

VIIIth European Interparliamentary
Space Conference



BELGIAN SCIENCE POLICY



EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR SPACE LAW

BELGIAN POINT OF
CONTACT

KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT
LEUVEN

Brussels, 20 February 2006

Mr. Christian Mejdahl
Speaker
Folketinget
Christiansborg
1240 Copenhagen

Mister Speaker,

This year, the Belgian Senate chairs through its parliamentary space group the European Interparliamentary Space Conference (EISC). This conference brings together the national parliaments of the European Union and European Space Agency member states. More information on the EISC can be found at: <http://www.eisc-brussels2006.be>.

Three important events will be organised under the Belgian presidency. A colloquium on space law will take place on 26 April 2006, followed by the 8th interparliamentary conference in June 2006 and a colloquium on space, defence and security in September 2006.

The first colloquium, entitled "Towards a Legal Framework for Space Activities and Applications: Belgian, Comparative and European Perspectives", will take place in the Belgian Senate on Wednesday 26 April 2006. It is organised jointly by the EISC, the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office and the University of Leuven (KUL).

In the morning, emphasis will be laid on the different national space laws, while the possibility of European initiatives will be examined. The afternoon session will focus on the legal implications of the use of space applications in policies related to transport, environment and security.

It is my pleasure to invite two members of your parliament to this colloquium. The programme, registration form and all practical information has been added to this letter. These documents can also be found on the website.

On behalf of the Belgian Presidency of the EISC, I hope to welcome a delegation of your parliament in the Belgian Senate on Wednesday 26 April 2006.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Roelants du Vivier', with a horizontal line above the first part of the name.

François Roelants du Vivier
President

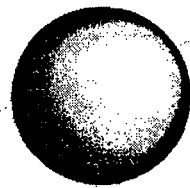


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VIIIth European Interparliamentary Space Conference

Brussels - 2006

TOWARDS A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR SPACE ACTIVITIES AND APPLICATIONS: BELGIAN, COMPARATIVE AND EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVES

COLLOQUIUM

BELGIAN SENATE, 26 APRIL 2006

10.00h	Welcome and Opening	Mrs Anne-Marie Lizin Speaker of the Belgian Senate
10.15h	Introduction	Mr Marc Verwilghen Federal Minister for Science Policy
10.30h	Session I. <i>National Space Law</i>	<u>Chair:</u> Sen. François Roelants du Vivier Chairman of the European Interparliamentary Space Conference
10.35h	<i>Presentation of the Belgian Space Law</i>	Mr Jean-François Mayence Legal Affairs and International Relations Belgian Federal Office for Science Policy
11.00h	<i>National Space Laws: Comparative Perspectives</i>	Dr Michael Gerhard University of Cologne
11.30h	<i>Panel Discussion: European Perspectives</i>	<u>Moderator:</u> Prof Dr Jan Wouters Institute for International Law, University of Leuven (KUL)
		<u>Participants:</u> Prof Dr Philippe Achilleas Institute of Space Law and Telecommunications Université Paris Sud Dr Mahulena Hofmann Max Planck Institute, Heidelberg Mrs Stefania Barbieri Head of ESA Legal Department Prof Dr Stephan Hobe Institute of Air and Space Law, University of Cologne
12.30h	lunch break	lunch given by Ir. Eric Beka , High Representative of Belgium for Space Policy

14.00h	<p style="text-align: center;">Session II. <i>National Law and Space Applications</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Chair:</u> Mr Philippe Busquin Member of the European Parliament President of the European Parliamentary Group On Air & Space</p>
14.05h	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Transport Law</i> (Shipping, Insurance, Liability, Sales, etc.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Prof Dr Jacques Libouton University of Brussels (ULB)</p>
14.30h	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Environmental Protection</i> (Legal evidence of maritime pollution, enforcement of international regulations, etc.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mr René Oosterlinck Director for External Relations European Space Agency</p>
15.00h	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Security and Surveillance</i> (Security & Safety vs. Protection of Private Life, etc.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EC (DG Justice) Representative</p>
15.30h	<p style="text-align: center;">break</p>	
15.45h	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Space Applications for Europe: Policy and Legal Aspects</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dr Kai-Uwe Schrogl German Aerospace Centre</p>
16.15h	<p style="text-align: center;">Open discussion</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Moderator:</u> Dr Walter Thiebaut ICSS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Participants :</u> all participants</p>
17.00h	<p style="text-align: center;">Conclusions & Closing</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sen. François Roelants du Vivier Chairman of the European Interparliamentary Space Conference</p>
17.15h	<p style="text-align: center;">end</p>	

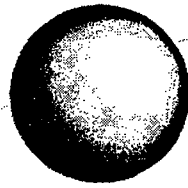


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Session I. National Space Law

