

Discours de Mme Tilmans à l'occasion du dîner offert au Palais d'Egmont en présence du Vice-Premier Ministre et Ministre des Affaires étrangères Didier Reynders

Mister Vice-Prime Minister, Dear Didier,

Dear friends of the EISC,

Let me express my full appreciation Mister Vice Prime Minister for your presence with us this evening we know that your agenda is very busy this time as Minister of Foreign Affairs of course but also as Vice Prime Minister on the Gouvernement. I would like also to thank you for hosting us here in the beautiful and magnificent Palais d'Egmont. You don't hesitate to give you agreement for our reception in this symbolic building where several ministers, Presidents and Heads of State have gathered. If those beautiful walls and mirrors could speak !

At you entry, you heard the sound of beautiful harp played by Inge Frimout-Hei. Inge is the daughter-in-law of our famous 1st Belgian astronaut Dirk Frimout and she is also her own composer. Inge has a very diverse repertoire ranging from Classical and to Celtic and South-American folk music. And her music also has been influenced of course by her father in law's space missions.

As we close here our 1st Conference day, 1 day left for the parliamantarians to work on the Resolution; but it's time to thank all of you for being so dynamic during the debate, I want to thank all our members in the panels and in particular the young professionals and students. Special thanks go to our partners, without whom this whole organization would not be possible:

Kai-Uwe, Christina, Hugo Marée and Maria Menendez from ESA; Alexandra and Peter from ESPI for their wonderful support, goodies, exhibition, and great ISS video clip!

Alain Ratier, Paul Counet and Anne Taube from Eumetsat for their exhibition, goodies, gifts, interview.

Ambassador Beka from the Belgium High Representation for Space Policy and
Chairman Mettens from BELSPO for their continuous support

ESERO and the Planetarium of Belgium for the exhibition

Our Astronauts for being always available! Thank you so much !!

Professors, Academics, Industry representatives

And...Tintin and Snowy (= Milou) for having brought a souvenir from their Moon mission!

I want to raise a toast to our friendship and to space ! Let us not forget the continuity and successes we had with our trio presidency. Thank you dear colleague Boguslaw Wontor for the past Polish Presidency which was very successful and I will pass at the end of this year the leadership to my French Colleagues and friends Bertrand Auban. Bonne chance Bertrand et j'y associerai bien évidemment Chantal Berthelot. Je ne doute pas, Bertrand, que tu reprendras cette présidence avec beaucoup de talent, beaucoup de savoir faire.

To space and to our friendship !