



ASSOCIATION OF SPACE EXPLORERS – EUROPE EUROPEAN ASTRONAUT REUNION 2023 4-7 MAY 2023, LUXEMBOURG

On invitation of the Luxembourg Space Agency LSA, the Association of Space Explorers Europe convened an Astronaut Reunion in the city of Luxembourg. Several attempts in the years before had failed because of pandemic conditions. The Reunion coincided with the 3rd Space Festival, which took place in the extravagant Newminster Abbaye venue in Luxembourg-Grund and was organized by a very motivated group of French and Luxembourg volunteers.



Nine astronauts from six European countries interacted with the public in fora, panels, and social

events. LSA moderated the theme focus on Space Ethics during the first day including a high level panel discussion in the evening. Space Ethics has become a very important subject now that more and more players take an interest in space exploration and space exploitation.



The second day saw astronaut presentations in a number of panel discussions which made use of the broad spectrum of experience

of the astronauts and their language skills.

Walks through the upper and lower city parts and museum visits acquainted the astronauts and their spouses with the rich Luxembourg culture and its history.

The reunion also did not miss to visit Schengen and take a walk along memorials of the important dates that have led to the unified Europa we know today. A wine tasting and dinner rounded the participants' thankful impression of Luxembourg as a very hospitable country with a high profile in Space activities and a truly European spirit.



Images:

- (1) Nine European astronauts lined up for their Reunion
- (2) from left J. Arnoud, CNES, R. Ewald, Charlotte and Ana from the organizing team, D. Prunariu, P. Duque after a panel discussion
- (3) C. Nicollier and F. Viehboeck take an interest into 'real' space H/W
- (4) the astronaut group left a memorial lock in Schengen