in case of spillage of toxic fuels due launch failures or spacecraft re-entries. As spectacularly demonstrated by the on-orbit collision back in February, further international cooperative efforts are needed to balance the multiple civil/commercial interests in space with viable practical measures to ensure the global interest. We firmly believe that procrastination is no longer viable and that a historical passage is approaching. Sooner than later space will be cooperatively managed as we do for international airspace or high seas. The UNCOPUOS will play a renewed pivotal role in such matters and we wish therefore very much to have the opportunity to join the efforts and contribute our independent technical expertise as suitable for an Observer Organization.

Finally, I would like to let you know that I was encouraged to make this application to you by Ambassador Dr. Ciro Arevalo-Yepes which I had the pleasure to meet in March in Washington at the occasion of an international SSA conference.

I thank you very much for your kind attention, respectfully



Tommaso Sgobba
IAASS President

c/o ESTEC
Keplerlaan 1-PO Box 299
2200AG Noordwijk ZH
The Netherlands

IAASS

MANIFESTO FOR A SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE OUTER SPACE

We express our serious concern about the safety and sustainability of civil and commercial space activities and call upon all nations to cooperate with determination and goodwill to enhance access to and promote the use of outer space for the benefit of present and future generations by committing to:

- I) *Ensure that citizens of all nations are equally protected from the risks posed by launching, over-flying, and re-entering/returning of space systems;*
- II) *Ensure that all space systems are designed, developed, built and operated in accordance with common minimum ground and flight safety rules, procedures and standards based on the knowledge and accumulated experience of all space-faring nations;*
- III) *Establish international traffic control rules and management for launch, on-orbit and re-entry operations to prevent collisions or interference with other space systems and with air traffic;*
- IV) *Ensure the protection of the ground, air and on-orbit environments from chemical, radioactive and debris contamination related to space operations;*
- V) *Ban intentional destruction of any on-orbit space system or other harmful activities that pose safety and environmental risks;*
- VI) *Ensure that mutual aid provisions for emergencies involving space safety are progressively agreed, developed, implemented and made accessible without discrimination or restriction anywhere on the Earth and in outer space.*

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

A6-0250/2008

10.6.2008

REPORT

on Space and security
(2008/2030(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Rapporteur: Karl von Wogau

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recommends, therefore, that the revised European Security Strategy should take this policy appropriately into account, and is of the view that space matters should be reflected in the possible White Paper on Security and Defence Policy:

4. Notes the inclusion of a legal basis for the European Space Policy in the Treaty of Lisbon; welcomes the opportunity given to it and to the Council to lay down, under the ordinary legislative procedure, the measures needed to shape a European Space Programme: calls on the Commission to submit to it and to the Council an appropriate proposal for such measures, together with a Communication relating to the establishment of appropriate relations with the European Space Agency; also welcomes the possibilities of permanent structured cooperation in security and defence matters and enhanced cooperation in the civilian area;
5. Encourages the Member States of the European Union, the European Space Agency and the various stakeholders to make greater and better use of the existing national and multinational space systems and to foster their mutual complementarity; notes in this respect that common capabilities are needed for ESDP in at least the following areas: telecommunications, information management, observation and navigation; recommends the sharing and exchange of these data in line with the EU concept for Network Centric Operations Architecture;
6. Applauds the efforts of the International Academy of Astronautics and the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety to promote remediation, understanding and measures in respect of space debris;

Autonomous threat assessment

7. Calls on the Member States to pool and exchange the geospatial intelligence necessary for autonomous EU threat assessment;

Earth observation and reconnaissance

8. Urges that the European Union Satellite Centre (EUSC) be fully developed to make full use of its potential; moreover, recommends the urgent conclusion of agreements between the EUSC and the EU Member States to provide imagery available to ESDP operation and force commanders while ensuring complementarity with Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) observation capacities and derived security-related information; in this regard, welcomes the Tactical Imagery Exploitation Station project, run jointly by the European Defence Agency (EDA) and the EUSC;
9. Urges the EU Member States having access to the various types of radar, optical and weather observation satellites and reconnaissance systems (Helios, SAR-Lupe, TerraSAR-X, Rapid Eye, Cosmo-Skymed, Pleiades) to make them compatible: welcomes the bilateral and multilateral agreements between the leading EU countries (e.g. SPOT, ORFEO, the Helios cooperative framework, the Schwerin agreement, and the future MUSIS); recommends that the MUSIS system be brought within a European framework and financed from the EU budget;

K O P I E
OPRICHTING

Bladzijde 1 van 8

ENGELSE VERTALING VAN DE DOORLOPENDE TEKST VAN DE STATUTEN -----

CHARTER -----

Name and registered office -----

Article 1 -----

1. The name of the Association shall be: -----
International Association for Advancement of Space Safety. -----
2. The Association shall have its registered office in the municipality of Katwijk -----
(Zuid-Holland). -----

