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A Word from the Chairman

For this issue of ECSL News, authors from all over the World have been invited to write short reports on the latest developments in the field of space activities in their country or organisation. You will find reports on various developments in the USA, Russia, Japan, Europe, Canada and Latin America, as well as a report on the legal sub-committee of the United Nations.

I would like to draw your attention to the changes that have occurred concerning the legal database ESALEX. Again, many documents have been loaded in the database and access is no longer limited to ECSL Members. ESALEX can now be consulted worldwide via the Internet. These developments contribute to the uniqueness of ESALEX and we are doing our best to keep on improving it in order to maintain it as the major database on space law in the World. I would like to call upon all users to provide ECSL with documents which might be of interest for loading into the database.

Last month, the European preliminaries of the Fifth Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition were held at ESA Headquarters. It was again a very interesting and pleasant day during which four teams competed for a place in the final against the winners of the American preliminaries. Although all of the teams were of a high standard, the University of Helsinki team emerged as the winners and they will plead in the final during the IISL Conference in October of this year. I wish them success in this difficult task. A more detailed report on the competition can be found elsewhere in this issue.

G. Lafferranderie

European Space Agency
Agence spatiale européenne

La session du Conseil au niveau ministériel de l'Agence spatiale européenne (Toulouse, 20 octobre 1995)

G. Lafferranderie
Conseiller juridique, ESA, Paris

Cette réunion s'inscrit dans le mouvement repris en 1985 à Rome de réunions du Conseil au niveau ministériel (Rome, janvier 1985; La Haye, novembre 1987; Munich, novembre 1991; Grenade, novembre 1992 – cf. article de G. Lafferranderie dans le *Bulletin de l'ESA*, février 1996). Le règlement d'un certain nombre de points était toujours en suspens, d'autres étaient apparus et une impulsion politique s'avérait nécessaire pour les débloquer et permettre à l'Agence de mieux gérer sa mission.

En décembre 1994, comme la coutume s'en était installée, le Conseil (au niveau des délégués) avait créé un groupe de travail chargé de la préparation de cette nouvelle réunion au niveau ministériel en ayant identifié quatorze points sur lesquels il devrait réfléchir. Le Directeur général préparait une proposition sur la

politique et les programmes de l'Agence ainsi que deux projets de Résolution, l'une sur les décisions, l'autre sur les orientations. Par ailleurs un Comité réfléchissait sur la politique spatiale européenne dans le long terme.

Une réunion du Conseil au niveau des délégués tenue la veille, le 18 octobre, n'avait pas permis de progresser, les problèmes restaient en l'état et c'est dans une ambiance de doute que la réunion ministérielle s'ouvrait. Miracle du vent d'autan? Les nuages se déchiraient. Les Ministres soulignaient que, malgré les difficultés financières auxquelles tous les Etats membres étaient confrontés, ils étaient là pour faire en sorte que le Conseil prenne des engagements de programmes essentiels pour donner à l'Agence un cadre solide et stable, renforçant ainsi la solidarité entre les Etats membres.

Finalement, le Conseil a adopté deux Résolutions, la Résolution n° 1 sur les décisions, la Résolution n° 2 sur les directions. Par ailleurs, cinq Déclarations de programmes ont été adoptées (sur la contribution de l'Europe à la Station spatiale internationale et sur des programmes Ariane-5 complémentaires).

On ne peut dans un article tel que celui-ci aller dans les détails et on se limitera donc à l'essentiel. Le Conseil a pris les décisions suivantes:

- adoption du niveau de ressources à niveau constant pour la période 1996-2000;
- adoption de l'ECU (appelé maintenant EURO) comme monnaie de l'Agence.

Le Conseil a établi un groupe de travail chargé de revoir, dans les limites de la Convention, le système utilisé pour calculer les contributions au programme obligatoire (établissement et évolution du barème de contributions pour suivre au plus près le PNB des Etats membres). La politique industrielle une nouvelle fois a été au centre des débats et le Conseil a établi un groupe de travail ayant pour mandat de revoir la politique industrielle de l'Agence (résorber les déficits dont souffrent certains pays, améliorer les procédures d'approvisionnement, les relations entre l'Agence et l'industrie).

