

Conveners

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Register here



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31. Würzburger Europarechtstage

THE EUROPEAN UNION IN OUTER SPACE

15/16 June 2026

Neubaukirche
Domerschulstr. 16
97070 Würzburg

During the Cold War, international law designated outer space as a common of humanity. Recent developments and the involvement of corporations have made space a central arena for not only political but also economic competition. As a result, entities across the globe are prioritising space to drive innovation across all sectors, and space infrastructure is put in place for modern warfare. In this landscape, the EU seeks to develop a political economy for outer space that balances strategic autonomy with sustainability and resilience.

The 2026 *Europarechtstage* take this geopolitical shift as an opportunity to examine the European Union's engagement in outer space and the future of Outer Space Law.

Monday, 15 June 2026

15:00 Registration and Coffee

15:30 Welcome and Introduction

Christoph Teichmann (Dean of the Law Faculty, University of Würzburg)

Isabel Feichtner (University of Würzburg)

Anna Raab (University of Würzburg)

16:00-17:30 Panel I

Science - Science Diplomacy in the Governance of Outer Space

How are science and diplomacy interdependent, and how can scientific expertise inform the governance of outer space? This panel highlights recent and ongoing efforts to strengthen the role of scientists in policymaking on outer space.

Ulpia Botezatu (UN COPUOS - Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC) / Romanian Space Agency)

Hakan Kayal (University of Würzburg)

Martin Müller (Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA))

Moderator: Philipp Sauter (University of Würzburg)

18:00-19:30 Public Keynote and Roundtable Discussion

From Cold War Commons to the Second Race for Outer Space

Matthew Craven (SOAS University of London)

Isabel Feichtner (University of Würzburg)

Alexandra Kemmerer (Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law)

Tuesday, 16 June 2026

09:30-11:00 Panel II

Security – Outer Space as a Domain of Militarization, Conflict and Defence

Which role do the United Nations play in maintaining security in outer space and protecting against threats from outer space, and how is outer space addressed in the European Union's defence strategy and policies?

Hasan Abbas (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan)

Almudena Azcárate Ortega (Secure World Foundation)

Guido Dietl (University of Würzburg)

Franziska Knur (German Aerospace Center)

Moderator: Anna Raab (University of Würzburg)

11:15-12:45 Panel III

Satellites and Science Fiction – Outer Space as Junk Yard or Future Habitat

Satellites revolutionize navigation and communication on earth, but also gather data for the exploration of extraterrestrial life and settlements. This panel inquires into legal, ecological and technological challenges posed by satellites and extraterrestrial studies.

Michael Hennessy Picard (University of Edinburgh)

Caroline Rapatz (University of Kiel)

Kevin Madders (King's College London)

Marine Briard (KU Leuven)

Moderator: Eva-Maria Kieninger (University of Würzburg)

12:45 Concluding Remarks