



Statement of ECSL

By Sergio Marchisio
Chairman, European Centre for Space Law

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Friends and Colleagues

As Chairman of the European Centre for Space Law, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address the participants to the Mediterranean Chapter of the 4th International Space Forum at Ministerial Level. We recognize with appreciation that this Forum represents a valuable annual gathering aiming at encouraging a global and local debate on the necessity of promoting a greater involvement of Universities and national Academies in space activities. We appreciate that one of the main topics of this year's Forum is space education, cooperation and scientific knowledge, which is of particular interest to my institution.

The European Centre for Space Law, established in 1989 in Paris under the auspices of the European Space Agency, has the mandate to promote the awareness, knowledge and development of space law at the European level. Space Law grew out of the need to create norms to govern the expanding scientific and technological uses of outer space, new space applications, and the provision of new services on Earth. Current members of the ECSL include professionals working in a wide range of areas within the space sector, lawyers, university professors and students. As a federative mechanism, the ECSL strongly relies on a network of National Points of Contact, which are the interface between the ECSL and its members at national level. To date, there are 17 NPOCs set up in ESA Member States, a growing network instrumental to the achievement of the ECSL's goals.

Distinguished delegates,

The ECSL organises a range of activities and events to encourage education, capacity-building and research in space law within Europe and beyond. We usually count students and professionals from several Mediterranean countries taking part in our activities, particularly in the two-weeks intensive Summer Course on Space Law and Policy, open to students as well as to young professionals already working in space-related sectors. The Course organised each summer in cooperation with a host university is now in its 28th year and boasts a large family of alumni around the world. This year, on the 30th anniversary of our Centre, it has been organised with the University of Messina, where the first ECSL Summer Course ever was organised in 1992, and is presently going on until the 12 of September. The theme of this year's Course mainly focusses on the use of outer space in managing and monitoring disasters, aiming to both refer to the peculiarity of the territory in which the Summer Course is taking place and to highlight the particular relevance of space technologies and resources in disaster mitigation.

Distinguished delegates,

As in Europe, the Mediterranean space sector is developing. The emergence of more accessible, cheaper and better technology means that more countries, universities and private companies are manufacturing and launching satellites. Overall, this implies many great opportunities, but also a need for law to regulate emerging activities. The UNISPACE+50 process launched in Vienna last year by the United Nations and its Committee on the peaceful uses of outer space has identified good governance and a sound regulatory framework as essential for ensuring the sustainable uses of outer space. To achieve this, knowledge and awareness of space law is essential. The ECSL will continue to support the UNISPACE+50 process, and the following SPACE 2030 Agenda, by ensuring

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capacity-building opportunities for student and professionals within the field of space law and policy. In this regard, we consider that the Mediterranean Chapter of the International Space Forum has a tremendous potential for fostering the development of space based services in this region and the related educational and research activities within the existing academic institutions. The ECSL is always happy to consider new ways of cooperating and sharing our experience and expertise. As Chairman of the ECSL, I therefore invite anyone interested in our activities or looking to develop new partnerships or initiatives to contact us and consult our webpage www.esa.int/eosl.

Thank you for your time and attention.