- Presentation of the Belgian Space Law

Belgium is party to the 5 United Nations treaties on outer space. Its participation in ESA's programmes and activities, as well as its strategic situation in Europe implies responsibilities and potential liabilities. Therefore, on the basis of its position in international bodies, such as UNCOPUOS, Belgium has adopted a space legislation tailored to its national features. The Belgian law is built on three pillars:

- *an authorisation regime for activities to be performed under Belgian jurisdiction ;*
- *a national register for space objects ;*
- *a limited liability action against the operator.*

- National Space Laws: Comparative Perspectives

Several countries in Europe and in the world are currently drafting national space legislation or considering the opportunity of it. The German workshops "Project 2001+" provided a deep reflection on this current trend and helped identifying building blocks and recommendations for the drafting of such legislation. It is proposed to assess the current status of those national initiatives.

- Panel Discussion: European Perspectives

The panel will discuss the possible appropriate actions, not only at national level but also at intergovernmental and Community levels, aimed at providing Europe with a suitable legal framework for space activities and applications. Such a legal framework would be an important instrument for implementing the European Space Policy and for stimulating the participation of all EU Member States and Co-operating States in this policy. It would also set up a more secure regulatory framework for Europe's international co-operation in space.

Session II. National Law and Space Applications

- Transport Law

Which impact will current and future space applications have on the legal framework of transports in Europe? National and international institutions and mechanisms of transport law will be de facto affected by the development of new technologies. For instance, will the availability of real time data on the location, on the legal status or on the conditioning of the freight definitely make obsolete some traditional instruments of maritime law? How can GNSS and satcom systems help in providing custom brokers with a more accurate information?

- Environmental Protection

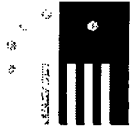
A series of international instruments are currently in force or under preparation to allow a better protection of our global environment. From maritime pollution to atmosphere monitoring, from industrial wastes' treatment to climatic changes, national and international regulations must integrate a growing number of technologies and tools. What new possibilities will these tools provide to the lawyers? What could be the evidential value of Earth observation data before the judge?

- Security and Surveillance

Eyes are watching us. Everywhere. Space & Security put new issues and concerns on the table: space applications such as Earth observation or positioning systems provide data requiring a reliable legal framework, in order to ensure a fair balance between effectiveness and protection of privacy, between security (i.e. a changeable signal) and safety (i.e. a reliable product).

- Space Applications for Europe: Policy and Legal Aspects

As a synthesis of preceding topics, this will be an attempt to formulate possible tracks for addressing the regulatory requirements at national and international levels. How far is an harmonisation needed? How appropriate would be an intervention of the European Community and/or its Member States? From a policy maker's perspective, shall the public authorities remain passive or, to the contrary, adopt a proactive attitude?



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1. Enregistrement – Registration

L'enregistrement pour le colloque aura lieu au Sénat de Belgique le mercredi 26 avril 2006 à partir de 9.00h.

Entrée par la 'Place de la Nation', rue de la Loi en face du Parc de Bruxelles.

Parking prévu le long de la rue de la Loi.

The registration for the colloquium will take place in the Belgian Senate on Wednesday 26 April 2006 from 9.00h onwards.

You can enter via the 'Place de la Nation', 'rue de la Loi' opposite of the 'Parc de Bruxelles'.

2. Interprétation – Interpretation

L'allemand, l'anglais, le français et le néerlandais sont les langues officielles du colloque.

Dutch, English, French and German are the official languages of the colloquium.

3. Secrétariat – Secretariat

Des ordinateurs, téléphones, fax et photocopieur sont mis à la disposition des participants.

Computers, phones, fax and photocopier are at the disposal of the participants.



*TOWARDS A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR SPACE ACTIVITIES AND APPLICATIONS:
BELGIAN, COMPARATIVE AND EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVES*

26 AVRIL 2006 – SÉNAT DE BELGIQUE, BRUXELLES
26 APRIL 2006 – BELGIAN SENATE, BRUSSELS

FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION - REGISTRATION FORM

A retourner avant le vendredi 31 mars 2006 au
Please return before Friday 31st March 2006 to

Fax : + 32.2.501.72.16
e-mail : lc@senate.be

ECRIRE EN MAJUSCULES S.V.P. – PLEASE WRITE IN CAPITALS

Pays - Country -----

Institution -----

Nom - Surname -----

Prénom - First name -----

Titre/Fonction - Title/Function -----

Téléphone - Telephone ----- Fax -----

E-mail -----

Je participerai au colloque - I will take part in the colloquium :

- Session du matin – Morning session
- Déjeuner – Lunch
- Session de l'après-midi – Afternoon session