

## XII European Interparliamentary Space Conference (EISC) 25-26 October 2010, Bucharest Conclusions

The Conclusions of EISC are based on the role of the Conference to provide a forum for representatives from national parliaments and from the European Parliament to debate the European space policy and to analyse the major issues at stake in the European space sector. It aims at facilitating the information exchange on national and European space activities and the promotion of the mutual understanding of national space policies within Member States of the EU and ESA.

The EISC Presidency will forward these Conclusions to the EU Council Presidency, the European Commission, the European Parliament, ESA, the European Defence Agency (EDA), the European Security and Defence Assembly (WEU), the Parliaments of the Member States of the EU and ESA and other European Stakeholders.

The Members of EISC commit themselves to work, with particular attention to their relevant national parliaments and governments, towards the realisation of these conclusions and the conclusions adopted in former EISC conferences assisted through permanent consultation.

### 1. Consideration of current setting and emerging issues

1. EISC recalls Art. 4. 3 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union (hereafter TFEU) whereby it states that "In the areas of research, technological development and space, the Union shall have competence to carry out activities, in particular to define and implement programmes; however, the exercise of that competence shall not result in Member States being prevented from exercising theirs.", as well as Art. 13 TFEU, and Art. 189 TFEU which stress the important role of the Member States and consequently of the National Parliaments.
2. EISC recalls Art. 24.1 of the Treaty of the European Union (hereafter TEU) by emphasizing that the European Union's competence "in matters of common foreign and security policy shall cover all areas of foreign policy and all questions related to the Union's security, including the progressive framing of a common defence policy", and Art. 42.1 TEU by stating that "the common security and defence policy shall be an integral part of the common foreign and security policy" and that "it shall provide the Union with an operational capacity drawing on civilian and military assets" and stresses the importance of space and security and recognises the need for coordinated actions from Member States and National Parliaments.
3. EISC recalls the "Europe 2020" strategy and the importance of space sector in achieving a "smart, sustainable and inclusive growth". In particular it recalls the Flagship Initiative: "Innovation Union" and Flagship Initiative: "An industrial policy for the globalisation era".
4. EISC recalls the two conferences organised under the Spanish Presidency of the EU Council dedicated to Space and Security and to the Governance of European Space Programmes.
5. EISC recalls the High-level Conference "Space for the African Citizen" by the Belgian EU Council Presidency of 16 September 2010 and the 2nd International Conference on Space Exploration at ministerial level of 21 October 2010.

6. EISC notes the upcoming 7th Space Council and considers this event as a good opportunity for European coordination and intends to provide the EISC conclusions as an input to the Space Council.
7. EISC notes the upcoming 3rd Africa-EU Summit which will adopt the Second Action Plan (2011-2013) and welcomes the use of space in Area 8 as well as other areas and in particular the utilisation of GMES, Galileo and EGNOS.

## **2. Issues requiring continued attention**

### **2.1 Promoting an effective framework for a competitive European Space Sector**

1. EISC recognises the common economic challenges ahead and remembers that Europe's economic strength is based on strong scientific and technological background and stresses the role of space in contributing in an innovation-economy for Europe and support "Europe 2020".
2. EISC recognises the importance of the Member States and their parliaments as one of the actors for ensuring that adequate funding is secured for the space sector.
3. EISC welcomes that the new EU competence in space is an opportunity to increase the overall amount of resources and opportunities for European space programmes.
4. EISC encourages, inline with XI EISC in 2007, §. 4, that the three key actors of the European Space Policy, EU, ESA and their respective Member States, must effectively coordinate their actions and reinforce their partnership to strengthen the political dimension of space in Europe.

