

European Space Conference. Welcome words in the opening of the workshop of March 23 and 24.

Dear members of the European Interparliamentary Space Conference,

Dear representatives of the agencies and institutions related to the European space industry,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Spanish Congress of Deputies and in my quality of Chairman of the Space Parliamentary Group, I would like to welcome you very warmly to Madrid.

I thank you very sincerely for coming, and I trust and wish that you will have a pleasant and fruitful stay among us. We will no doubt do our best to this end.

As I already mentioned in my invitation letter, since January 1st, 2015, the Spanish Parliament has assumed the annual rotatory Presidency of this Conference.

For this reason, today we start with the first of the two meetings we have scheduled for this year: the preparatory workshop of the plenary meeting, which, in principle, we will be holding in September.

The meeting will deal with "Space Governance".

More specifically, during this workshop our goal is to present and discuss the evolution of space governance at European level, paying special attention to the shared competences granted by the Lisbon Treaty to the European Union, and to which is or should be its practical reflection on the new space programmes. And with this I mean both those adopted in the Ministerial Councils of the European Space Agency and those included in the Financial Perspectives of the European Union for 2014-2020.

I will not claim the sole merit of this choice, and therefore I would like to make a special mention to our main partner, namely, the Industrial Technological Development Centre of the Spanish Ministry of Economy. Let me thank them for their efficient work and the careful selection of the items in the agenda, both as regards speakers and matters to be dealt with, as well as the organised visits. Let me

avail of this occasion to thank likewise all speakers for their willingness to take part in the workshop, whose presence and expertise will no doubt enrich this meeting.

I am fully convinced that their expertise and the active involvement of all of you, will allow us to deepen our knowledge on what has been, since its outset, the main objective of this Conference.

Namely, establishing a permanent dialogue between member and participating States' national parliaments in order to analyse and discuss European space policy and the main issues affecting the space sector.

I would like to wish you very fruitful days of work and I hope I shall have the chance to discuss with all of you during this workshop. Thank you very much and good work.