Space Resource Activities

- Luxembourg has a long history with space activities beginning with the establishment of SES S.A. as a Luxembourghish company in 1985.
- Recently, Luxembourg has reasserted itself as a space faring nation with a new initiative to invest in emerging and innovative space technologies through the establishment of a Space Fund and the SpaceResources.lu initiative.
- Luxembourg has established a regulatory environment that is favorable to companies pursuing space resource activities, passing Loi du 20 juillet 2017 sur l’exploration et l’utilisation des ressources de l’espace that allows a Luxembourg licensed company to gain ownership over space resources that that entity extracts.
- The SES Chair in Space Law at the University of Luxembourg supports this effort an established research expertise in the legal issues associated with space resource extraction.

Partnership: HSRGWG

- The SES Chair has intensified its participation in the work of The Hague Space Resources Governance Working Group.
- The University of Luxembourg is a partner in the Consortium of The Hague Group, and participates in the elaboration of the Building Blocks for the Development of an International Framework on Space Resources Activities.
- This document will lay the groundwork for international discussion on the creation of an enabling environment for space resources activities.
- In 2019, the University of Luxembourg will host the final meeting of the Hague Space Resource Governance Working Group.

Domestic Laws
Prof. Mahulena Hofmann

- This research focuses on identifying how national rules on space resource activities interface with the international regime of space law.
- It investigates both Luxembourghish and US law on space resource activities, and thoroughly analyses these laws in the context of the international regime.
- Through this comparative approach, this research identifies the core issues surrounding emerging space resource legislation.
- It argues that these statutes provide a valid interpretation of the obligations found in international law under both the Outer Space Treaty and the Moon Agreement.

Environmental Aspects
Gabrielle Leterre

- Research focused on the legal issues relating to space resource activities and sustainable development in outer space.
- ‘Space mining’ raises environmental concerns, including the sustainable management of resources and scientific concerns of the contamination of the exploited celestial bodies.
- These questions are investigated in light of space treaties combined with the legal framework for the appropriation of shared marine and deep seabed resources provided by international law.
- As a result, for these activities to be a sustainable and profitable, space resources’ sustainable management needs to be legally regulated.

Enforcement Challenges
Antonino Saimeri

- Research focused on the enforcement challenges of space mining as multi-level regulatory system.
- This research addresses the legal challenges of enforcing national and international space mining rules via the identification of available mechanisms, the assessment of their effectiveness and the development of appropriate solutions.
- It concludes that existing enforcement mechanisms are not sufficient due to the peculiarities of space mining. Consequently, it presents pragmatic correctives for the short/medium term and a proposal laying down a new international system for the long term.

Publications