### **2.2 Realising the potential of space benefits for society**

1. EISC emphasises that space programmes and public space infrastructures allow for the execution of public policies and to sustain science, innovation and economic growth; furthermore they are useful tool to support international relations as a soft power.
2. EISC welcomes the Integrated Applications Programme (IAP) as a step towards utilising space assets to serve the needs of the user, highlighting the maturity of the space sector to generate market added value and stimulate the development of innovative services and contribute in revealing the benefits space can bring to society.
3. EISC recognises the need for open innovation in the space sector by cooperation with the non-space sectors which can be facilitated by the launch of innovation partnerships between the Member States, ESA and the EU through the development of key enabling technologies (photonics, advanced materials, nanotechnology, macro-/nanoelectronics and biotechnology) to shape the future space industries as described in "Europe 2020".
4. EISC confirms, as recognised in III EISC in 2001, the importance of maintaining Europe's leadership in space science through sustaining the means to further achieve scientific excellence.
5. EISC recognises the importance of space exploration as a long term global endeavour and the importance of European cooperation within the ISS as a symbol of international cooperation and calls upon all European actors to support efforts to sustain the ISS at least until 2020 as a key tool for advancing human knowledge in science.
6. EISC stresses the need of a balanced distribution of industrial capacities in Europe, in all the segments involved in space activities. EISC recognizes therefore that the interest of all Member States in investing in space programmes and the relevant industrial policy should be effectively preserved with adequate rules for all the key actors in the space sector.
7. EISC recognises the importance of maintaining the existing rules, such as the "geographical return" within the ESA, which have played a crucial role in building public investment in space research and innovation, as key drivers of economic growth and job creation in Europe. Furthermore, EISC promotes the interests of both large enterprises and SMEs across Europe.

### **2,3, Access to space**

1. EISC supports the maintenance of an autonomous, independent, affordable and economically competitive access to space.

## **2.4 Implementing successfully Europe's flagship space projects, Galileo (EGNOS) and GMES**

1. EISC calls upon the Member States, the European Union and ESA to provide sufficient financing beyond 2013 for Europe's two Flagship programmes: Galileo (EGNOS) and GMES.
2. EISC calls upon Member States, the European Union, ESA and industry to more actively engage in communicating to the European citizen the benefits these assets provide to society.
3. EISC emphasises the benefits that GMES and Galileo (EGNOS), as well as other initiatives like IAP, can bring in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

## **2.5 Further developing the European framework for space activities**

1. EISC recognises the need to define the role of the European space actors in the light of the TFEU provisions relevant to space.
2. EISC recognizes the need to structure European space initiatives as operational programmes, and invites the Member States, ESA and EU to work together to this end.

## **3. Issues requiring renewed or new attention**

### **3.1 A growing role for space in safeguarding Europe's security**

1. EISC recognises the growing importance of space based assets to national, European and international security agendas, and calls on all European space actors to take note of the discussion on space security at this year's conference.

### **3.2 Space for the efficient management of natural disasters and monitoring climate change**

1. EISC underlines that space based information and applications can significantly contribute to the enhancement of civil protection and in particular disaster management and emergency response as well as climate change monitoring.
2. EISC urges the Member States to coordinate their actions and strengthen the International Charter for Space and Disaster Management.
3. EISC urges the Member States, European Union, United Nations, ESA, EUMETSAT and other stakeholders to coordinate their actions and to further establish partnerships with, inter alia, the African Union, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in supporting international cooperation with Africa.
4. EISC encourages the national space agencies to increase their activities in the fields of climate change observation and monitoring.

### **3.3 Identify the next generation of flagship space projects**

1. EISC encourages the Member States, European Union and ESA to continue the development of the SSA programme.
2. EISC urges the Member States, European Union and ESA to draft a long term plan for space exploration following the Brussels conference, as part of a wider international cooperation.

## **4. EISC XII and further development of EISC**

### **4.1 The further development of EISC**

1. EISC welcomes that the Romanian Presidency has launched a discussion on the new role of EISC.
2. EISC recommends a discussion and vote at the next EISC on whether to establish the Presidency term from Plenary to Plenary, with the EISC conference itself concluding each Presidency, rather than by calendar year, as at present.
3. EISC follows the Romanian Presidency's suggestions to establish a Trio comprising the previous, current and future Presidencies. This should be realised by starting with a Duo comprising the current and the next Presidency. The workshop in May 2011 is supported to elaborate this and other amendments of the charter, especially concerning permanent

membership and language interpretation uses in order to give the national groups sufficient time to debate the amendments and pass them in the 2011 EISC. Nations who want to host the 2012 EISC should indicate their interest before the workshop in May 2011.

4. EISC welcomes and accepts the request for Permanent Membership by Luxemburg.

#### **4.2 Conclusion**

The Presidency of EISC XIII, from 1 January to 31 December 2011, will be held by parliamentary space group of the German Parliament.

These conclusions have been approved by the parliamentary space groups of the Permanent Members of EISC participating in this year's conference, namely Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxemburg, Poland, Romania, Spain and United Kingdom.

Russia participated in its capacity as Member.

Bucharest, 26 October 2010.