Resolution EISC 15th Plenary Session,

Brussels, 15 October 2013

"Acknowledging that:
the shortage of young Europeans interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects and careers, in particular young women, combined with an overall ageing population in the European STEM workforce, could affect the future tertiary education systems in Europe, and even more so the STEM related industries and their employment markets; including the space related ones;

Space is extremely useful to raise the interest of young people for science in general, and to train the future European highly skilled workforce;

Small, micro, nano satellites and CubeSats (Smaller Satellites) are a multipurpose instrument for education, science, technology demonstration, services and entrepreneurship;

CubeSats are "high-end" tools for tertiary space-related education (besides other tools such as drop/spin/fly) as proven by the success of the ESA Education Programme offering a unique hands-on opportunity to also have access to state-of-the-art facilities and expertise from ESA;

European and International projects such as CubeSat (e.g.: QB50, the Fly Your Satellite initiative …); small satellites (e.g.. ESEO …), as well as small missions not only provide exciting scientific and engineering opportunities but also support and strengthen European spirit and identity.

Requests all Members of EISC to:

Inform their citizens, media, fellow parliamentarians about the benefits of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, through the medium of space in general and Smaller Satellites, and CubeSats, in particular;

Actively help attract and increase youth involvement in science, in particular female scientists (from Girlsday to Hollywood);

Promote the inclusion of space in primary, secondary and higher education curricula, with a special focus on concrete and current job opportunities in the sector;

Encourage national bodies to participate in the ESERO (European Space Education Resources Office) network operated by ESA;

Encourage more universities to set up and carry out Smaller Satellite programmes to be funded by regional, national and European organisations, thus enabling the further development of up-to-date research and technologies; and improve existing synergies between industry, universities and agencies; Encourage
international institutions and governments to facilitate the obtention of affordable launch opportunities by universities;

Liaise closely with the Space Generation Advisory Council, in order to benefit from their young space professionals networks and working groups, in particular their ‘Small Satellite Project Group’;

Call upon the space sector, especially industry, to integrate young people into the heart of space projects in order to provide them with access to high-technologies;

Provide frameworks for encouraging entrepreneurship;

Provide, through legislative action, on the national and European level the adequate regulatory framework for the operations of Smaller Satellites (licensing, registration, frequency use, and space debris mitigation) and ask executive bodies to carefully enforce this for the benefit of orderly and sustainable conduct of space activities;

Help improve communication on space applications and their vital importance for industry, and in particular Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), thus demonstrating the importance to invest in such projects.

Actively promote the use of social media such as LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook in order to reach out to the general public and professionals alike.

Decides to:

Continue, following the first successful edition, the “EISC/ESA Award on Space and Sustainability” for young people in order to raise awareness and demonstrate EISC’s support in this crucial issue;

Set up an “EISC Working Group” together with national and European space agencies, industry and other interested parties, in order to reflect on the possibility to organise EISC internship programmes which would provide young people the opportunity to learn and be prepared for technical as well as administrative functions in the space sector. The ‘EISC Working Group’ could also present an opportunity to help young scientists with their doctorate thesis.”

Use the YouSpace Group on LinkedIn, launched during the EISC Workshop on 25 March 2013, as a communication tool between students, universities, industries, institutions and all passionates about space.