En ce qui concerne les programmes, le Conseil a confirmé la participation de l'Europe au programme de Station spatiale internationale (développement et exploitation) et a donné des instructions au porte-parole européen et au Directeur général pour la négociation des amendements à apporter respectivement à l'Accord intergouvernemental (IGA) de septembre 1988 et au Mémorandum d'Accord pour prendre en compte l'entrée de la Russie dans le partenariat et les demandes de l'Europe. Le Conseil a par ailleurs souligné une fois encore l'importance d'un accès autonome de l'Europe à l'espace.

Dans la Résolution n° 2 le Conseil s'est félicité du travail accompli par le Comité sur la politique spatiale européenne à long terme et a endossé les propositions du Directeur général quant à, par exemple, l'observation des ressources de la Terre et la coopération établie avec la Commission de l'Union européenne et Eumetsat, l'utilisation de satellites pour la navigation aérienne (GNSS) et la coopération avec la Commission et Eurocontrol, et un programme international de mission lunaire, etc.

Par ailleurs, le Conseil a pris note des travaux conduits sur la revue interne du fonctionnement de l'Agence. Par la suite un examen a été confié à un consultant externe, les recommandations étant utilisées dans le programme de transformation dont on attend une meilleure efficacité et une réduction des coûts internes de l'Agence.

Au vu de ce qui précède, le lecteur aura tiré la conclusion que le Conseil ministériel de Toulouse apparaîtra comme une date importante. Il reste à donner corps et réalité à ces décisions par le processus ordinaire (dans le passé on a malheureusement pu constater des retards ou de nouveaux blocages).

The European Union and Space

S. Cheli
ESA, International Affairs, Paris

The European Parliament organised a European Space Forum in Brussels on 6 and 7 November 1995 under the patronage of its Committee of Energy Research and Technology, and in collaboration with the European Commission. This Forum addressed the strategic importance of Europe's space-effort, and reviewed major issues related to scientific aspects and to the utilisation of space technologies and industrial competitiveness in the World market. The role of the European Union in the definition of a coherent European Space Policy was discussed, together with possible mechanisms to increase efforts of cooperation and interaction with other key actors in this field.
About 250 high-level representatives from national Space Agencies, national Ministries, Industry, the Commission, the European Parliament and ESA attended the Forum. Participants generally recognised the strategic importance of the space sector, but underlined the discrepancy between this interest and the financial means allocated to space activities.

Clear indications of the need for increased political support from the European Union and from the Parliament for the space field were expressed by representatives of the national Space Agencies and Industry. The need for increased coordination between European R&D entities was emphasised, and specific reference was made to the need to increase synergy between the Union and ESA.

The possibility of defining a Space Forum including representatives of ESA and the Union was mentioned and the proposal found strong support in the audience. Industry and other government representatives, including the Belgian Minister of Research, Mr Ylieff, stressed the urgent need to improve European Space Industry's chances on the World market through an adequate industrial policy.

Mr Rovsing, a Member of the European Parliament, resumed the two-day discussion by indicating a number of possible concrete actions to be pursued. These include the idea of establishing a dedicated Agency, within the Union, to address issues related to satellite navigation; supporting industrial competitiveness through regulation on satellite licencing and frequency allocation; and the possible inclusion of a space element in the preparation of the Fifth Framework R&D Programme.

Mrs Cresson, Commissioner responsible for Research and Development, indicated that space represents a key element of European economic security and announced the Commission's to present a new Communication on Space in 1996. This Communication will follow up those issued in 1988 and in 1992.

The procedure for the preparation of the document was started in December, with inter-service consultation within the Commission between all general Directorates concerned by space activities. A working document was submitted to the Space Advisory Group and Mrs Cresson will present an oral report to the Council of Ministers responsible for Research on 25 March. The Communication and the accompanying Resolution should be approved under the Irish Presidency in 1996. The Commission is planning a presentation on the Communication to the ESA Council in March.

