

15th EISC, Belgium Presidency

Monday evening March 25th 2013

Closing address by Senator Dominique TILMANS,
Chair of the Belgian Space Working Group and Chair of the 15th EISC

“Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we conclude our workshop, I would like to highlight that our Belgian Chairmanship was held in a very positive and relaxed spirit and has gathered an impressive turnout:

It has brought together parliamentarians, experts, national space agencies, ESA, representatives of space companies, as well as students to discuss important issues like space careers, and satellite projects for younger people. I think we still can dream of space!

On behalf of the Working Group on Space I would really like to thank all our partners in Transinne/Redu for their wonderful support:

- Euro Space Center for its fabulous space attractions
- IDELUX, for hosting this excellent lunch
- ESA Education Services for its intellectual support and ESA Redu Center for the interesting visit and the great hospitality

But before leaving the green high tech Ardennes and going back to Brussels, I have a special message to all national delegations:

For our upcoming Plenary Session in Brussels in October, I would like to call on eleven young space students or professionals, one per EISC member state, to take part in the plenary debat.

The panel debate will especially be dedicated to education for space, with questions such as:

- o How can we enhance the interest of future talents towards space studies?
- o How can we put students at the center of an industrial project?
- o How can we find ways to inspire them to go towards a space career?

In my opinion those questions need to be answered by the main protagonists, the young space scientists. I deem it important to share their success stories and hear about their experience in their respective careers and studies. So please bring along one young person passionate about space from your country in October. We need to learn from their success stories!

As parliamentarians, we can sometimes make a difference, so we must play an active role to develop good relations and mutual understanding between our countries. Let us therefore seize the opportunity offered by the ESA and European Union to enhance and broaden our co-operation in Space.

I really look forward to the upcoming Plenary Session in October and remain with the whole Belgian Delegation available to you all. I will be very pleased to welcome you to Brussels. For now, I say AU REVOIR, TOT ZIENS, I’LL SEE YOU next time in Brussels and have a safe trip back home!”