

## **16<sup>th</sup> EISC, French Presidency, Paris, 20 October 2014**

### **Summary of the Morning Session**

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The Morning Session contained convincing testimonials on the socio-economic benefit of space. The main arguments and figures mentioned were:

- In 2013, the global space economy has generated €203 billion in revenues.
- The European space industry's global turnover reached €6.8 billion in 2013 (up 5% compared to 2012), corresponding to 10,6% of the global space manufacturing chain.
- In Europe, space industry employment increased in 2012 for the seventh consecutive year, reaching a historical level slightly above 36,000 in 2013.
- Estimated benefits of weather forecast in the EU 27 in the areas of protection of property and infrastructure, added value to the European economy, and private use by the European citizens is €61.5 billion per year and direct value to the economy is €41 billion.
- Each Euro invested in the space sector brings at least 6 Euros in economic return (OECD).
- ESA Member States represented more than half of the world's scientific publications on satellite technologies in 2013. These publications do not only come from the largest ESA contributors to space but the ones that rank top in terms relative to their investments are Portugal and Greece.
- Space is one of the top inspirational areas for the young generations to study Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and Europe is of great need of young scientists and Engineers.

#### **The Morning Session also held the following messages addressed to MPs:**

- Space needs MPs assembled in EISC for encouraging further support to space
  - inside the Parliaments (in particular in those committees which are potential users of space applications and in the budget committees) and
  - in the constituencies, where often the citizen has to be convinced why space is a priority and of benefit even if other activities/investments seem to be more directly relevant ("space is the better and more efficient solution!").
- Space needs MPs to support public institutions (agencies, research establishments, universities) as well as industry in their efforts to create knowledge and industrial benefit and to provide a climate for new creative engagement in particular for start-ups.

The Lisbon Treaty enlarged the responsibility of the EU for space. But at the same time it clearly states that space is a parallel competence together with the Member States.

This means that the role of national parliaments has actually been highlighted and strengthened by the Lisbon Treaty.

**Three recent concrete examples of how national parliaments shape space activities through legislative acts:**

- The French Space Operations Act, which entered into force in 2010 and provides the legal framework for authorization of space activities.
- The German Satellite Data Security Act, which entered into force in 2007 and fosters the use of remote sensing data while at the same time safeguards security and foreign policy interests.
- The Polish act establishing a Polish Space Agency of 2014. This was initiated by the national parliament and the space group was instrumental.

**What is currently at stake, where national Parliaments can act:**

1) Securing frequencies for space activities

- The single Member States are responsible for the management of the frequency spectrum and are represented in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and their World Radiocommunication Conferences. In Europe an association of States (more numerous than the EU) is coordinating the positions: the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT).
- All space activities require frequencies for operations and use (not only telecom but also navigation, Earth observation and science). However, all frequency bands allocated to space services are under pressure from terrestrial services (in particular mobile telecommunications), which need more and more bandwidth and which squeeze the space services to more and more narrow areas. This endangers the investment the countries are putting into space activities, because the full potential can be less and less guaranteed.
- EISC can be the place, where strategies and actions can be coordinated to improve the situation regarding the frequencies for space services. The national parliaments have a strong role in making the national regulatory authorities to better consider and to protect space services. Whenever the talk is about “neutrality”, it mostly leads to a disadvantage for space services – this means, space services have to be protected = discriminated in a positive way, overcoming a neutrality, which hurts them.
- Also the way for new technologies, which only recently entered regulation (as optical communication), can be discussed in EISC to avoid problems as presently with other space services.

2) National organisation of the use of Earth observation data

- The European Union established in 2007 the INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information) directive. To ensure that the spatial data infrastructures of the Member States are compatible and usable in a Community and trans-boundary context, the Directive requires that common Implementing Rules (IRs) are adopted in a number of specific areas (metadata, data specifications, network services, data and service sharing and monitoring and reporting). These IRs are adopted as Commission decisions or regulations, and are binding in their entirety. The Commission is assisted in the process of adopting such rules by a regulatory committee composed of representatives of the Member States and chaired by a representative of the Commission.

- The role for national Parliaments is evident since the implementation process provides them with a direct mandate. EISC could again be the place to coordinate efforts on how this is handled in the respective parliaments and to exchange on practices on how to best serve the interest of space applications in public use as well as in commercialization.

### 3) National space legislation for authorization of space activities of private actors

- It is the single Member States, which have ratified the Outer Space Treaty of 1967. Therefore, its implementation cannot be passed to another level. This means that the national Parliaments have to pass national laws dealing with the authorization of private space activities (for example private telecom operators or universities launching small satellites) in order to safeguard public interest for safety and to regulate third-party liability, which rests with the State.
- Less than half of the EU/ESA Member States have so far passed such national space laws, but all should do so.
- EISC could be a forum to coordinate these efforts in order to get the legislators informed in-depth about the existing laws and experience with these laws and to avoid that legislation varies too much with the threat of “licence shopping” by multinational companies.

### 4) Export of space-related goods and services

- Export of space-related goods and services are often closely linked with dual use and thus face a delicate political and regulatory regime regarding export. EISC could exchange on the national practice and experience in this field.

### 5) Regulating private human spaceflight/space tourism

- A number of States in Europe have plans for private human spaceflight/space tourism. The UK, Spain and the NL have ideas about operations from their respective territories.
- While there are ideas of involving the European Aeronautics Safety Agency (EASA) in the regulatory efforts, which are required for safe operations, the issue rests with the national legislators. EISC can play a role as a natural forum to discuss and coordinate.

### 6) Supporting space as a theme in primary and secondary education

- Primary and secondary education are not European but national (or federal States - level) competencies. Therefore, each Member State should try on its own to use space as an attractive theme in education to foster the interest of children in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). EISC has started under the Belgian Presidency to look into the issue and could further engage in this field to make efforts even more effective and efficient.