

**IXth EUROPEAN INTERPARLIAMENTARY SPACE CONFERENCE
ROME 8-9 OCTOBER 2007 - FINAL CONCLUSIONS**

9th October 2007

- 1) The EISC welcomes the Parliaments of Poland and Romania as new permanent members, underlining the growing importance of National Parliaments, individually and joined together in an inter-parliamentary body, to examine and to influence the decision-making process in European Space Policy.
- 2) The EISC decides that the next Presidency for 2008 will be held by the Parliament of the Czech Republic
- 3) The EISC hopes that all Parliaments of member states of the EU or ESA can join EISC in the next few years, introducing meanwhile new rules to organize the activity of EISC so as to ensure a more decisive role for the Conference. In particular, a future enlarged EISC shall operate in accordance to a set of rules similar to those of other inter-parliamentary bodies, also in order to develop permanent relations with non-European Parliamentary space groups.
- 4) The EISC stresses the importance of strengthening the inter-relationships between the EU, ESA, National Agencies, national programmes and National Parliaments; and the need for these stakeholders to jointly develop a common strategy to realise the vision outlined in the ESP, and to help raise public awareness of the broad social, economic and political benefits from Europe's leading role in space. The role played by National Parliaments in this respect remains vital in reaching out to the European citizen.
- 5) The EISC welcomes the results of the ESA-EU Space Council of 22 May 2007 and the support given by the Space Council to ESP. ESP documents may represent a first step for the realisation of a coordinated European space policy.
- 6) The EISC considers that enlargement of EU and ESA requires an assessment and a clear definition of roles and responsibilities at European Union, ESA and national levels. In particular, it is crucial that the European Union adopt procedural rules and financial instruments for space-related activities so as to enhance its operational capabilities. The capacity of the EU to finance adequately the EU-led GMES initiative is crucial with the view to implementing the ESP.
- 7) Future operational rules for European public institutions involved in ESP, as well as European space-related initiatives, must be designed so as to produce tangible benefits, in the medium term, for citizens, enterprises and public administrations, in terms of new services available for daily life, for production processes and for the performance of administrative functions. Only in this way can the space sector become a strategic asset for the European Union, contributing to the independence, security and competitiveness of Europe in the world, according to the Lisbon strategy.

8) EU and ESA decisions ought to define a clear scale of priorities, following a user-driven approach and concentrating resources on relevant strategic projects, in order to:

- allow the economic and social growth of space-related activities, by providing enabling technologies and services for the emerging European knowledge society;
- support European space industry;
- foster employment in the space sector;
- contribute to European cohesion in the most relevant way in a globalised sector.

9) The EISC believes that all decisions on public funding for space-related initiatives require more and more the support of European citizens. For this reason the decision-making process must increasingly involve a public opinion that needs to be informed in a better way.

10) The EISC believes that any decision on space services and large user-oriented applications should be supported by a thorough analysis of users' needs, including those of local and regional authorities, and the requirements of entrepreneurs operating in the sector, with particular attention to the role of the SMEs.

11) The decision-making process must promote the role of SMEs in the ESP, both in terms of their capacity to sustain technological innovation and scientific research in the productive sector, and for their capacity to bring new practical applications into the market corresponding to the users' needs.

12) The EISC underlines that Galileo and GMES are the priorities of European Space Policy and that their implementation is fundamental for the future of Europe in space. Space applications supplied by Galileo and GMES will be decisive to transfer the benefits of space infrastructures to the European taxpayers. Galileo's financial problems would be solved envisaging the use of public funds, in a balanced participation of all Member States during the different phases of the project while taking maximum benefit of open competition.

13) The EISC underlines the need to use EU-ESA joint programmes both for commercial and security purposes, considering that space technologies are common to civilian and defence applications. It is necessary to coordinate both defence and security, and civilian space programmes, developing existing synergies, recognising the principle that Galileo and GMES are civilian systems under civilian control.

14) The EISC underlines that joint EU-ESA programmes must use to the maximum extent the existing capacities at European and national level, in a complementary manner. National programmes could be considered as economic and technological contributions to EU-ESA initiatives, in particular satellite programmes, their data and services belonging to Member States that could be made available to GMES.

15) The EISC underlines that GMES, considered a system of operational systems, by networking operational systems already existing or under development by member States or ESA, could become in the medium term a focal point for a European Space Policy. Its development must be

based on a user-oriented approach, including the regional and local levels, particularly to make space services and practical application available to citizens, enterprises and public administrations. A long-term funding for GMES, particularly beyond 2013, has to be confirmed with the utmost importance including a future operational budget by the EU, commensurate with the objectives of the programme.

16) The EISC considers public funding of all space infrastructures, including Galileo and GMES initiatives, to be necessary, subject to the role of ESA in supporting the European Commission as technical expert in the elaboration of European Commission initiatives and in managing European Commission space-related activities.

A strong and courageous political initiative is also necessary to change current rules of budgetary allocation of the European Union, taking into account the specificities of the space sector, to allow use of EU resources to develop an innovative use of space applications and services to support sectorial policies (i.e. for agriculture, transport, telecommunications, etc). The strategic value of space calls for a real change in the traditional European Union financial policy, with a strong resolve and awareness of the significance of innovative policies for the future of Europe.

17) The EISC considers that the principle of “fair return” remains a fundamental mechanism to motivate investments in space activities and to warrant growth of the industrial base in Europe, to promote the interests of both member states and European enterprises and to emphasise the crucial role of SMEs for innovation and the exploration of new market opportunities.

18) The EISC considers it strategic for Europe to maintain an independent, competitive and cost-effective access to space, via the European launcher family (Ariane, Soyuz, Vega), recognising that a critical mass of launcher activities is necessary for the viability of this sector, also to achieve a full range of launchers. The EISC calls for public national initiatives needing launch services for satellites to give preference to the utilization of European launchers wherever there is no unreasonable disadvantage.

19) The EISC believes that the European space exploration programmes, the participation in international cooperation and the human space flight programme via the European Astronaut Corps of ESA hold a strategic importance both for political and scientific reasons and for the European presence in space.

20) The EISC believes that enhanced international relations and cooperation could improve access to third markets for European space products and services and reduce the cost of acquiring space systems as well as increase Europe’s role in global initiatives, also in terms of support to developing countries, and to foster international cooperation through European programmes (i.e. Galileo and GMES). The EISC insists that Europe speak to International Partners with one voice with respect to space related matters.

Rome, 9th October 2007