

## **Conclusions Xth European Interparliamentary Space Conference**

**Prague, 13 – 14 October 2008**

- Space is a strategic asset for Europe. More than ever, in these times of financial crisis, it is essential to maintain Europe's leadership in all areas of space technology, applications and policy.
- In this context the European Interparliamentary Space Conference (EISC) welcomes the European Space Policy Resolution agreed during the 5<sup>th</sup> Space Council on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2008 and the resolution „Taking Forward the European Space Policy” agreed in May 2007. These resolutions clearly define the roles of ESA, the European Commission (EC) and member states, the three key actors which shape Europe's future in space.
- The EISC underlines the importance of strengthening coordination between EC and ESA in space technology development, in particular in space technologies that are critical to Europe's strategic independence.
- The EISC asks for the definition of an industrial policy at European Union level for space activities, taking into account the specificity of the space sector, based on a flexible principle of fair return.
- The EISC supports the implementation of the operational phase of the global navigation satellite system, Galileo.
- The EISC notes the European Commission recommendation of 2003, to place some ‘new institutions in new EU member countries’. The EISC takes account of the Czech candidacy for the Galileo Supervisory Authority, among others.
- The EISC encourages the implementation of Kopernikus. The EISC draws the attention to the need to ensure sufficient financing and the importance of national missions as contributing missions for Kopernikus. Therefore, the EISC supports the examination of all space-related policy consequences within the framework of the next Financial Perspective.
- The EISC supports the definition of Kopernikus governance as referred to in the 5<sup>th</sup> Space Council Resolution respecting the roles assigned to ESA, the European Union and member states.
- The EISC supports the creation of applications and international platforms such as Galileo User Forum.
- The EISC supports new initiatives concerning the use of space applications in order to fight climate change, the use of space applications to enforce Europe's autonomy and security, and the use of space applications to boost the European economy.
- The EISC welcomes the recent talks on new technologies held by ESA, the European Commission and the European Defence Agency.
- The EISC supports the ongoing international cooperation, particularly in the field of space exploration, and supports the proposal by the Commission to organize a high-level political conference on a long-term vision for space exploration.
- The EISC supports ESA and Member States to develop new scientific missions that broaden our knowledge of the Universe using the potential of national and ESA missions, taking into account Europe's position as world leader in space science.
- The EISC supports the maintenance of an autonomous, independent, affordable and economically competitive access to space.
- Recognising that public markets are at a global level inequally open and that there is no

reciprocity between states on this markets, the EISC wishes that institutional European operators implement a launch service procurement policy, based on a complete European family of launchers and to guarantee independent access of Europe to space.

- The EISC stresses the role of small and medium sized enterprises in the space field and the need to increase efforts for increasing the opportunities of these companies, especially in the field of value-added services and innovation.
- The EISC calls upon its members to work with developing countries, for example in Africa and Latin America, to build satellite capacity as a vital part of Europe's contribution to their own economic development.
- The EISC encourages all EC directorates to utilise space applications including in extending access to the information society, improving distribution of international aid and monitoring impact of climate change.
- The EISC recommends ESA, the European Commission, the European Parliament and member states to commit adequate resources and coordinate efforts to promote the development of space applications for the benefit of European citizens, and to promote public awareness across Europe of the growing everyday value of space applications.
- The EISC insists on the importance of Space for education. National programmes promoting the relationship between Space and education should be made known to other relevant European and national administrations in order to enhance synergy between the different initiatives.
- The EISC would request that these conclusions be brought to the attention of the ESA Ministerial Conference in The Hague on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008.
- The EISC welcomes the Czech Republic as a new ESA full member. New EU member states should participate appropriately in industrial and institutional matters in the space sector.
- The EISC welcomes the proposal of the UK delegation to hold next year's presidency of the EISC (in 2009).
- The EISC calls upon the European Parliament to participate in the EISC proceedings next year.
- The EISC asks the presidency to forward these Conclusions to the Council of Europe, the European Union, the European Commission, the European Parliament, ESA, the European Security and Defence Assembly (WEU) and the parliaments of the member states.

Agreed in Prague, on 14 October 2008.

For the	Belgian delegation:	Roelants du Vivier
	Czech delegation:	Pavel Hojda
	French delegation:	Pierre Lasbordes
	German delegation:	Kurt Roosmanith
	Italian delegation:	Silvano Moffa
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