Object -----

Article 2 -----

1. The object of the Association shall be: -----
 - to advance the science and application of Space System Safety, notably in --
relation to the safety of persons and property in connection with (the use ----
of) transport and exploration vehicles, in relation to sending persons and ----
property into stationary orbit around celestial bodies and in relation to -----
manned space stations; -----
 - to improve communication, dissemination of knowledge and co-operation ----
between interested groups and individuals in this field and related fields; -----
 - to improve understanding and awareness of the Space System Safety -----
discipline; -----
 - to promote and improve the development of Space System Safety -----
professionals and standards; -----
 - to advocate the establishment of safety laws, rules, and regulatory bodies ---
at national and international level. -----
2. The Association shall endeavour to achieve this object *inter alia* by meetings, ----
electronic communication, publications, lectures, workshops and conferences. -----

Duration -----

Article 3 -----

1. The Association has been entered into for an indefinite period of time. -----
2. The financial year of the Association shall coincide with the calendar year, on ----
the understanding that the first financial year shall commence on the date of ----
the formation of the Association and shall end on the thirty-first of December of ---
the year following the year of formation. -----

Membership -----

Article 4 -----

1. The Association shall have members. -----

2. Members shall only be regarded as members if they have registered as -----
members in writing with the Committee and if they have been admitted as -----
members by the Committee, which shall appear from a statement issued by the --
Committee. -----
In the event of non-admittance by the Committee the General Meeting may yet ---
decide to admit the member concerned. -----
3. The membership shall be personal and shall not be subject to transfer or be -----
acquired by succession. -----

Article 5 -----

1. The membership shall end: -----
a. as a result of the member's death; -----
b. when the membership is terminated by the member; -----
c. when the membership is terminated by the Association; -----
d. as a result of disqualification. -----
2. The member may only terminate the membership at the end of a financial year. --
The member shall terminate the membership by letter addressed to the -----
Committee subject to a notice period of at least four weeks. -----
If termination is not effected in time, the membership shall be continued until -----
the end of the following financial year. -----
The membership shall end at once: -----
a. if the member cannot reasonably be expected to allow continuation of the ----
membership; -----
b. within one month after a member has been notified of a decision restricting --
the members' rights or increasing their obligations (unless it concerns a ----
change of the financial rights and obligations); -----
c. within one month after a member has been notified of a decision to convert --
the Association into a different legal form or a decision to enter into a ----
merger. -----
3. The Committee may terminate the membership on behalf of the Association at ---
the end of the current financial year: -----
- if a member has not fulfilled all his financial obligations to the Association ----
for the current financial year on the first of November after he has -----
repeatedly been requested to do so; -----
- if the member has ceased to meet the requirements for membership set ----
out in the Charter at that moment. -----
The notice period shall at least be four weeks. -----
If termination has not been effected in time, the membership shall be continued --
until the end of the following financial year. -----
However, the membership may end immediately after the notice of termination ---

has been given, if the Association cannot reasonably be expected to allow -----
continuation of the membership. -----

Termination shall be effected in writing, together with a statement of the -----
reasons. -----

4. Disqualification from membership shall only be pronounced if a member acts -----
contrary to the Charter, regulations or decisions of the Association or if the -----
member unreasonably disadvantages the Association. The disqualification shall --
be effected by the Committee, which shall forthwith notify the member of its -----
decision, stating the reasons. The member concerned shall be entitled to lodge ---
an appeal with the General Meeting within one month from receipt of the -----
notification. -----

During the period of appeal and pending the outcome of the appeal, the -----
member shall be suspended. A suspended member shall not be entitled to -----
vote. -----

5. If the membership ends in the course of a financial year, the annual contribution --
shall nevertheless be payable in full by the member, unless the Committee has ---
decided otherwise. -----

Donors -----

Article 6 -----

1. Donors shall only be regarded as donors if they have been admitted as such by --
the Committee. The Committee shall be authorised to terminate the donorship ----
by written notification. -----
2. Donors shall be obliged to pay the Association an annual financial contribution, ---
of which the minimum shall be determined by the General Meeting. -----
3. Donors shall only be entitled to attend the General Meeting. They shall not be ----
entitled to vote, but they shall be entitled to speak. -----
4. If a donor is a legal entity, this donor shall be represented by no more than two ---
persons at the General Meeting. - -----

Contributions -----

Article 7 -----

An annual contribution shall be payable by every member. The amount of the -----
contribution shall be determined by the General Meeting. -----

Committee -----

Article 8 -----

1. The Committee shall comprise no fewer than three and no more than thirty -----
natural persons, who shall choose a chairman, a secretary and a treasurer from --
their number. -----
2. The General Meeting shall elect the members of the Committee on the binding ---
recommendation by the Committee. This recommendation may be deprived of ---

its binding nature by a decision of the meeting taken by a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes cast.