The document will include a part on the European Union and space and the other actors involved in the development of space technology in Europe, including the Member States, the national Space Agencies, ESA, the space industry users and operators. Space applications (Earth observation, telecommunications and satellite navigation) will be addressed, as well as launch services and issues related to industrial policy and competitiveness. This part could include the findings of the report recently completed by the High Level Industry Working Group for the Commission, under the Chairmanship of Mr Delaye, Chairman of Aerospatiale, Space and Defense Branch. The Recommendations included in the final Resolution should be the funding principles for the future European Union action in the space field.

The United Nations' Legal Subcommittee

G. Lafferranderie
ESA Legal Adviser, Paris

The Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) held its 35th Meeting in Vienna (Austria) from 18 to 28 March, under the chairmanship of Mr Mikulka (Czech Republic).

The substantive agenda of the Meeting contained the following items:

1. Question of review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.
2. Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilisation of the geostationary orbit, without prejudice to the role of the ITU.
3. Consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilisation of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries.
4. Other matters.

Working groups established by the Subcommittee have continued working on the question of definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilisation of the geostationary orbit, under the chairmanship of Mr E.M. Curia (Argentina), and on the question of benefits of the use of outer space, under the chairmanship of Mr R. Gonzales (Chile). It was decided that the work on the revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources would be suspended for the duration of one year, since a revision of the principles is not opportune at the present moment.

Two documents (revised documents presented in 1995) on the benefits of the use of outer space were presented, one by Brazil on behalf of 12 countries of the Group of 77, and one jointly by the Federal Republic of Germany and France. The authors of the two documents were able to reconcile their points of view on the matter and submitted a common proposal (albeit with some provisions still in brackets). This proposal consists of a Resolution by the General Assembly adopting a Declaration on international cooperation in exploration and utilisation of outer space for the benefit of all states, taking especially into account the needs of developing countries. The Subcommittee was not able to finalise the draft and work continues.

No consensus was reached on proposals concerning the new subject to be retained for later work of the Subcommittee (various proposals were made, in particular regarding a review of existing norms of international law applicable to space debris).

Latest Developments on the Russian Space Scene

Karin Barbance
ESA, International Relations, Paris

Since the series of articles devoted to Russia and Eastern and Central Europe in 1992 (*ECSL News* No. 10), the main factor influencing the geopolitical scene, i.e. the end of the Cold War, has not changed. This means for space activities in both East and West that the importance of the military sector has undergone changes; in the light of these, the civil domain – in its national and international contexts – also has to redefine its role whilst coping with declining budgets.

During these last few years, the Russian Federation has continued on the path of

transition to a political system of democracy, and to a market economy, with all the associated difficulties and uncertainties stemming from such radical changes.

In this period of transition, the Russian space scene has shown one feature of stability: the Russian Space Agency (RSA), established in February 1992, has confirmed its position. It has the backing of the Government, which is determined to maintain space activities as a national asset. The RSA is leading in the definition of the Federal State Space Programme running through to the year 2000 and in its implementation. The Agency has responsibilities for the drafting of the annual civil space budget and for its execution. This entails substantial consequences for the country's space industry, which is over-dimensioned for the current environment and is undergoing a drastic shrinking process.

The most important single event in recent years, with the greatest impact on Russian space activities, was the invitation Russia received from the current partners in the International Space Station Programme to join their partnership. Politically, this was orchestrated by the USA, together with Russia, and enjoys the highest political backing in both countries, as demonstrated by the twice-yearly meetings between Vice President A. Gore and Prime Minister V. Chernomyrdin. Russian participation in the International Space Station Programme has led to a reorientation of priorities in Russian space activities. Whereas in 1992 the emphasis was on space applications activities, such as satellite tele-communications and Earth observ-ation to meet the needs of the national economy, the scarcity of budgetary resources has pushed manned spaceflight to the forefront.

