



## **XI European Interparliamentary Space Conference (EISC) 26-7 October 2009, London**

### **Conclusions**

The Conclusions of EISC are based on the role of the Conference to provide a forum for representatives from national parliaments and from the European Parliament to debate the European space policy and to analyse the major issues at stake in the European space sector. It aims at facilitating the information exchange on national and European space activities and the promotion of the mutual understanding of national space policies within Member States of the EU and ESA.

The EISC Presidency will forward these Conclusions to the EU Council Presidency, the European Commission, the European Parliament, ESA, the European Security and Defence Assembly (WEU) and the parliaments of the EU or ESA Member States. The Members of EISC commit themselves to work towards the realisation of these conclusions and the conclusions adopted in former EISC conferences assisted through permanent consultation.

#### **1. Issues requiring continued attention**

##### **1.1 Space as a tool for economic growth and development**

1. In these challenging economic times, it is important to remember that Europe's economic future depends on maintaining Europe's leadership in space science and technology, and in the practical application of that leadership into goods and services and on access to space capability. Europe's leadership in space has a clear role to play in supporting Europe's recovery from the current global economic crisis. Furthermore, the space sector is of great importance for achieving the goals of the Lisbon Strategy.
2. In this context, the EISC strongly welcomes the measures set out in the European Council of 11-12 December 2008 and the 6th European Space Council of 29 May 2009. EISC urges space to be considered in the allocation of funds for the European Economic Recovery Plan (EERP), in particular in the EERP initiative Factories of the Future and in the Lead Market Initiative.
3. Particular attention and support should be given to the development of new technologies and new space applications by the European space supply chain, in particular Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs). This objective could be reached by means of specific industrial policy measures and incentives at regional, national and European level. Technology transfer to SMEs represents another important measure to be constantly encouraged. The European Investment Bank Programme on the Risk Sharing Finance Facility is a good example in this respect.

##### **1.2 Acknowledge and implement the potential of space as a problem solver**

Space solutions offer both the policy maker and the European citizen innovative services that are global, reliable and effective. Space is a problem solver and a wealth creator. This is the main theme of the XI EISC.

To celebrate the practical benefits of European space activity, the XI EISC brings together case studies from across Europe of major space-based initiatives, including some ideas for the future. Initiatives showcased in the Presidency's brochure, *Space for Europe*, include: Poland's TTS-4 time transfer system for Galileo; Spain's Earth Observation satellite system SEOSAT / SEOSAR; the Belgian Proba-V(vegetation) small satellite mission; the UK's Disaster Monitoring Constellation; Germany's suite of radar observation satellites – SAR-Lupe; TerraSAR-X and TanDEM-X; Italy's radar satellite constellation COSMO-SkyMed; France's satellite-based crop management service, Farmstar; the Czech contribution to the humanitarian aid and disaster response service, Respond; and Romania's satellite-based emergency management service SIGUR.

However, space solutions are still not sufficiently taken into account at political levels. It is our aim that the XI conference serves as an inspiration to all governments across Europe of the huge economic and political opportunities arising from European leadership in space.

EISC also welcomes the lead role of European States and space companies in helping to build satellite capacity in developing countries, as a vital part of their economic development and their adaptation to the likely impacts of climate change.

### **1.3 Implementing successfully Europe's flagship space projects, Galileo and GMES**

EISC welcomes the launch earlier this month of full operational service for EGNOS, offering high accuracy, high integrity, more reliable service to users of GPS. EISC encourages the European Commission to advertise and promote private and public applications for EGNOS – the first in orbit infrastructure that the European Union has ever owned.

EISC welcomes the considerable progress made towards implementing Europe's two flagship space projects: Galileo and Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES), and calls on the European Commission, ESA and Member States to work together to facilitate the launch of full operational services as soon as possible.

EISC recognises the importance of the joint efforts by ESA and the European Commission to implement the GMES Space Component, recognising that further financial effort by the European Commission is needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the system without R&D funding.

The EISC recognises the importance that national and bilateral projects may be included, with a supporting role, inside the GMES system.

The EISC welcomes the progress made in the financing, the organisation between the EU and ESA, and in the selection process under way to allocate the main contracts for Galileo, including the contract for launch services from the European territory as an important condition for securing Europe's strategic interests as an illustration of the European range of launchers satisfying all European needs, as well as different ESA control centres.

The EISC calls upon the European Commission to ensure adequate inclusion of non-large system integrators within an open and fair industrial competition.

EISC acknowledges the decision made by the European Council in 2003 that new EU agencies should be placed in new EU countries.

The EISC urges the Commission to come forward with speedy recommendations on the long-term financing and operations of Galileo and GMES, as an essential step in ensuring timely exploitation of the commercial benefits for the fast growing markets for satellite navigation applications and Earth Observation applications.

