

Report on the 2013 ECSL Practitioners' Forum

The 2013 ECSL Practitioners' Forum was organised on 15 March at ESA Headquarters in Paris. The organisation was taken care of by ECSL Executive Secretary, **Mrs. K. Rybarova**, in close cooperation with the ECSL Chairman, **Prof. Dr. S. Marchisio**, of the University of Rome 'La Sapienza', and the Coordinator of the Practitioners' Forum, **Prof. Dr. F.G. von der Dunk**, of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The Forum addressed the registration of satellites, focusing on both legal aspects and practice, and was attended by some 45 participants.

Dr. M. Ferrazzani, Legal Counsel and Head of Legal Department at ESA, welcomed everyone to the Practitioners' Forum on behalf of ESA, following which **Prof. Marchisio** briefly introduced ECSL for the benefit of those present not yet familiar with the Centre. **Prof. Von der Dunk** then introduced the topic of the Forum, *inter alia* surveying briefly the main registration systems relevant for space activities: the 1975 space object Registration Convention, the ITU regime for registering frequencies and orbits/orbital positions, the UNIDROIT space assets protocol and registry and national registers.

The first speaker was **Mr. Niklas Hedman**, Chief of the Committee, Policy and Legal Affairs Section with the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, who spoke about the first of those systems: the UN Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space, and recent developments in that respect, followed by **Prof. Dr. A. Kerrest de Rozavel**, of the University of Western Brittany, who addressed some broader legal problems and issues with the UN Register.

The third speaker, **Mr. Christian Roisse**, Executive Secretary of EUTELSAT IGO, addressed industry's view on both the UN registration of space objects and the ITU system on frequency registration. With regard to the latter, **Mr. Attila Matas**, Head of the Space Publication and Registration Division with the ITU, then addressed details of the space registration process, including some specific issues and outcomes of the World Radio Conference of 2012 in this respect.

Next, **Dr. Andre Farand**, Legal Department, European Space Agency, spoke on the European Space Agency's handling of jurisdiction and control over ESA-registered space objects, followed by **Dr. Philippe Clerc**, Head of the Legal Department of CNES, who addressed the same topic from the perspective of a member state – in this case France.

The last two speakers addressed special topics within the broader context of registration issues: **Mr. Amar Saïdani**, Regulation and Orbit Resources Department, *Agence Nationale des Fréquences*, spoke on transfers of ownership of satellites in the context of ITU frequency allocation, whereas **Mr. David Seïté** of the Space Policy Unit with DG ENTR of the European Commission, focused on the EU Internal Market perspectives of the registration of space objects and frequencies.

Finally **Prof. Von der Dunk** summarised the extended and interesting discussions and, on behalf also of **Prof. Marchisio**, thanked ESA for usage of the main Room at ESA Headquarters, ECSL for organising the Forum, especially **Mrs. Rybarova**, Executive Secretary of ECSL, as well as all speakers and the audience, and wished everyone safe travels.

Frans G. von der Dunk