ESA is also undergoing profound changes, which firstly have an impact on its own programmes and activities, and secondly have a bearing on its cooperation with partners such as the Russian Federation. Thus not all of the hopes raised by the Resolutions adopted by the ESA Council Meeting at Ministerial Level in Granada in November 1992, have been fulfilled.

However, ESA and the RSA have substantially intensified their coopera-tion, mainly in the field of manned spaceflight. ESA is to provide the RSA with a Data Management System for the Russian Segment of the International Space Station, in return for Russian docking mechanisms which ESA needs forvisits by its ATV (Automated Transfer Vehicle) to the Space Station. ESA is also to develop a European Robotic Arm for the Russian Segment in exchange for all possible efforts to enable an ESA-trained astronaut to participate in the in-orbit validation of ERA or in the in-orbit operations of ERA thereafter.

In the field of space science, ESA and RSA have agreed to cooperate on INTEGRAL (International Gamma Ray Astrophysics Laboratory), ESA providing the spacecraft and the RSA a Proton launcher.

Other areas, such as Earth observation and life and materials sciences, have also yielded joint activities between ESA and the Russian partner.

ESA has established a Permanent Mission in Moscow, which is to represent the Agency's interest in the Russian Federation.

Firms in ESA Member States and Russia have had frequent opportunities to work together, to the benefit of both sides.

In conclusion, it can be said that the latest developments in Russian space activities are being affected by the overall difficulties of the transition through which the country is going. But progress is being made – although perhaps more slowly than some might wish. As to cooperation between ESA and Russia, its development is less spectacular than some anticipated in 1992, but it is steady and promising.

An Update on Canadian Space Activities

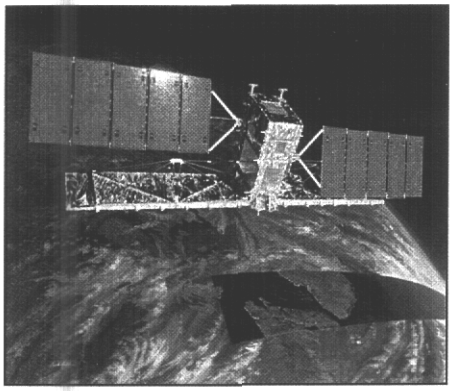
Stéphane Lessard
Canadian Space Agency, Saint-Hubert, Canada

The major elements of the Canadian Space Programme (CSP) were laid out in Canada's Second Long-Term Space Plan (LTSP II), announced in June 1994, which builds upon the First Long-Term Space Plan of the mid-1980's. LTSP II has a revised funding base of CDN$ 2.4 billion for the period 1994/95 – 2003/04, with $628 million for Earth Observation, $498 million for Human Space Flight, $332 million for Communications, $272 million for Science, $271 million for Tech-nology, $236 million for Infrastructure, and $124 million to be kept in reserve.

The major orientations and objectives of the CSP are to focus on Canada's commercial and technological strengths to meet our ongoing needs in space science, automation and robotics, Earth observation, and communications; to contribute to economic growth and employment; to contribute to increasing Canadian industrial competitiveness and export capability; and to contribute to the advancement of knowledge.

In order to better accomplish these ends, the President of the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), W.M. (Mac) Evans, has recently begun a process of reorgan-ising the CSA in order to produce an organisational structure which better fulfils the Agency's mandate and responds more effectively to a changing environment. The new structure will be organised not by programmes, but by areas of activity: Planning, Implementation, and Operations.

The two most significant events in 1995 were first the launch of Radarsat-1, Canada's first Earth-observation satellite, on 4 November. Radarsat-1 will use Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) to observe the Earth, even in darkness and through clouds, providing data essential to a variety of applications for resource management and environmental monitoring. Second, Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield took part in the Shuttle Mission STS-74 that docked with Russia's Mir station and operated the



Canadarm in order to put into place the docking adaptor that will allow repeated Shuttle Missions to Mir. Hadfield was the first Canadian to enter a Russian spacecraft and the first Canadian Mission Specialist.

