

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to start by thanking you for this invitation. With the signing of the Lisbon treaty, The European Union, and particularly the European Parliament has seen its mandate widened to include space. This is an opportunity which I know my colleagues and I in the Intergroup on Sky and Space and wider European Parliament would like to take full advantage of, for the benefit of citizens, for regions and for Europe. A world-class space policy will allow us to set the international standard in applications and infrastructure, while stimulating greater international cooperation. The well being of all European citizens is increasingly becoming dependent on the success of space-based applications and the flow of information it generates. We are all faced with a number of challenges in the years ahead. From climate change and the need for mitigation and adaptation, to the current financial situation, it is only a united and focused Europe which can overcome these tests.

The EU's flagship space programme, Global Monitoring for Environment and Security or "GMES" is politically, and technically one of the most advanced earth observation systems ever conceived.

It offers the European Union both strategy and synergy at the regional level and the resulting capacities make sense given the nature of international cooperation

and the European market. The costs of such a comprehensive programme go beyond those of a single member state. But by pulling together we are not only able to increase the international profile of the EU, but provide industry with global, European and local market potential through application services. In short by pooling resources we are foster innovation and competitiveness for all.

In light of the initial documents released by the European Commission on the 2020 Budget, there are a number of aspects that I would like to touch on today.

They can be placed under the titles:

- The intended services and resulting benefits that GMES will bring to the EU and our fellow citizens alike. This will demonstrate the vast capability of a system that is on the cutting edge of international technology;
- Then, in light of the funding issue, I would like to touch on the importance of GMES to the Europe 2020 policy and the flagship initiatives under its' umbrella;
- I will then delve into providing insights about the current relationships between the EU institutions on GMES and where we inside the European Parliament stand, and our current initiatives to place GMES back into a dedicated funding stream

GMES Services and their benefits to the EU & its' citizens

- a. The primary objective of GMES is to provide, under the control and guidance of the European Union, information services which provide free access to accurate data and information related to the environment and security fields, which in turn are tailored to the needs of users. In turn, it should foster a better exploitation of the industrial potential of policies of innovation, research and technological development in the field of Earth observation. The most ambitious operational Earth Observation programme globally will provide Europe with not only an important industrial base for further scientific, technical and economic progress but also greater influence and prestige at the international level

- b. Despite what can best be described as 'waning' support from the European Commission and Council, GMES is still recognised as a key tool by the three institutional pillars. In climate change mitigation and adaptation, supporting biodiversity and ecosystem management, indeed the multiple components which make up this system are an integral part of everyday life in the 21st century.

- c. With land management it offers us the possibility to manage a wide range of resources. Policies related to soil, water, agriculture, forests, energy and utilities, built-up areas, recreational facilities, infrastructure and transport are also strengthened with important feedback mechanisms being created to assess their effectiveness. Recognising the intricate interconnected nature of society, economic

and environment in sustainable development, this tool is necessary both at the European and Global levels. It is further strengthened through collaboration with the wide range of Member States, third countries and partners outside Europe and the United Nations.

d. In the marine environment too, GMES supports an integrated European capacity for ocean forecasting as well as monitoring, and future provision of, Essential Climate Variables. From Sea-surface temperature, Sea-surface salinity and Sea level, to Surface current, Ocean acidity and Phytoplankton, the plethora of information available to us is vital in the years ahead. Atmospheric monitoring too can be undertaken with measurements pertaining to air quality, atmospheric chemistry and composition as well as other Essential Climate Variables. By providing this data to a user based community as it has been requested, climate analysis and projections on a scale relevant to adaptation, mitigation and relevant service delivery is in our grasp.

e. The second group of benefits provided to decision makers and citizens alike can be grouped under the heading of 'Human safety'. By providing an eye upon our planet space will provide precious support during emergency situations. Today, the world is confronted with new kinds of threats and as climate change can lead to an increase in the number of emergencies, GMES will be essential for supporting our response to these changes. By coordinating across the Union

between Member States, Emergency and Humanitarian Response can be quicker and more effective as we all will be better prepared to respond to both man made and natural disasters alike.

