Parlamentsgruppe Luft- und Raumfahrt
Aviation and Space Group in the Bundestag
Groupe Aviation et Espace au Bundestag

Parlamentsgruppe Luft- und Raumfahrt • 11011 Berlin

Platz der Republik 1
11011 Berlin

E-Mail: klaus-peter.willsch@bundestag.de

Vorsitzender: **Klaus-Peter Willsch MdB**
Telefon 030 227 – 73 124
Fax 030 227 – 76 124

1. Stellvertreter: **Michael Gerdes MdB**

stellv. Vors.: **Andreas Lämmel MdB**
Dr. Reinhard Brandl MdB
Wolfgang Hellmich MdB
Dieter Janecek MdB
Manuel Höferlin MdB
Gerold Otten MdB

Berlin, 10.05.2021
unser Zeichen: kpw/rs

23rd European Interparliamentary Space Conference (EISC)

10th May 2021 / Digital Event

EISC Delegation Member Statement
Klaus-Peter Willsch MdB

First of all, I would like to sincerely thank the Norwegian Presidency and my colleagues Åsunn Lyngedal and Kårstein Eidem Løvaas and their team, as well as ESPI, for managing to host the EISC with a digital event in these difficult times - again. When we last „met“ in September, I was sure that a digital version of EISC would remain unique. But at least digital applications give us alternative possibilities. At this point, I would also like to briefly add that I am very pleased that the new ESA Director General Josef Aschbacher remains loyal to EISC. I am very pleased that you are also with us today! This underlines once more the importance of EISC!

A space law was announced in the coalition agreement of 2018: "We will initiate a space law to create investment and legal certainty for non-governmental space activities.“

As announced, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy has drawn up key points for a "law to strengthen non-governmental space activities" and begun coordinating with the ministries. To this end, the BMWi is still in dialog with the ministries. Once the ministries have reached agreement, the associations will be involved. The timetable for the project depends to a large extent on the progress of these discussions.

The licensing requirements to be introduced with a national space law are intended to ensure that non-governmental space activities are carried out in compliance with international law. The requirements for granting a license would therefore also include ensuring that a space activity is carried out in compliance with internationally recognized guidelines for the avoidance of space debris and with appropriate

precautions. The BMWi is currently still in consultation with the ministries on the content of the key points of a "law to strengthen non-governmental space activities".

I am in close contact with the German government's aerospace coordinator Thomas Jarzombek. Apparently, the main issue is coordination with the Federal Ministry of Finance under the leadership of Olaf Scholz, who is blocking this important project. Let’s hope there will be some progress soon, since time is running out.

Under the Outer Space Treaty, states are also responsible for non-state activities in the same way as they are for state activities and must authorize and continuously supervise them. Under the Outer Space Registration Convention, states must register space objects, usually in coordination with other states involved in the launch. Increasing privatization necessitates legislation to allow access to and ensure the participation of non-state actors. With a binding regulatory framework, non-state actors have the planning and investment certainty they need to realize commercial space projects. Internationally, the Act is a "ticket" to co-determination of future rules for space activities (space debris, space traffic management, mining, etc.).

- Three German companies are developing microlaunchers (HyImpulse, Isar Aerospace, Rocket Factory Augsburg); these projects receive government funding. Unlike traditional spaceflight, these companies are developing their rockets mainly with private money. This is a radical shift in paradigms. Germany is thus gearing

up for a new era of spaceflight, which is moving from manufactory to industry.

- A German spaceport is a project desired by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and is currently under consideration:

  o DLR feasibility study Spaceport Rostock-Laage.

  o BDI strategy paper German launch site for microlaunchers.

  A German spaceport will make a major contribution to German and European sovereignty with respect to critical infrastructure. Under the initiative of the Federation of German Industries (BDI), the business consortium "German Offshore Spaceport Alliance" (Gosa) was founded at the end of last year.

  The planned spaceport is not to be built on land but on water. A mobile launch pad will then enable small rockets with satellites on board to be sent into space from the North Sea.

- The registration of space objects is carried out by DLR-RFA in cooperation with the German Federal Aviation Office and the German Foreign Office. Currently, there are no registration/cooperation obligations for operators.

DLR's research focuses on global change, climate, earth observation, space travel, maritime security and satellite navigation.

By way of example, I would like to introduce you to a few of the numerous projects.

„Polar Monitor“:

This mission will take place from 2020 to 2022 and will use radar data to investigate possible effects of changes in the polar regions in order to detect and understand their impact on society at an early stage. Remote sensing methods will be further developed and operationalized to record and quantify relevant parameters for change processes in the polar regions, e.g. permafrost. The results are made available via an internet platform.

Operation of the DLR ground station in Inuvik (Canada):

The Inuvik satellite receiving station is a large-scale facility operated by DLR in Inuvik (Canada). Among other things, the ground station is used to receive data from the TanDEM-X satellite and the Sentinel-5P Earth observation mission.

Due to the geographical location of the ground station of the German Aerospace Center (DLR) for remote sensing data in cooperation with the Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation (CCMEO), it is possible to set up remote sensing satellites (satellites in polar orbit) in almost any orbit communication. Among other things, a 13-metre auto tracking reflector antenna for S- and X-band is used for this purpose.

The system also enables command and control of the satellites (TT&C service, Launch and Early Orbit Phase (LEOP) support) and ensures timely access to remote sensing data. Inuvik is the first operational satellite ground station on the Inuvik Satellite Station Facility (ISSF).

Expedition „Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate" (MOSAiC) 2018-2019:

Particularly in the vicinity of the north and south poles, the signals from navigation satellites are subject to disturbances caused by solar activity. No real data are currently available for the development of suitable countermeasures.

DLR is closing this gap by collecting the necessary raw data from the Galileo and GPS systems in the Arctic Ocean during the one-year-long MOSAiC polar expedition. They are then used to develop processing and correction algorithms.

In the harsh environment of the Arctic Ocean, it is particularly important that position determination is always precise, and that safe navigation can be guaranteed.

Permafrost Airborne SAR Experiment (PermASAR):

Scientists from the DLR Microwaves and Radar Institute have developed special radar technologies and analytical methods that enable the highly accurate observation of permafrost. As part of DLR's Permafrost Airborne SAR Experiment (PermASAR), they were carrying out extensive measurement flights over the permafrost region of Canada.