

# 1<sup>st</sup> SPANISH SYMPOSIUM ON THE ARCTIC REGION

The Arctic facing International Law, Politics and Research

Madrid, 13th November 2014

University Complutense of Madrid

Faculty of Law

Salón de Grados



UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE  
MADRID

With the participation of



# GENERAL OVERVIEW

Nowadays, due largely to the process of global warming, the Arctic region has gained great strategic and economic relevance. From the strategic point of view, it is a region located in the territory of the traditional super powers, which raises the issue of its possible militarization. From the economic point of view, it is a region where important natural resources abound, and the ongoing Arctic meltdown has made possible the opening of new routes to global trade. Territorial disputes in the Arctic are few, the issue of sovereignty claims of the several States bordering the Arctic Ocean, raises issues centered on the delimitation of maritime spaces under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, 1982), especially in connection with their respective continental shelves beyond two hundreds nautical miles. With the progressive melting of the ice, new trade routes - Northwest Passage and Northeast Passage - are opening up, making exploitation of natural resources easier. In addition, indigenous communities are affected not only by climate change, but also by the political game of great powers struggling to take control over their natural habitats. The Arctic also faces environmental hazards connected with oil spills, fishing, and mining. These threats enhance the need to delineate and defend the Arctic region and the national borders therein, to establish surveillance of trade routes, and to ensure proper exploitation of natural resources and protection of the inhabitants. In sum, this region is a first magnitude geostrategic fulcrum in which the interests of the international community converge. The same can be said of those of the national sovereignties of neighboring nations, which seek to control the region and its vast resources.

# MAIN OBJECTIVES

The Symposium aims at creating an interdisciplinary space of discussion and debate among different Arctic scientists, policy makers and stakeholders. Including academics and representatives of both Arctic and non-Arctic research Institutes, the congress will give a general overview of the most relevant issues related with the North-Pole region and derived from climate change. It must be noticed, considering that Spain is developing its first Polar Strategy, that this is the first Spanish Symposium on Arctic issues from the perspective of Human and Social Sciences, particularly, International Law and Political Science. The Congress not only intends to be a forum for scientific discussion, but also a way to make known among students of the main challenges present in the Arctic.

**Director**

**Dr. Elena Conde Pérez, UCM Madrid**

**Coordinator**

**Marzia Scopelliti, UNIMI Milan**

# PROGRAMME

## OPENINGS

(09.30 - 10.00 a.m.)

- Professor R. Canosa, Dean, Faculty of Law
- Professor Elena Conde, University Complutense of Madrid
- Mr. Juan Luis Muñoz de Laborde, General Deputy Director of Multilateral Economic Relations and Cooperation, Maritime and Terrestrial Area (TBC)
- Admiral Manuel Catalán, Secretary of the Spanish Polar Committee
- Sr. Simon Cridland, Councillor of the Canadian Embassy

## THE ARCTIC

(10.00 - 10.30 a.m.)

### **An introduction. The Arctic region from International Law: main challenges due to climate change**

- Professor Elena Conde, main researcher of the research project "The race for the Arctic: International Law issues considering climate change"<sup>1</sup>

## BURNING QUESTIONS

(10.30 - 13.00 a.m.) Moderated by Professor Manuel Pérez González

### **Hot topics and knowledge gaps in the Arctic resource governance: Perspectives from Norway and Iceland (10.30 - 11.30 a.m.)**

- Dr. Leiv Lunde, Director of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute
- Dr. Niels Einarsson, Director of the Stefansson Arctic Institute

### **Security threats in the Arctic, still present?**

- Professor Rob Huebert, University of Calgary
- Lieutenant Colonel Ángel Gómez de Ágreda, Spanish Ministry of Defence

## COFFEE BREAK

(11.30 - 12.00 a.m.)

**Arctic Peoples, how to balance rights, development and traditional values  
(12.00 - 13.00 am)**

- Professor Nuria Arenas Higaldo, University of Huelva
- Professor Soledad Torrecuadrada García Lozano, University Autónoma of Madrid

**Scientific research in the Arctic: the state of the art**

- Dr. Peter Skold, President of International Arctic Social Science Association (IASSA)

**OPEN DEBATE  
(13.00 - 13.30 a.m.)**

**LUNCHTIME**

**SPAIN GETS A NORTHERN DIMENSION  
(16.00 - 17.00 p.m.)** Moderated by Professor Nila Torres Ugena

**Spanish interests in the Arctic**

- Navy Captain Ignacio José García Sánchez, Deputy Director of the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies (IEEE)

**Spanish Polar structure**

- Admiral Manuel Catalán, Secretary of the Spanish Polar Committee

**Compromising interest: do enterprises face NGOs demands?**

- Mrs. Pilar Marcos Rodriguez, Main Responsible of the campaign "Save the Arctic" of Greenpeace - Spain

**COFFEE BREAK  
(17.00 - 17.30 p.m.)**

# THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE ARCTIC

(17:30 - 18.30 p.m.)

## **Europe playing an Arctic role: the participation of European States in the Arctic Council and the legal protection of Arctic Peoples**

- Dr. Sara Iglesias, European Court of Justice
- Postgraduate Marzia Scopelliti, University of Milan

## **Sustainable development in the Arctic: Europe, marine governance and new navigation routes**

- Professor Marta Sobrido, University of La Coruña
- Professor Marta Iglesias, University Pontificia of Comillas

# CLOSING REMARKS

(18.30 - 19.00 p.m.)

- Ambassador Johan C. Vibe, Kingdom of Norway

# PARTNERS



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  - University Complutense students:  
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