f. Defence and security policies also rely upon risk assessment for prevention, threat reduction and post-crisis management. As I am sure you are aware Space applications play a major role in communications and observation systems. Non-intrusive optical and radar imaging satellites provide a unique capability for observing the entire planet and are also vital when transferring large amounts of information. As an important part of the GMES initiative, Europe will be able to benefit from the use of space and in-situ assets to support the fight against arms and people trafficking, as well as other maritime surveillance initiatives.

g. The in-situ element of GMES is an important element of the whole system. Understanding the complexity of what could be obtained in situations that challenge the safety of communities; we only have to look at LOLA. Lola or Liaison Optique Laser Aéroportée is a French national demonstrator programme to establish an optical link through the atmosphere between the future medium- and high-altitude UAVs (Unmanned Air Vehicle or Drone) and satellites. An UAV equipped with meteorological radar could track with a very high accuracy precipitation clouds under the guidance of satellite observation and give very precise data on amount, type, location of precipitation. It could also provide very

reliable data to be used as output to a water basin model and forecast with high accuracy the dynamics of water flow, with enough time to provide alarm especially on flash floods, and risk to populations and properties. The same level of detail is also possible during forest fires, mass migrations over sea and land. It is these such links which will, in the future be used for secure transmission of information received from UAVs providing real time data to a few thousand kilometres away, within about one second and at very high speed. This high capacity data stream will improve control of information and bring significant operational advantages during both man-made and natural disasters.

We can already see what this system offers for a better understanding the interactions between communities and surrounding environments.

So Ladies and Gentleman, now we are taking off lets buckle our seatbelts and explore the relationship between EU2020 and the GMES programme. We can then see how significant this flagship truly is for our societies;

GMES in the Scope of Europe 2020

The Europe 2020 approach has put forward three mutually reinforcing priorities:

1. Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation.

2. Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy.
3. Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.

Let me remind you of the headline targets proposed the Commission has proposed the following EU headline targets that are most directly relevant to the sector:

1. 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed.
2. 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D.
3. The "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right).

These targets are representative of the three priorities of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth but a wide range of actions at national, EU and international levels will be necessary to underpin them. For particular relevance today are the following:

1. "Innovation Union" which aims to improve framework conditions and access to finance for research and innovation so as to ensure that innovative ideas can be turned into products and services that create growth and jobs.

2. "Resource efficient Europe" to help decouple economic growth from the use of resources, support the shift towards a low carbon economy, increase the use of renewable energy sources, modernise our transport sector and promote energy efficiency.

3. "An industrial policy for the globalisation era" to improve the business environment, notably for SMEs, and to support the development of a strong and sustainable industrial base able to compete globally.

To this I should add the multiannual framework programme for research and development proposed by the Commission with the name "Horizon 2020".

All of these initiatives touch upon key features of GMES.

Achieving socially inclusive, innovative sustainable development, full European Community financing of GMES would inevitably provide an important pillar. According to stakeholders and an external study, such financing would have a positive impact on a sector that is coming under increasing strain from foreign competitors. The Commission itself claims that SMEs form the backbone of the Earth observation industry in Europe and given planned certainty would be empowered to contribute to EU 2020. By providing sustainable services for

innovative value added services in Europe, we could also reverse the trend of very slow growth in employment in this key high tech sector. It could also decrease disparities between old and new Member States in the field of Earth observation. This is because downstream services market development, in particular in countries with a weaker industrial base, will most likely accelerate only with the full and open access to inputs from operational GMES services.

Furthermore, by making available the data and information gained by these services according to the principle of full and open access, we can maximise the possibilities of downstream innovation. This, in turn, would significantly contribute to job creation in a high tech sector of strategic importance, benefiting all levels of our wider community.

GMES would also decrease the costs and uncertainties associated with climate change adaptation plans, giving the regions the chance to formulated common standards.

