



Space Working
Group



Dear Madam/Sir,

15th EISC Conference – Belgium 2013

Established in 1999, the European Interparliamentary Space Conference (EISC) fosters cooperation between national parliaments in Europe and an on-going dialogue on space policy issues. It also supports the efforts of national governments and the European Institutions with a view to develop a common European Space Policy.

Since January 1st 2013, the Belgian Senate has taken over the Presidency of the 15th EISC. Since its establishment in 1999 the Belgian Senate has chaired the EISC two times, i.e. in 2001 and in 2006. I already want to thank the previous successful Polish Presidency from 2012 and the promising upcoming French Presidency of 2014 for their consultation and support this year.

In 2013 the Belgian Senate will further turn the EISC into a lasting success, thanks to ambitious objectives dedicated to **students** and their interest for **space education**, which will be the **transversal theme** during the whole Belgian Presidency.

The Parliamentary Space Group which I have the honour to chair takes care of the organization of the Belgian Presidency, which this year focuses on two major themes:

- 1) What does the future hold for **small, micro, nano and cubeSat missions**? This discussion will take place during the workshop on **25 March** at Euro Space Center Transinne and ESA Redu Center. Redu is the only ESA centre in Belgium that provides outstanding services for security programs, telecommunications, in-orbit control demonstrations and space surveillance.

The workshop in Transinne/Redu in March 2013 will be a perfect opportunity to discuss with the European partners the potential but also the limits of small and CubeSat missions. They can motivate young people to become the entrepreneurs of tomorrow. Small Missions can be a real integrating vector with the industrial sector!

Belgium, through its Federal Science Policy, together with other countries, is actively supporting the “Small Mission Initiative” at ESA. Indeed, we strongly believe in the capabilities and complementarities of smaller satellites with respect to their “classic” larger equivalents.

Secrétariat – Secretariaat

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- 2) A better matching of **space education** on the challenging **needs of the space industry**. Considering the increasing shortage of qualified young aerospace scientists, engineers and technicians, the Belgian Presidency would like to share, along with its European partners, the success stories and best practices that have been noted in this field. The Plenary session, which will take place on **October 14th and 15th** in the Belgian Senate, in Brussels, will provide the opportunity to discuss this theme further and particularly hear from young professionals and students about their experiences on this topic.

The Plenary Session in Brussels in October 2013 will especially be dedicated to education for space, with questions such as: how can we enhance the interest of upcoming talents towards space studies? How can we put students at the centre of an industrial project? How can we find a way to inspire them to go into a space career?

As you know a constant effort is required to train and recruit new talent for the space sector. It is crucial that we inspire young people to take up careers in a sector that spans such a broad range of skills.

More practical details about the Plenary Session in October 2013 will be provided in due time.

Together with the Space Working Group of the Senate it is my pleasure to invite you to the Workshop in Transinne/Redu. The program, registration form and all practical information for the Workshop in Transinne/Redu has been added to this letter. These documents can also be found on <http://www.eisc-europa.eu/>.

I have every confidence that these inter-parliamentary meetings in Belgium will be the ideal opportunity to exchange views in order to reinforce our European Space Policy.

I look forward to welcoming you in March 2013 in Transinne/Redu and remain,

Most sincerely yours,



Senator Dominique TILMANS (Ms.)
Chair of the Belgian Senate Space Working
Group

Let us face together new challenges and let us expand space borders!

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