Space law education in Europe

The European Centre For Space Law (ECSL)

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Space law in Europe: *a scattered landscape*

- **All** ESA Member States are States parties to the Outer Space Treaty
- **Different** legal traditions, different political realities
- **National** space laws on the rise
- **Across** Europe: space law teaching, outreach and education, legal practice
The ECSL in a nutshell

- Created under the auspices of the European Space Agency in 1989
- No legal personality; ECSL Charter
- Located at ESA HQ in Paris, France
- Mandate: to promote knowledge, awareness and development of the legal framework relevant for space activities.
• **Members:** academics, students, lawyers and representatives from industry, space agencies and IGOs...
How the ECSL works

• Administration and management: the ECSL Executive Secretary (ESA, Paris)
• Programmatic decision-making: the ECSL Board (10 members and one Student Representative)
• The network across Europe: 17 National Points of Contacts (ESA Member States) + “Friends of the ECSL”
National space laws in Europe

- **11** ESA Member States have national laws *(in orange)*
- **3** other Member States have regulatory acts, e.g. for liability or registration only *(in red)*
- The rest have not as of yet adopted national space law *(in blue)*
Objective: assist legislators, mission designers and approving authorities in addressing space debris in a coherent way and according to best current practices

- Day 1 – Regulation
- Day 2 – Standards
- Day 3 – Tools

Target participants: government, industry, space agencies and IGO professionals
IISL/ECSL Symposium
1 April 2019, United Nations, Vienna, Austria

- Organised together with the International Institute for Space Law (IISL)
- Taking place at the first day of the UN COPUOS Legal Subcommittee
- Topic 2019: The 40th Anniversary of the Moon Agreement
- Target participants: COPUOS delegates
- Opportunity for ECSL members to participate at UN level
Practitioners Forum
25 April 2019, ESA ESTEC, The Netherlands

• An ECSL Flagship event
• to provide an opportunity to network and discuss topical areas of space law and policy relevant to the space sector
• Experts present on topics, followed by debate
• Target participants: professionals from the space sector, students, academics
Young Lawyers Symposium
26 April 2019, ESA ESTEC, The Netherlands

• An opportunity for young scholars and professionals to present a paper on a space law-related topic:
  – discuss with the community
  – publish on ECSL website

• Topics for 2019:
  1) The Future of the Moon Agreement
  2) Commercial Mining of Celestial Bodies
  3) Protection of Cultural Heritage Sites on the Moon
ECSL organises the European Rounds

New city and new university every year

ECSL sponsors European winners to world finals

World finals: IAC 2019, Washington (USA)
ECSL Executive Course: Space Law and Regulations
2nd half of 2019, ESA ESTEC, the Netherlands

• 3- day course for space professionals
  - regulating space activities
  - implementing space laws
• to facilitate expert discussions relevant for the practical aspects of regulating space activities
ECSL Summer Course on Space Law and Policy

• An ECSL flagship event
• 40-50 students from across Europe and beyond
• Two weeks, +/- 50 lectures, practice day, theme project
• Free for students from, or studying in, ESA Member States
Conclusion

Capacity
Capacity building and facilitate for dialogue across sectors

Communication
Where Europe meets to discuss space law

Community
Europe’s network for space law

Cooperation
Reaching out to ... Japan!