For instance; Floods have caused average annual damages of around 2.2 billion euros (in 2005 prices), owing to loss of life, effects of flood morbidity and damage to property. By improving the efficiency in managing and responding to crises from pre to post event phases, GMES could net economic benefits of around 135

million Euros in 2012 based on conservative assumptions. Wildfire management could produce around 9 million Euros of savings based on the same assumptions.

Drawing the parallels between the socio-economic and environmental benefits, it is easy to see the vast contribution that GMES could provide to achieving the EU 2020 objectives. We are creating a pillar from which an economy based on knowledge and innovation can grow, a pillar from which a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy can flourish, and a pillar which, through fostering a high-employment economy can deliver social and territorial cohesion.

The state of play regarding funding;

In an ideal world, full Commission funding would bring all these benefits for us. Yet the Commission's proposal for the EU budget 2014-2020, released on 29 June 2011 (COM(2011)500 final), suggests that given GMES requires 834 M€/year for its operational phase, it is to be funded outside the EU Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) .

The European Parliament's position

This proposed funding mechanism for GMES implies that the EC terminates its support and the necessary amount should be paid by the Member States on a

voluntary basis. Although the Commission has emphasised on several occasions the importance of timely implementation of GMES, its' proposal implies a dangerous budgetary situation for the operational phase of GMES post-2014.

This means that the entire future funding of GMES depends upon negotiations and the political and financial support of Member States. Maybe what the Commission intends is to provoke protest amongst Member States' and make the key space powers continue to support the programme and thus raise the EU-budget. This rationale involves several risks and the EC-service responsible for the management of the GMES-program acknowledged that this funding choice would, and I quote

“...create high uncertainty for GMES [...], the EU would withdraw from GMES while it has not reached its maturity yet. It would be more than likely that this option would mean a discontinuation of GMES as no other partners would be in a position to take over the prominent role played so far by the EU in structuring and supporting – both politically and financially - GMES. It would lead to sunken costs and past investment would be lost”.

The Commission sees its role lately more as a contributor to the program, in contrast to its former view that the GMES-program is lead by the Union and carried out in partnership with ESA and the Member States.

The reasons for ensuring EU-funding to Galileo instead of GMES are manifold and comprise a mix of political and program factors, but are certainly connected to the current sovereign-debt crises. Further to this the lack of information and awareness of GMES at both political and public levels has certainly played a part. Yet it is in this moment of crises that we need to invest in infrastructures which systematically mobilise many levels of our societies, as advocated by Keynes.

The EC's through the publication of the Communication "Towards a space strategy for the European Union that benefits its citizens" in April 2011 ideas regarding a future EU-space strategy and its priorities. It also points the way for the space programs of the next decade as it gives a clear indication of the financial resources available for each policy priority. Given the mandate of the treaty of Lisbon the space community expects a comprehensive space program post 2014, especially for the operational GMES-phase as a next step.

Sky and Space Intergroup activities in support of the Parliamentary position

The Sky and Space Intergroup in the European Parliament is striving to place back into the Multiannual Financial Framework, GMES. We have undertaken a number of conferences and hearings to increase the visibility of the system and continue to place our concerns into a number of pieces of legislation.

On the 5th of September this year, along with 43 other Members from across different political spectrums and Member States, I have written to President Barroso to express our deep concern at the proposal and to invite the Commission to reconsider its position.

Furthermore the Communication; 'Towards a space strategy for the European Union' that I have just mentioned has arrived in the Parliament as a Draft Report. As a Shadow Rapporteur on the Committee for Environment, Public Health and Food Safety's opinion, I have tabled amendments to bring the attention of my colleagues the importance of GMES that I have also brought to you today.

Furthermore, on the 8th and 9th of November, the Sky and Space Intergroup will be hosting a two day conference in the Hemisphere of the European Parliament entitled "A Space Policy for Society and Citizens". This will be a holistic conference which attempts to draw the attention of the European Union to the look back, highlight benefits and current issues and look to the future of European Space Policy. It is a high level conference that will foresee the intervention of many of Europe's top decision makers from across different sectors.