

SEMINAR ON CURRENT SPACE ISSUES
"Europe Enlarges its Space"

Frascati (Rome), 1st and 2nd February 2001

Final Communication

The Parliamentary Groups of Space of Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and Spain, convened in Italy at the ESA-ESRIN headquarters to take part in the seminar « *Europe enlarges its Space* », organised by the Italian Parliament Group, following an invitation by the European Interparliamentary Space Conference (EISC),

welcome a representative of the Austrian « Bundesrat »;

thank the Italian institutions, authorities and organisations that organised this event and the European Space Agency for hosting the event in their Italian seat ;

take note of the will of the Parliamentary Group on Space of the United Kingdom, that was not present during the seminar, to continue the cooperation within the framework of the EISC ;

express their satisfaction for the active participation of representatives of the European Parliament and the European Commission, representatives of the countries involved in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and of officials of the different space agencies (ot similar organisations), as well as representatives of space companies of member countries of the EISC ;

confirm the common orientations and hopes expressed at the previous meetings in Paris on 29 and 30 April 1999 and in Italy from 12 to 14 October 2002 , in particular the common will to consider the EISC as the parliamentary consultative forum on space-related programmes, the commitment to build a « spacefaring Europe » and the hope to give the European Union full strategic independence in this sector, especially in the field of the availability of critical technology ;

take note of the conclusions reached during the Seminar concerning « Galileo : a strategic project for Europe », « Research Activities in the Space Sector – Development in a European framework », « European Programmes and Projects in the Space Sector – Financing and Investments – Progress and Perspectives » and « Intellectual Property, Trade regulation, the exportation of space products and technology – Developments in a European and international context », particularly with respect to the need to harmonise ande to vreate a common ground for the main driving forces of space activities (research and development), thus facilitating the transfer of knowledge acquired through common programmes and bringing together a competitive space industry supported by a well-structured and co-ordinated scientific community ;

Underline the fundamental role and the importance of the space sector

Whose co-ordinated development is a crucial element to meet the challenges posed by the modernisation of society in the most effective way and to actively participate in the ongoing process of mondialisation which requires among others a high degree of competitiveness ;

Whose boundaries go well beyond the European Union, and should also include other countries, particularly those involved in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership ;

Whose progress depend on the capacity to ascertain an harmonious integration and constant synergie between research activities and production acitivities, also thanks to appropriate transfers of technology ;

Draw the attention of the European Parliament to

The need to work out and to implement co-ordinated policies, which meet the demands of both the public and private sectors and direct them towards shared objectives, determined in a common agreement, that ensure the integration of space technology into the information society. The applications thereof should be used for environment protection, satellite navigation, earth observation and the development of innovative services, with the purpose of application in the non-EU member countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, in accordance with the decisions adopted at the Barcelona Conference of 27 and 28 March 1995 ;

The need to harmonise the principles of the private public partnership (PPP) in European space projects ;

The need to take simultaneously measures for vocational training and co-ordination of research activities in this specific sector. These measures also need to concern the transfer and dissemination of the obtained information, especially as regards the SMEs, so as to enable them to specialise in the development of related applications ;

The need to establish, within the framework of the European Union, a specific relation between EU research centres, research networks and centres of excellence of the space agencies and the space industry in each country, as well as the interested leading companies, so as to co-ordinate and harmonise the different initiatives, with the goal of increasing the return of investments and funds allocated to the individual actors with the goal of meeting the standards of innovation and competitiveness in the European system ;

Point out to the Council of the European Union and the Council of ESA

1. The need to realise the following structural elements, in accordance with the European space strategy :
 - a) The realisation of an institutional co-operation between ESA and the EU (ESA has to become the agency of the Union);
 - b) The pursuit of the development of a European Network of Centres, in accordance with the idea of the initiative taken by the EU to create a « European research area » ;
 - c) The realisation of the proposition of the EU/ESA work group, to be presented at the end of 2001, in order to :
 - Attract profit out of the investments in the space sector ;
 - Multiply the capability and performance of each individual player ;
 - Orient and enhance professional skills ;
 - Connect within the EU the scientific centres and agencies that work in the space sector ;
 - Circulate European space programmes and promote their applications, also in the partner countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership ;
2. The need to come to the development and validation of a European satellite system, as foreseen in the Galileo programme. This strategic and political priority is essential for guaranteeing the competitiveness of a European space system, as was decided by the Nice Summit (7-9 December 2000);
3. The need, in the context of globalisation, to come in the short term to a solution concerning the application of dual technology ;
4. The need to define as soon as possible a global system of environment and security monitoring (GMES) and to continue to encourage the realisation of this system.

Finally, the parliamentary groups on space

- a) Are pleased by the impulses that were given by the Italian presidency to the EISC;
- b) Encourage the other EU countries to join the EISC, as foreseen by the Co-operation Charter signed in Paris on 29 April 1999 ;
- c) Are pleased to hear that the next presidency will be held by the parliamentary group on space of the Kingdom of Belgium, followed in 2002 by the United Kingdom, in 2003 by the German Federal Republic and hopefully in 2001 by the parliamentary space group of the Kingdom of Spain.