

## Press release

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Luxembourg Workshop on Satellite Communication, 23-24 May 2013 Satellite Communication and Dispute Resolution

*Luxembourg, 17 May 2013* - What happens if two States dispute about the right to use specific radio frequencies? What happens if one of them starts jamming the TV transmission of the other? What happens if a State does not implement timely and properly a European Union Directive dealing with frequency management? Which rules will be applied if a satellite operator has a dispute with another one about the use of a frequency band?

Satellite communication is a great market with numerous and diverse actors involved: States, international organisations, private firms and individuals. This diversity is reflected in the legal rules which encompass international treaties, European or other regional legislation, national legal rules, contracts or agreements.

The University of Luxembourg in collaboration with the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law and the SES Chair in Satellite Communication and Media Law present the 2<sup>nd</sup> Luxembourg Workshop on Satellite Communication entitled **Satellite Communication and Dispute Resolution**. The workshop, which is free and open to the public, is aiming at analysing and structuring these topics. In the two days expert speakers from Luxembourg and abroad will share their experience with the audience composed of research fellows, students and public. The event is supported by the National Research Fund and the Interdisciplinary Centre for Security, Reliability and Trust at the University of Luxembourg.

The workshop will take place **on Thursday 23 May 2013 from 13h30 to 18h30 and Friday 24 May 2013 from 09h30 to 16h00** at the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg, Weicker Building (4<sup>th</sup> floor), 4, rue Alphonse Weicker, L-2721 Luxembourg. Due to limited seating pre-registration is required at [fdef-colloques@uni.lu](mailto:fdef-colloques@uni.lu)

"Dispute resolution is an integral part of Satellite Communication and the workshop will address several topics with an international and European dimension, which will shed light in the latest developments in this fascinating field. We are delighted to welcome a group of international experts in Luxembourg and have a fruitful discussion on Satellite Communication. We are also happy to organise this conference in cooperation with the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg" said Prof. Mahulena Hofmann, the SES Chair in Satellite Communication and Media Law from the Research Unit in Law at the Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance.

The workshop will be opened by Prof. David Hiez, Head of the Research Unit in Law of the Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance of the University of Luxembourg, and Prof. Burkhard Hess, Executive Director of the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg, who will also hold the opening lecture on theory and practice of dispute settlement in international economic relations. Prof. Peter Malanczuk from Peking University of Transnational Law will speak about the role of the WTO in Relation to Space Communication; Prof. Frans von der Dunk from the University of Nebraska will concentrate on the new rules of the Permanent Court of Arbitration and their application on disputes in the Satcom area. The role of the International Telecommunication Union will be analysed by Prof. Francis Lyall (University of Aberdeen), by Mr. Srinivasan Venkatasubramanian (International Telecommunications Union) and Prof. Tanja Masson-Zwaan (University of Leiden).

The European Perspective of dispute solution in the Satcom area will be discussed under the Chairmanship of Prof. Ján Klucka, former judge at the Court of Justice of the European Union. The position of the European Space Agency will be described by Ms Ioanna Thoma (European Space Agency) and the position of an operator by Mr. Gerald Oberst (SES). Prof. Mark Cole will analyse the function of the Court of Justice of the European Union when dealing with space communication issues, and Prof. Mahulena Hofmann (both from the University of Luxembourg) will concentrate on the capacities of the European Court of Human Rights. The last panel will be devoted to outstanding issues of the law of satellite communication. Under the chairmanship of Prof. Lesley Jane Smith, Prof. Susan Poser from the University of Nebraska will deal with the US Tort Liability system and its impact on Telecommunication; Mr Jean-Francois LeBihan will explain the main features of arbitration procedure in the area of interconnection and Dr. Symeon Chatzinotas (SnT, University of Luxembourg) will concentrate on searching for a compromise between communication services. The scientific programme will be concluded by Andreas Loukakis (University of Luxembourg) answering the question "who is liable for damages caused by the use of satellite based services"

The results of the workshop are intended to be published; they should lead to a continuous international interdisciplinary research of space communication at the University of Luxembourg and to the organization of the 3rd Luxembourg International Workshop on the Governance of Space Communications in 2014.

#### **About the SES Chair**

In 2010, the University of Luxembourg and the global satellite operator SES S.A. signed an agreement that foresees a Chair in space, telecom and media law, as well as a partnership to jointly develop Luxembourg as a European centre of excellence and innovation for advanced information communications technology (ICT) in satellite systems. The SES Chair in Satellite Communications and Media Law has been established in the framework of the Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance in September 2011, with Professor Mahulena Hofmann as Chair holder. The University of Luxembourg and SES collaborate on research in satellite applications and services, satellite hybrid networks, transmission and reception technologies. From the perspective of law, research is centered around the legal and regulatory challenges in satellite communications. The SES Chair contributes also to relevant interdisciplinary research at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Security, Reliability and Trust at the University of Luxembourg.