

## EISC report – Czech Republic

Dear colleagues,

It is a great honour for me to be presenting a Czech national report on our progress in the Space sector. Let me first say a huge “thank you” to all the organisers and the Norwegian presidency, who have done a tremendous amount of work during a very difficult year. I know from personal experience it is no easy feat to organise such a flawless event in an online form – so once again, thank you.

Now, I would like to talk about the advances in the Czech Republic’s space sector in the last year. As you all know, only a few days ago the European Parliament has approved the new European space programme. We consider it a great success for all the colleagues who were involved in the 3-year long negotiations, and a huge step forward for the whole EU space sector.

It bears a very special significance for the Czech Republic, as it also officially established the EU Space Programme Agency with headquarters in Prague. We strongly believe that extending the scope of the Prague-based GSA will bring not only the very much needed simplification of the governance of various EU satellite programmes, but also enhance the cooperation and coordination with ESA, more straightforward policies, and easier access to Space for SMEs.

The preparations for the transformation of GSA into EUSPA are well underway, with a recent Memorandum of understanding approved by the Czech government.

I am very pleased to say that the Czech space sector is doing very well in terms of getting involved in larger and more complex projects. To name some examples, ATC Space company finished the first set of components for the Ariane 6 rockets last year, the SSMS dispenser made by S.A.B. Aerospace was a success and g cooperation on several scientific instruments aboard the Solar Orbiter mission.

I would also like to point out ESA Business Incubation Centre Prague, as an example of a truly innovative project, which was the first ESA incubator in the Visegrad group and Eastern Europe, and which has just successfully secured funding for the next five years. With 34 supported start-ups, focused on all segments of the space sector, and more than 12 million euro in secured investments, it most certainly belongs amongst the most successful projects for start-ups in the Czech Republic.

I believe that the Space sector will continue to play a significant role both in the Czech industry and academia in the future - especially with the challenges we all face with the mitigation of the climate crisis and the reinvigoration of the European economy.

I have also followed closely the debate on national space laws today and hope that we will be able to considerably progress the debate on Czech national space law in the coming months.

Thank you very much for your attention and I look forward to seeing you all again in person soon.

European Interparliamentary Space Conference  
(Evropská meziparlamentární vesmírná konference)