

Program of the Symposium

**International Institute of Space Law (IISL) and
European Centre for Space Law (ECSL)**

SPACE LAW SYMPOSIUM 2012

Transfer of ownership of space objects: Issues of responsibility, liability and registration

Monday, 19 March 2012
15.00 – 18.00h

Conference Room M01
Building M
Vienna International Centre

On the occasion of the 51st session of the Legal Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

INTRODUCTION

The international space law treaties were drafted at a time, when States were the main actors and the development of a commercial market for transfer of space objects and control of space objects could not be foreseen. Therefore, the existing treaties do not contain any provisions relating specifically to transfer of ownership of a space object and the responsibilities that this entails leading to a legal vacuum. The registration procedures of States and international organizations with regard to space objects vary widely from one national jurisdiction to another. To prevent the emergence of a “flag of convenience” phenomenon in space and to provide legal certainty with respect of issues concerning responsibility and liability, a sound and well-tailored legal framework has to be put in place. Against this backdrop, the space community faces now the legal challenge to regulate the effects arising from the transfer of ownership of space objects. This year’s edition of the IISL-ECSL Symposium intends to provide a new impetus to the international debate by encouraging a dialogue between leading academicians and distinguished stakeholders.

Chairpersons:

Tanja Masson-Zwaan, President IISL

Sergio Marchisio, President ECSL

Coordination Committee of the Symposium:

Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Board of Directors, IISL), Chairperson

Joanne Gabrynowicz (Board of Directors, IISL)

Corinne Jorgenson (Executive Secretary, IISL)

Karolina Rybarova (Executive Secretary, ECSL)

Mildred Trögeler (Resident Fellow, ESPI)

PROGRAMME

Words of welcome by the Presidents of IISL and ECSL

Speaker: Tanja Masson-Zwaan, Sergio Marchisio

Legal aspects of transfer of ownership and transfer of activities

Speaker: Armel Kerrest, University of Brest, France

Practice of States and international organizations in registering the transfer of ownership of space objects

Speaker: Mildred Trögeler, ESPI, Austria

Satellite ownership transfers and the liability of the launching States

Speaker: Setsuko Aoki, Keio University, Japan

UNIDROIT Registration of security interests and the Registration Convention: relevance for the transfer of ownership issue

Speaker: Martin Stanford, UNIDROIT, Italy

Towards “flags of convenience” in space?

Speaker: Frans von der Dunk, University of Nebraska, USA

Regulatory options for dealing with the transfer of ownership

Speaker: Olavo de Bittencourt Neto, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil

Concluding Remarks

Tare Brisibe, Chairperson of the UNCOPUOS Legal Subcommittee

Tanja Masson-Zwaan, President of the IISL

Sergio Marchisio, President of the ECSL