### **1.4 Shaping a substantial role for Europe in space exploration**

Space exploration is a global endeavour, and Europe has built up a worldwide reputation amongst international partners for reliability and credibility. Europe must continue to play a substantive role in close co-operation with the international community, alongside Russia, India, China, Japan and the United States, as demonstrated by the successful recent validation of the Ariane 5 – ATV cargo services to the ISS. EISC therefore welcomes the European conference on space exploration, held in Prague on 22/3 October 2009, in which the EISC Presidency and some Permanent Members participated. EISC calls on the European Commission, ESA and Member States to work together to shape a clear and ambitious long-term vision for European space exploration, as a key component within a broader international space exploration programme, alongside Europe's flagship space programmes, GMES and Galileo. EISC welcomes in particular the agenda of the future Belgian presidency of the Council of the EU to organise a dedicated conference on space exploration, based on the first results of the preliminary ESA studies. EISC welcomes the six new ESA astronauts selected in May 2009 to join the European Astronauts Corps.

### **1.5 Further developing the European framework for space activities**

EISC acknowledges the significant recent advances made towards the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty, and welcomes the opportunities afforded by the new space competence for the European Union.

## **2. Issues requiring renewed or new attention**

### **2.1 Space as an instrument to deal with climate change**

EISC recognises the crucial nature of the UN Climate Change talks in Copenhagen in December. Satellites have already helped to underpin our understanding of climate change. Today, European leadership in satellite monitoring offers policy makers with the tools to enforce and police new agreements on greenhouse gases and land use. EISC calls upon all actors to place European space scientists and engineers at the heart of Europe's response to the challenges faced by climate change. In particular, EISC urges political recognition of the clear role of satellites in providing a global, reliable and independent eye over the world's remaining rainforests.

In addition, Europe should provide its globally acknowledged scientific and industrial experience in this field and build on existing and newly created ESA and national facilities.

Europe is an equal partner within the ISS partnership, providing unique systems, such as the Columbus laboratory as well as the Ariane 5 /ATV transportation system. EISC supports an extension of the ISS exploitation until 2020, making best use of investments and enhancing the benefits of ISS.

### **2.2 Shaping a regulatory framework for a competitive European space sector**

Member States still have – also under the Lisbon Treaty – a particular responsibility and competence in shaping the regulatory framework for space activities in Europe, with a special focus on financial and industrial policy instruments. Together with the European institutions, they have to respond to the need for the creation of a European framework for space regulations. This framework has to provide coherence and competitiveness to the European space sector. The adoption of common licensing procedures together with commercially friendly liability schemes should be encouraged.

EISC calls on the Presidency of the European Union of 2010 to discuss further improvements in the framework for European space activities, in close coordination with ESA and the European Union and its Member States.

### **2.3 Space securing prosperity**

Society's dependence on space assets is increasing, and EISC calls upon all European States to recognise the growing importance of space-based systems in underpinning critical national and international infrastructure, from pipelines to bank transactions. EISC calls upon

the Commission, ESA and EISC Member States to conduct space security strategic reviews, to better understand the growing military and civil reliance on space-based assets, in areas including intelligence, early warning and crisis response, critical infrastructure protection, transport security and border security. In this context maintaining an independent, affordable competitive access to space for Europe is of great importance.

In this respect, EISC recognises the importance of the forthcoming Vega launcher, which fills a gap in European capabilities and expands the range of European independent and affordable access to space.

#### **2.4 Public Awareness**

Given the growing importance of space, as an economic enabler and as a policy tool, EISC calls upon Member States, ESA and the European Union to work together to launch a Europe-wide public awareness campaign, with the strong involvement of end users, to help place Europe's leadership in space, and the practical benefits that flow from it, in the forefront of the minds of citizens, business leaders and policy makers alike.

#### **2.5 Public – Private Financing of space projects**

EISC welcomes the increasing commercial exploitation of space, and the subsequent growth in private financial investment. To support this economic agenda, EISC urges Member States to encourage the further expansion of the use of financial instruments such as Private Finance Initiatives, as a proven mechanism for increasing investment in Europe's space activities, boosting wealth creation from space, and assisting public budgets in challenging economic times.

### **3. EISC XI and further development of EISC**

#### **3.1 EISC XI**

EISC XI was attended by the parliamentary space groups of the Permanent Members of EISC, namely of Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom. Russia participated in its capacity as Member.

The Presidency of EISC XII, from 1 January to 31 December 2010, will be held by parliamentary space group of the Romanian Parliament.

This conclusion has been approved by the parliamentary space groups of the Permanent Members of EISC, namely of Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom.

London, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009.