Non-members of the Association may also be appointed as members of the Committee. By means of the aforesaid binding recommendation the Committee shall endeavour to ensure that the nationality of the members of the Committee reflects the nationality of the members of the Association.

The Committee shall determine the number of members of the Committee.

3. The General Meeting shall at all times be authorised to suspend and dismiss members of the Committee, stating the reasons. The General Meeting shall take a decision with regard to suspension or dismissal by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.
4. The suspension of a member of the Committee shall end if the General Meeting has not decided to dismiss the member concerned within three months after this. The suspended member of the Committee shall be given the opportunity to account for his actions at the General Meeting and shall be entitled to legal assistance during the meeting.
5. Members of the Committee shall be appointed for a period of no more than four year(s). In this context a year shall be understood to mean the period between two consecutive annual General Meetings. The members of the Committee shall retire by rotation pursuant to a schedule to be drawn up by the Committee. An officer retiring by rotation shall immediately be eligible for reappointment for four times.
6. If the number of members of the Committee has dropped below the minimum referred to in paragraph 1, the Committee shall nevertheless remain authorised to act. The Committee shall be obliged to convene a General Meeting forthwith, during which the vacancy or vacancies to be filled shall be discussed.
7. The provisions of Articles 11 to 14 shall apply to the meetings and the decisions taken by the Committee whenever possible.

Article 9

1. The Committee shall be responsible for the management of the Association.
2. Subject to prior approval of the General Meeting the Committee shall be authorised to take decisions with regard to entering into agreements in order to acquire, dispose of or encumber property subject to public registration and with regard to entering into agreements by means of which the Association binds itself as a surety or as joint and several debtor, warrants performance by a third party or provides security for a debt of a third party.

Article 10

1. The Association shall be represented by the Committee.
2. Moreover the chairman together with the secretary or the treasurer or the

secretary together with the treasurer shall be authorised to represent the Association.

3. The chairman together with the secretary and the treasurer may appoint a general manager to conduct the administration of the Association and to implement and organise activities of the Association. The Committee shall determine the salary level for this general manager.

The General Meeting

Article 11

The General Meeting shall be held at the municipality where the Association has its registered office or at a location to be determined by the Committee.

Article 12

1. The members who are not suspended, the donors as well as those persons who have been invited to attend the General Meeting by the Committee and/or the General Meeting shall have access to the General Meeting. A suspended member shall have access to the meeting at which the decision to suspend the member concerned is dealt with, and shall be authorised to speak about this during this meeting. If a member is a legal entity, this member shall be represented by no more than two persons at the General Meeting.
2. Except for suspended members every member of the Association shall be entitled to one vote at the General Meeting. Every person entitled to vote may authorise another member of the Association holding voting rights or a member of the Committee in writing to vote on his behalf. A member of the Association holding voting rights may act as authorised representative for no more than five persons. A member of the Committee may act as authorised representative for an unlimited number of persons.
3. A unanimous decision of all those who are entitled to vote, even if they are not meeting, shall have the same force as a decision of the General Meeting, provided that the Committee was informed of this in advance. This decision may be taken in writing.
4. The chairman shall determine in what manner the votes at the General Meeting shall be taken.
5. All decisions for which no larger majority is prescribed by law or pursuant to this Charter, shall be taken by an absolute majority of the votes cast. In the event of an equality of votes the proposal concerned shall be rejected. If the votes are equally divided during the election of persons, lots shall be drawn. If no absolute majority is obtained by anyone during the election between more than two persons, a second vote shall be held between the two persons who obtained most votes, if necessary after an intermediate vote.

Article 13 -----

1. The General Meetings shall be chaired by the chairman or, if the chairman is absent, by the oldest member of the Committee present. -----
if there are no members of the Committee present, the meeting itself shall -----
appoint a chairman. -----
2. The judgement concerning the result of a vote pronounced by the chairman at -----
the General Meeting, shall be final. -----
This shall also apply to the contents of a decision taken, insofar as it concerns -----
a vote on a proposal which has not been laid down in writing. -----
However, if the correctness of the chairman's judgement is challenged -----
immediately after the judgement has been pronounced, a new vote shall be -----
taken if this is requested by the majority of the meeting or - if the original vote -----
was not taken by roll call or by ballot - by a person who is entitled to vote and -----
who is present. -----
As a result of this new vote the legal consequences of the original vote shall be -----
cancelled. -----
3. Minutes shall be taken of the proceedings at the General Meeting by the -----
secretary or by a person appointed by the chairman. -----
These minutes shall be confirmed at the same or the next General Meeting and --
shall be signed by the chairman and the secretary of this meeting as proof -----
thereof. -----