Other important ongoing projects include: Measurements of Pollution in the Troposphere (MOPITT), Canada's contribution to the US Earth Observing System, destined for launch on a polar platform in 1998; the Wind Imaging Interferometer (WINDII), which shows that planetary-scale disturbances in the upper atmospheric weather correspond to one or two waves around the globe; the second International Microgravity Laboratory (IML-2) mission, which studied the effects microgravity produces on astronauts, including back pain, changes in nerve conduction, and changes to the cardiovascular system; the development of the Mobile Servicing System (MSS), Canada's contribution the International Space Station, a sophisticated robotics system that will play a predominant role in the assembly, maintenance, and operation of the Space Station; and preparation for the launch, in early 1996, of MSAT, an advanced communications satellite that will provide Canadians and Americans in rural areas with the same satellite communications services as those enjoyed in metropolitan centres.

Canadian institutions and researchers have also been very active in the area of space law. The CSA has been directly involved in the process of amending the Inter-governmental Agreement governing the International Space Station project, and CSA experts have lectured on space-law matters to various Canadian universities and the International Space University (ISU) in Strasbourg as part of the Master's in Space Science Programme. Moreover, the Institute and Centre of Air and Space Law at McGill University continues its long tradition of excellence in teaching and researching space law. This renowned institution has been selected as an ISU specialised campus in the areas of space policy and law. Various other institutions in Canada have now started to give courses and provide lectures in space policy and law, including the Ecole Polytechnique at the Université de Montréal.

Space Commercialisation Law and Policy in Japan

K. Tatsuzawa
Chuo Gakuin University, Japan

Remarks on Japanese Space Industry
The proceeds of Japanese space industry in 1993 were about 3.201 billion US$, including 1.764 billion US$ for space vehicles (703 million for launch vehicles and 1.061 billion for satellites), 1.764 billion US$ for ground equipment and software. Exports and imports were about 431 million US$ and 231 million US$, respectively, mainly for satellite and ground-equipment components, in the same year.

Japanese space industry is characterised by three features: high dependency on governmental demand (70% of space products, including ground and other space infrastructure items, is destined for governmental uses); investment of financial and, in particular, human resources with little thought of profit; and the lack of effort to restructure and regroup the space industry, which forms part of the activities of electronic or heavy engineering companies and from which the proceeds are relatively small.

Space-industry policy
According to Japanese space policy information, the utilisation of space techniques for industrial and, hence, national-economy purposes leads to the promotion of both a higher standard of living and international cooperation. This is why it is necessary to include not only the aspect of scientific and technological policy but also the industrial viewpoint in the new Japanese Fundamental Space Policy (FPJSD) that is under consideration. Private enterprises intervene in the elaboration of space policy by expressing their views through the Space Activities Promotion Council of the Federation of Economic Organisations.

Generally speaking, space-commercialisation policy inevitably pre-supposes the coordination of national interests with prevailing principles in international markets and that of national interests with the common interests of international society. The preparation of the new FPJSD is therefore expected to pay due regard to these points.

Legal regime
In Japan, scientific research, development, and utilisation are distinct concepts. As regards space utilisation, involving the provision of user-oriented services, there is no particular administrative focal point, with various ministries dealing with space utilisation. The Space Activities Commission charged with the elaboration of fundamental guidelines for Japanese space development policy has neither the intention nor the exact competence needed to take the initiative in space utilisation. This often causes jurisdictional disputes between ministries and disturbs the elaboration of domestic policy.

There has also been a recent political argument concerning the interpretation of 'peaceful uses', based not on the

subject but the object of an act and excluding those acts using space technology for the purpose of killing, wounding or destroying as non-peaceful. This interpretation is motivated by the need for the smooth implementation of international cooperation and of internationally harmonised interpretation. Frankly speaking, the non-military aspect disturbs the participation of Japanese space industries in foreign civilian space projects based on military initiatives such as GPS. In this respect, conformity to Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution stipulating the renunciation of war and belligerent rights should be taken into account.

