



Institute and Centre of Air and Space Law
Institut et centre de droit aérien et spatial

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Montreal, 30 November 2022

Dear Fellow Alumni and Association Members,

It is with great pleasure that I reach out to you today as the recently appointed Acting President of the Institute of Air and Space Law Association (IASLA). I hope you are all keeping well and that our great McGill Institute of Air and Space Law (IASL) remains close to your hearts.

Professor John Saba, long-time chairman of the board and IASL Interim Director Prof. Donal Hanley recently approached Abdullah Sen, Martine de Serres and me to act as Acting Treasurer/Secretary, Acting Vice President and Acting President, respectively, in order to manage the IASLA on an interim basis. Our principal objective is to convene a special assembly of the members and to conduct organising elections of substantive officers in accordance with the Association's current by-laws (attached). We are also tasked with actively recruiting new and energetic young members into the service of the IASLA, as well as with reinvigorating and modernizing its goals and priorities to maximize its value for all stakeholders.

Furthermore, the IASLA needs to be able to execute on its critical role of supporting and promoting the IASL as it moves forward as the world's leading air and space law academic institution. We have the full support and encouragement of the leadership of the IASL in this regard.

As a reminder, the IASLA is a not-for-profit organisation constituted pursuant to the applicable laws of Canada and is based in Montreal, as per the by-laws that were renewed in 2017. It is nominally tasked with promoting and maintaining ties and relations among the IASL's graduates, as well as supporting and promoting the IASL in its activities and academic work. It has almost exclusively been focussed over the last several decades on organizing social functions in Montreal, including the annual dinner at the end of the IASL's academic year and a holiday reception in December. It is also enormously dependant on the generous volunteerism and support of locally based graduates and IASL personnel, for which our collective gratitude and appreciation are limitless, and does *not* currently have its own funding or revenue sources.

Per the above short-term mandate, we propose to convene a virtual special assembly of the membership on **Friday, 03 February 2023 at 10h00 EST**. The present therefore constitutes formal notice to this end per paragraph 7(f) of the By-Laws. We have taken



this virtual approach in order to maximize the ability of our members scattered around the globe and in many different time zones to participate. As a valued IASLA member, you are invited to attend and are strongly encouraged to actively take part in this important event. Kindly note that pre-registration for the Assembly will be required in order to receive the meeting platform link.

A formal agenda will be prepared and distributed to all members at least 30 days prior to the Assembly. All members are invited to submit any proposed agenda items at least 45 days prior to the Assembly. As we will be proposing the election of a new board of directors from which a permanent IASLA executive committee will be appointed, including the president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, you are also invited and, again, strongly encouraged to submit your respective candidacies to this end when confirming your intention to attend. Indeed, we need all the young and energetic talent that our membership offers to work actively for the IASLA's future.

Moreover, we hereby propose to include in the final agenda the following critical issues for discussion and input with the view to establishing a roadmap for the new executive team in its subsequent work and duties:

- The IASLA's future role, objectives and priorities
- Updating and modernizing the IASLA's governance framework
- Finances and new sources of funding
- Communications and interaction with regional association branches

Kindly note that additional background information with respect to these matters and more detailed questions with the aim of stimulating responses and input will be provided to members at the same time as the final agenda.

We genuinely look forward to hearing from you and, in the interim, offer you our best wishes for the upcoming holiday season.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Petsikas".

George Petsikas

Acting President, Institute of Air and Space Law Association

c.c. Prof. Donal Hanley
Martine de Serres
Abdullah Sen
John Saba