Article 14 -----

1. The financial year of the Association shall coincide with the calendar year. -----
At least one General Meeting shall be held each year, within six months after -----
the end of the book year, unless this period has been extended by the General -----
Meeting. At this General Meeting the Committee shall submit its annual report -----
of the state of affairs within the Association and of the policy pursued. The -----
Committee shall submit the balance and the statement of assets and liabilities -----
together with an explanation to the General Meeting for approval. -----
These documents shall be signed by the members of the Committee; if the -----
signature of one or more members of the Committee is missing, this shall be -----
indicated together with a statement of the reasons. After the term has expired, ---
every member may demand fulfilment of these obligations at law from the joint ---
members of the Committee. -----
2. If no audit report as referred to under Article 2:393, paragraph 1, of the Dutch -----
Civil Code, relating to the reliability of the documents mentioned in the previous -----
paragraph; is submitted to the General Meeting, the General Meeting shall -----
annually appoint a commission comprising at least two persons who are not -----
members of the Committee. -----

3. The Committee shall be obliged to provide the commission with all information --- which it may require and, if requested, show the commission the cash and the ---- securities and allow inspection of the accounts and documents of the ----- Association, for the purpose of its examination. -----
4. The commission shall examine the documents referred to in paragraph 1 and ---- paragraph 3. -----
5. If, according to the commission, special accounting knowledge is required for ---- this examination, it may call in the assistance of an expert for the Association's --- account. The commission shall report its findings to the General Meeting. -----

Article 15 -----

1. General meetings shall be convened by the Committee as often as the ----- Committee deems this desirable or shall be obliged to under the law. -----
2. At the written request of at least one-tenth of the members entitled to vote the ---- Committee shall be obliged to convene a General Meeting, to be held within ----- four weeks after the request has been filed. -----
If the request is not acceded to within two weeks, the requestors shall be ----- entitled to convene the General Meeting themselves in the manner referred to ---- in paragraph 3 or by means of an advertisement in at least one much-read daily -- newspaper. In that event the requestors may appoint non-members of the ----- Committee to chair the meeting and take the minutes. -----
3. The General Meeting shall be convened by written notice addressed to the ----- members entitled to vote at least seven days prior to the meeting. -----
The notice convening the meeting shall include the business to be transacted at -- the General Meeting. -----

Amendment to the Charter -----

Article 16 -----

1. The Charter shall only be amended on the basis of a decision of the General ---- Meeting which has been convened by means of a notice stating that an ----- amendment to the Charter will be proposed at that meeting. -----
2. The persons who have convened the General Meeting at which a proposal to ---- amend the Charter will be dealt with, shall, at least five days prior to the ----- meeting, deposit a copy of this proposal, including the literal text of the ----- amendment proposed, for inspection by the members at a suitable location until -- the end of the day on which the meeting was held. -----
3. The General Meeting may only decide to amend the Charter by at least a two- ---- thirds majority of the votes cast. -----
4. The amendment to the Charter shall not become effective until a notarial deed --- thereof has been drawn up. -----
Each of the members of the Committee shall be authorised to have the -----

- amendment to the Charter executed. -----
5. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply, if all persons entitled to vote are present or represented at the General Meeting and the decision to amend the Charter is taken unanimously. -----
 6. The members of the Committee shall be obliged to deposit an officially certified copy of the deed of the amendment to the Charter and the complete text of the Charter as it reads after the amendment at the office of the Trade Register of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. -----

Dissolution and liquidation -----

Article 17 -----

1. The provisions of Article 16, paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 5, shall apply by analogy to a decision of the General Meeting to dissolve the Association. -----
2. The General Meeting shall allocate the credit balance on the basis of its decision referred to in the previous paragraph, whenever possible in accordance with the object of the Association. -----
3. Liquidation shall be effected by the Committee. -----
4. Insofar as this is necessary the Association shall continue to exist after its dissolution until its property has been liquidated. During the liquidation the provisions of the Charter shall remain in force whenever possible. -----
In documents and notifications issued by the Association the words "in the process of being wound up" shall be added to its name. -----
5. The liquidation shall end at the moment when there remain no assets known to the liquidator. -----
6. The accounts and documents of the dissolved Association shall be retained for a period of ten years after its liquidation. The depositary shall be appointed by the liquidators. -----

Regulations -----

Article 18 -----

1. The General Meeting may draw up and amend one or more regulations covering issues which have not (fully) been provided for by this Charter. -----
2. The regulations shall not contain provisions which are contrary to the law or this Charter. -----
3. The provisions of Article 16, paragraphs 1, 2 and 5, shall apply by analogy to decisions to adopt and amend the regulations. -----

Final stipulation -----

Article 19 -----

All powers relating to the Association which have not been vested in other bodies by law or pursuant to this Charter, shall rest with the General Meeting. -----