

**Summary Report of the Symposium on Legal and Policy Aspects of Space
Cooperation between Europe and BRICS Countries: Inventory, Challenges and
Opportunities**

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Addressing the current challenges to space cooperation in a multipolar international system: at the historic Academic Building of Leiden University, on May 16th 2013, an innovative symposium was held on opportunities of collaboration between Europe and the BRICS countries, that is, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, which in 2009 assembled a flexible political and economic grouping of major developing countries. The interdisciplinary event, jointly organized by the International Institute of Air and Space Law of Leiden Law School and the Department of Latin American Studies of Leiden University's Faculty of Humanities, encompassed a substantial and rich programme, with sessions covering not only an inventory of existing agreements involving the parties, but also challenges and opportunities for the future, rendering a singular opportunity for diplomats, scholars, researchers, students and practitioners from Europe and BRICS states to share their views about this instigating modern venue for strategic partnerships.

Welcoming remarks were made by Prof. Dr. Simone Buitendijk, Vice-Rector of Leiden University. She stressed the relevance of the event, hoping that it would encourage the participants to work together. Next, an introduction about the importance of Europe-BRICS space cooperation was presented by Asst. Prof. Tanja Masson-Zwaan, from Leiden University, emphasizing the importance of collaboration involving Europe and the countries of BRICS, as far as space activities are concerned.

Session 1, chaired by Prof. Elisabeth Back Impallomeni, from the University of Padua, Italy, set the scene regarding BRICS characteristics and European initiatives of cooperation. First presenter was Prof. Paulo Borba Casella, from the University of São Paulo, Brazil, who shed light on the BRICS, an international grouping rapidly evolving from concept to reality. Next, Associate Prof. Marianne Wiesebron, from Leiden University, submitted a European view on the BRICS, explaining the advantages of cooperation and reaffirming that European countries need to recognize the BRICS as a reality. Finally, Ms. Caroline Lubbers, of LEAP2020 (Laboratoire Européen d'Anticipation Politique, one of the sponsors of the symposium), presented the Euro-BRICS initiative of this think tank, concluding that Europe should move towards the BRICS and vice versa, to establish the fundamentals for the new world and its global governance.

Ms. Agnieszka Lukaszczyk, of the Secure World Foundation (also sponsoring the symposium), chaired the following session, which addressed intra-BRICS space cooperation and BRICS countries' perspectives on cooperation with Europe. Prof. José Monserrat Filho, of the Brazilian Space Agency, detailed the relationship between China and Brazil involving the development of the successful China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellites (CBERS) programme. Then, Mr. K. R. Sridhara Murthi, from the National Institute of Advanced Studies of Bangalore, India, offered an interesting account of space international cooperation conducted by India, not only with other BRICS countries, but with Europe as well, highlighting the potential for further collaboration. Prof. Peter Malanczuk, from Peking University School of Transnational

Law, China, spoke next, carefully detailing the tremendous progress of the successful Chinese space program, indicating opportunities of international cooperation for Europe. Characteristics of the South African space endeavors were then introduced by Prof. Keith Gottschalk, from the University of West Cape, South Africa, who stressed the huge potential for BRICS/Europe synergies. Ending this session, Mr. Sergei Negoda, of the UN Office of Outer Space Affairs, produced a comprehensive study on the Russian space program and national legislation, indeed a country with an unquestionable historic importance in the field, and one which pragmatically considers international cooperation important as well as inevitable, as far as space activities are concerned.

The last session was chaired by Prof. Wim van den Doel, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities of Leiden University, covering content and format of space cooperation between Europe and BRICS countries. Mr. Radomir Janský, of the Space Policy Office of the DG Enterprise and Industry, European Commission, indicated that such relationship should fit into models of international cooperation, happening in bilateral, regional and global levels. He was followed by Mr. Cristian Bank, of Astrium Space Transportation, Germany, who reviewed a case study on European space cooperation with Russia, the “Crew Space Transportation System”, and emphasized that international collaboration in the area is not an invention of recent times. Then Dr. Peter Hulsroj, from ESPI, Austria, introduced a compelling presentation of the strategic relevance to Europe of working together with the BRICS in the space sector, urging for further initiatives in that regard. Last to speak in session 3 was Ms. Anabelle Fonseca, from the European Space Agency, who identified specific space agreements entered into by ESA and BRICS countries, each one representing a particular level of relevance, from Russia as a strong partner to South Africa as a potential new one.

Closing the symposium, a panel considering the outlook and recommendations in relation to space cooperation between Europe and BRICS was moderated by Prof. Laurens Jan Brinkhorst, Chairman of the International Institute of Air and Space Law. He posed thought-provoking questions about the BRICS as an international structure and the potential of future cooperation with Europe and the rest of the world to the panel’s members, Ms. Agnieszka Lukaszczyk, of the Secure World Foundation, Mr. K. R. Sridhara Murthi, from the National Institute of Advanced Studies of Bangalore, India, Dr. Yun Zhao, from the University of Hong Kong, China and Mr. R. Piers, from Ecorys. A lively debate followed, with enthusiastic participation from the participants. Prof. Brinkhorst summed up the interventions with sharp analysis and noted the importance of cooperation between Europe and BRICS in the global context, a view also shared by Tanja Masson-Zwaan, who, in her closing speech, expressed thanks to all sponsors, speakers, chairs, panelists and participants for their excellent contributions.

The presentations and photos of the symposium can be viewed at:

<http://law.leiden.edu/organisation/publiclaw/iasl/news/brics-presentations.html>

