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**Space Applications for Europe: Policy and Legal Aspects
Towards a Joint Approach for Space Law in Europe**

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This presentation poses the question whether we have a vision for space law on the one hand for Europe and on the other hand by Europe. Starting with this question it explores the elements for such a vision in looking into why to regulate, what to regulate and how to regulate.

For the question of why regulating, three reasons are identified: first to establish reliable and fair framework conditions for all actors, second to keep Europe strong in the international playing field (trade as well as security) and third to answer to the need for internal European harmonisation.

For the question of what to regulate it is proposed not to look only at the traditional UN space law but also to cover the harmonization of national space legislation, all kinds of civilian space applications, trade law, export regulations as well as security aspects (space weaponization and military doctrines with their relation to space law).

With regard to the question of how to regulate, the following observations are made: inter-governmental coordination mechanism for space law making exist since ESA-IRC joint actions in UNCOPUOS LSC (1999 Registration Convention; no comparable joint European visibility in the Conference on Disarmament); academic cooperation (Project 2001 and Project 2001 Plus) and work of fora/think tanks (ECSL; in the future also ESPI) has to be increased; the problem of “do we need a leader?” has to be tackled (the European Commission? – on what legal basis? – how far shall we go? - EC as the only European party to the space treaties or just supplementary to its Member States?); and also the problem of how to link it with the space policy mechanisms (European Space Council, ESA Council, HSPG) has to be answered?

For the way ahead, it is proposed, first to define “space law” for our European purposes and interests, then to set the legal basis for competences, then to create a decision-making mechanism and finally to draft a European Space Regulation Framework