Final remarks

In the transitional period from the experimental stage to commercial exploitation, Japan as a late starting space power is groping for a new regime for commercial space exploitation. In such an effort, it becomes a fundamental question of how to reconcile the nature of space activities as an international public service with the market principles.

Developments in Agreements on International Trade in Commercial Launch Services

Franceska O. Schroeder
Winthrop, Stimson, Putnam & Roberts, Washington DC, USA

On 3 March 1995, the United States and the People's Republic of China concluded their second Agreement on International Trade in Commercial Launch Services. The first agreement, which was signed on 26 January 1989 and expired on 31 December 1994, allowed China to launch nine commercial satellites into Geo-stationary Earth Orbit (GEO) for 'international customers'. The Apstar II, AsiaSat II, Intelsat 708, and Echostar I satellites were included under the 1989 Agreement.

The USA has a similar agreement with Russia and is in the process of negotiating an agreement with Ukraine. The US Government contends that such agreements with non-market economies or economies in transition are necessary to ensure the stability of the highly competitive international commercial launch-services market, which has been dominated by American and European providers. Not all members of the international satellite and launch-services community agree with this premise.

Under the new US – China Agreement, China may launch eleven commercial satellites into GEO through 31 December 2001. Prices offered by China for these launches must be 'on a par' with prices offered by Western launch-service providers. If the Chinese offer is more than 15 percent less than the price for a comparable Western launch, China must consult with the United States.

Unlike the 1989 Agreement, the 1995 Agreement addresses the issue of commercial launches to Low Earth Orbit (LEO). The Agreement does not establish an express limit on the number of LEO launches on Chinese launchers. It provides that the US will review Chinese LEO launches on a constellation-by-constellation basis. If the US determines that China is conducting a disproportionate number of these launches, consultations between the US and China will commence. US and Chinese negotiators are currently in the process of discussing LEO launch-pricing comparability factors.

The terms of the new US – China Agreement have prompted the Russians to seek re-negotiation of their September 1993 commercial-launch-services agreement with the United States. This agreement allows Russia to lift eight commercial payloads to GEO through 31 December 2000, so long as no more than two launches occur in any twelve-month period. The Inmarsat-3 launch is exempt from this provision. On the issue of pricing, consultations will be triggered if the Russian bid is more than seven and a half percent less than the price of a comparable Western launch. The agreement also provides for the launch of three Iridium system satellites to LEO on Russian launch vehicles.

Russia believes that the terms of the 1995 US – China Agreement are more favorable than those contained in the US – Russia Agreement and has called for revisions to the price and quantity restrictions in the latter. The USA and Russia will likely enter into formal discussions on these issues later this year.

Recent Developments in Space Law and Space Policy in Latin America

A.A. Cocca
Council of Advanced International Studies, Buenos Aires, Argentina

The Latin American nations with most activities in terms of space law and space policy are: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay.

Space law is studied in 50 Argentine universities through the Chairs of Maritime, Air and Space Navigation. Specifically, the University of Salvador (Buenos Aires) created an autonomous Chair of Air and Space Law in 1960, and the post-graduate National Institute of Air and Space Law (INDAE) founded its Chair of Space Law in 1962. Scientific research is pursued in this Institute, as well as at the Institute of Legal and Social Space Research (Director A.A. Cocca) and at the Institute of Air and Space Law and Telecommunications (Director: M. A. Ferrer). The University of Buenos Aires has approved theses on space law since 1953. There are the following curriculum courses: Law of Telecommunications (since 1988), Introduction to Space Law (since 1993) both in the charge of M.M. Esquivel. There are post-graduate courses on the Prospective of Legal Science: Advanced Studies in Space Law (1988), and The Rights of Humankind Related to Environment (1993), both administered by A.A. Cocca.

The Argentine bibliography on space law (Cocca, Ferrer, Williams, Fernández Brital, Esquivel, and Ford) contains over a thousand titles.

