

SECOND SEMINAR ON CURRENT SPACE ISSUES

“GALILEO: A Future for Europe”

-- 12 March 2002 – Belgian Senate, Brussels --

CONCLUSIONS OF THE PRESIDENCY

The parliamentarians of Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom, present at the seminar on current space issues in Brussels, on 12 March 2002,

Considering the importance of the Galileo programme for the research, economy and autonomy of Europe;

Considering the decisions of the Ministerial Council of the European Space Agency, taken in Edinburgh on 15 November 2001;

Considering the fact that no decision was taken during the Ministerial Transport Council of 7 December 2001;

Considering the conclusions of the European Councils of Cologne, Feira, Nice and Stockholm, that were repeated and strengthened during the Laeken European Council on 15 December 2001;

Considering that the resolutions of the third European Interparliamentary Space Conference, and in particular the resolution concerning the strategic autonomy through navigation, emphasise that “the final approval of the Galileo programme by the Council of Ministers is the first priority within the framework of the European space policy”;

1. Recall the importance of the Galileo programme, which is an essential part of autonomous European policy, and the positive consequences of this programme for the research and industry of the European Union in general and of the member states in particular;
2. Encourage the national governments to continue to devote themselves to the speedy achievement of an agreement on the financing of the development stage of the Galileo programme, as well as on the regulation thereof and urge the private sector to participate in its financing of the Galileo programme;
3. Urge in particular the Presidency of the European Union and the national governments to do everything in their power to make sure that a decision concerning the public and private financing of the Galileo development phase and the regulation for the Galileo Joint Undertaking is taken by the Transport Council in March 2002;
4. Urge the European service industry to play a vital role in the development phase in close cooperation with the joint undertaking.

The President of the European Interparliamentary Space Conference will convey these conclusions to the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, the parliaments and governments of the member states, the Council and the Director General of the European Space Agency, to the industrial companies in the space sector and to parliaments of European states who were unable to be represented at this seminar.

Made in Brussels on 12 March 2002

Armand DE DECKER,
President of the Belgian Senate,
President of the European Interparliamentary Space Conference.