

13th Eilene M. Galloway Symposium
Washington, D.C, 5 December 2018



Address by Kai-Uwe Schrogl, President IISL

Dear Participants,
dear Organisers of this 13th Eilene M. Galloway Memorial Symposium,

Today is a national day of mourning in the United States with the state funeral of the late President George H.W. Bush taking place. We appreciate that nevertheless so many space lawyers, academics and practitioners, as well as representatives of the space sector have joined us for this 13th Eilene M. Galloway Memorial Symposium. It is the first time that I am able to participate in the symposium in person since I was elected President of IISL two years ago, and I would like to express to you how glad I am to participate in this outstanding event. I have expressed my high appreciation for the symposium already in my written addresses of the last two years, but it provides me with particular pleasure to deliver this in person and on the spot.

The IISL as a whole has always received important impulses from the Galloway Symposia. The role of the United States as the leading space power translates also in its particular role in international space law, both through its diplomatic standing as well as through its national space legislation and regulation, which extends its influence globally. The Symposium has throughout the years been able to identify, analyse and develop the key topics in space law. This influenced IISL in various ways as demonstrated in particular at its Board meetings and at its Colloquia during the International Astronautical Congresses. I should also mention the numerous cases of the IISL Manfred Lachs Moot Court Competition, which were prepared by U.S. colleagues drawing from discussions at these Symposia.

I am therefore very curious to learn today about the dynamic development of space law and regulation in the United States, in particular driven by the Space Council, which will have an influence far beyond your national perimeters. But let me take the opportunity to bring to your attention what IISL as a global institution with representation from almost 50 countries is currently also focusing on. We are just in the midst of a series of anniversaries with 50 years of the Outer Space Treaty last year, 50 years of the Astronauts Rescue Agreement this year and 40 years of the Moon Agreement next year. Colleagues in IISL are very attentive to such anniversaries, since they provide the opportunity to check the current and future relevance of these treaties based on their application. Not by chance, I guess, the issue of “rule of law” has been introduced on this year’s programme of the Galloway Symposium.

Further events of relevance I should mention are UNISPACE+50, where a thorough update of global space activities was conducted, the results from the UNCOPUOS Long-term Sustainability Working Group and the setting out of a joint initiative on Space Traffic Management by IISL, the International Academy of Astronautics and the International Astronautical Federation, which is another topic on today’s programme. We can also observe an increase in national space legislation and in IISL we have started to analyse the questions of space law and cyber law and the legal status of the space between air space and outer space, relevant for the use of High Altitude Platforms or Pseudo Satellites. One of the special features of the Galloway Symposium is that it brings together so many practitioners from the commercial space sector, which sends its waves very widely since NewSpace is taking hold also in other parts of the world and everybody pays great attention to U.S. practice.

Let me finish by recalling that for the first time IISL held a Board of Directors' meeting in the United States. This happened on the invitation of our Board Member Skip Smith in Colorado Springs, where the IISL was, in addition to this, provided with the opportunity to present itself in two events at the Space Symposium. And I can already indicate that IISL will be back at the 2019 Space Symposium. Also next year, the International Astronautical Congress will be held here in Washington D.C. and I can assure you that all members of the Institute are excited to assemble here. I know you will make this IAC a memorable event. In closing, let me thank Marcia, Dennis and Joanne together with all those involved in the preparation as well as the speakers and the audience for joining this Symposium, which is held in memory of the truly outstanding Eilene Galloway, who has not only influenced space law development in a particularly strong way, but who was also a great supporter of IISL. The Institute is everlastingly indebted to her. With this, I wish us all an interesting and stimulating symposium.