The Argentine Association of International Law, the Latin American Air and Space Law Association and the National Meetings of Air and Space Law, organise bi- or tri-annual congresses covering space-law issues. The Inter- American Courses on Outer Space Law began to be given in Buenos Aires in 1993.

As far as space policy is concerned, the National Commission on Space Activities approved a Space National Plan (1995 – 2006) in 1994. The Nahuel C-1 and Nahuel C-2 domestic satellite system will operate until 1996, when a definitive system is to be put in place. The Argentine scientific satellite SAC-B also will also be launched in 1996.

The Brazilian Society of Aero-space Law offers two annual space-law courses, one basic and one advanced. In December 1994 it organised the seminar 'Brazil and Space Law', at which the legal documents from the 1950's up to the present day were reviewed, as well as the Brazilian legislation, international treaties and bilateral agreements. The National Institute of Space Research (INPE) has also organised a meeting on Brazilian legislation in a force on space activities and on ways and means of improving international cooperation. In 1994, the Brazilian Space Agency (AEB) was created and the country has the domestic satellites BrazilSat and the Data Collection Satellite, launched by its own launcher. The Inter-American Institute for Global Change is located in São José Dos Campos.

In Chile, space law is taught at the University of Chile (Santiago), the Catholic University of Chile, Concepción, and others, as a part of the course on Public International Law. The Chilean Institute of International Law has incorporated space law in its research programmes. The Chilean Professors R. González Aninat (Univ. of Chile and Ambassador Delegate at COPUOS), J. Irigoin (Univ. of Chile) and H. Varela Valenzuela (Catholic Univ. of Concepción) have taught at the Inter-American Course on Outer Space Law.

The Mexican Academy of Space Law (President: A. Francoz Rigalt) organises conferences and symposia. M. Seara Vazquez, author of one of the first theses on space law (Univ. of Paris), teaches space law within the Chair of Public International Law at the Autonomous University of Mexico. Young jurists that stand out for their theses, articles, books and participation in international congresses include: A. Martínez Cranss, J.H. Castro Villalobos (member of the Mexican Foreign Service) and M. Mejía. Mexico has a domestic communication satellite system known as Morelos, and has permanent space development programmes.

The University of Montevideo created a Chair in Space Law in 1970, occupied by A. Bauzá Araújo, who is also President of the Uruguayan Institute of Air and Space Law, which organises international space-law symposia. Research is conducted by the CIDAE (Centre of Research and Diffusion Air and Space Law), directed by E. Gaggero. This official body edits its own journal and organises national and international meetings. B. Araújo and E. Gaggero served as professors in the Inter-American Courses on Outer Space Law in 1993 and 1994. The Presidency of the Inter-American Committee for the Global Change is based in Montevideo, Uruguay where the Third Space Conference of the Americas will take place in September 1996.

Fifth IISL Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition

On 2 April 1995, the European preliminaries of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition were organised by ECSL at ESA Headquarters. This years' case concerned liability for commercial space endeavours, and a group of fictious states were involved: Parlivia and Californium et al.

Teams from the Universities of Helsinki, Leiden, Paris I and a joint team from the Universities of Jaen and Granada competed for a place in the final against the winners of the American preliminaries. Each team has to prepare the case for applicant (Parlivia) as well as respondent (Californium et al.) and is judged on their written briefs and on their oral pleadings. The written briefs were judged by: Catherine Baudin (ESA Legal Affairs), Thomas Beer (ESA Contracts Dept.), Knut Focke (Univ. of Cologne), Anne-Marie Malavialle (Institut de droit comparé) and Olivier Ribbelink (Univ. of Amsterdam). All teams gathered in the cinema room at ESA Headquarters to plead in front of a distinguished Court of Judges, consisting of Prof. Francis Lyall (Univ. of Aberdeen), Prof. Elizabeth Back-Impallomeni (Univ. of Padua) and Helge Weber (ESA Contracts Dept.) during the morning session, and Ernst Fasan (Fasan Weinwurm & Partners), Prof. Armel Kerrest de Rozavel (Univ. of Brest) and Kevin Madders (Brick Court Chambers and Consultant, SNI) during the afternoon session. The overall level of the participating teams was high, but it was the team from the University of Helsinki, consisting of Ms Anna Markkanen and Ms Satu Heikkilä, who were adjudged the winning team. They will go to the IAF/IISL Conference in Beijing and will plead against the University of Wyoming, the winners of the American preliminaries. The final will be held on the afternoon of 10 October 1996.

The Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition offers students the unique opportunity to apply their knowledge of space law to a practical case, and to practice their written and oral legal skills. Interest in the competition is growing worldwide and perhaps preliminaries in Asia will be set up in the future. All universities interested in participating can obtain more information from the ECSL Secretariat.

ESALEX News
Major Changes...

Since the last issue of *ECSL News*, the legal database has been greatly improved. It now includes a large number of external documents, which we hope to increase still further in the near furure.

Access to ESALEX is no longer limited to ECSL Members, but is open to all interested persons. However, access still requires a User ID, which can be obtained from the ESRIN-ISD Helpdesk at the address indicated below.

ECSL News is now accessible via the World Wide Web (ECSL URL address: http://edms.esrin.esa.it/ecsl/index.html) and ESALEX can be accessed this way through a TelNet session. It is hoped to have ESALEX available on the World Wide Web in July of this year.

For more information and requests for ESALEX access please contact the ISD Helpdesk:

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Other News

Call for candidates for the post of ECSL Secretary
The post of ECSL Secretary will be open as of 1 October 1996. Those interested can obtain more information from the ECSL Secretariat. All applications (cover letter and curriculum vitae) should be sent to: ECSL Secretariat.

The 1996 ECSL Summer Course on Space Law and Policy will be hosted by the University of Leiden, The Netherlands, from 10 to 25 August. 28 Universities from all over Europe will participate. More information on the Course can be obtained from the ECSL Secretariat.

In 1997, the **Outer Space Treaty** will have been in force for 30 years. In order to celebrate this anniversary, ECSL has invited all the National Points of Contact to suggest authors for a book entitled: *'An Outlook on Outer Space Law in the Coming 30 Years'*. The book will be offered to the United Nations and should contain articles by authors from all ESA Member States and should focus on the future of outer space law in the coming thirty years as a consequence of existing space law and foreseen space activities.

The **1996 ECSL Practitioners' Forum** will be organised at ESA Headquarters on 28 October 1996. Invitations and programmes will be sent out in the coming months.

TopTech Studies, centre of post-graduate education of Delft University of Technology, has developed 'Space Tech', a masters programme leading to a 'Master of Space Systems Engineering' degree. More information can be obtained from:

TopTech Studies
Mekelweg 4, PO Box 612
2600 AP Delft, The Netherlands
Tel: +31-15-278 8019
Fax: +31-15-278 1009
e-mail: secr@toptech.tudelft.nl

As a result of the ECSL activities with studies and workshops on intellectual property rights and space activities, ESA has been invited to participate in a study carried out by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).** In accordance with WIPO's programme for the 1996 – 97 biennium, which provides for an activity concerning inventions and artistic creations made or used in outer space, the International Bureau of WIPO will study the desirability and feasibility of adopting rules and/or recommending principles, common to all countries and interested intergovernmental organisations, for the intellectual property protection of inventions and literary and artistic works created or used in outer space.

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Coordinator: Rafael Roelandt
ESA Legal Service, Paris

Editor: Tan-Duc Guyenne

For further information on ECSL and on *ECSL News*, contact ECSL Secretariat:
c/o ESA, 8-10 rue Mario-Nikis
75738 Paris Cedex, France
Phone: +33-1-5369 7605
Fax: +33-1-5369 7560

Requests for inclusion in the mailing list should be addressed to:
ESA Publications Division
c/o ESTEC, Keplerlaan 1
2200 AG Noordwijk, The Netherlands
Fax: +31-71-565-5433