

## **8<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN INTERPARLIAMENTARY SPACE CONFERENCE**

**BRUSSELS, 12 – 14 JUNE 2006**

### **FINAL CONCLUSIONS**

#### *1. General observations*

The EISC members welcome the parliament of the Czech Republic and the Russian Duma as new members, illustrating the growing importance of interparliamentary debate over the future of European Space Policy. In this respect, the European Parliament is called upon to develop strong actions in order to reinforce the European Space commitment through its Intergroup ‘Air and Space’ and other relevant parliamentary bodies.

The EISC members emphasise that all member states of the EU or ESA can participate in the proceedings of the EISC. The new charter of the EISC gives the criteria for membership.

#### *2. European Space Policy*

The EISC members welcome the results of the ESA Ministerial Council of 5 – 6 December 2005, which illustrate ESA’s commitment to be the European Space Agency for the implementation of a European Space Policy.

The EISC members call upon ESA to closely study the accession of new EU member states as the Czech Republic and Hungary.

The EISC members strongly call upon the European Commission to clarify at the latest during the German Presidency of the European Union in 2007, how it plans to fill in its role in the European Space Policy.

The EISC members believe that the White Paper “Space: a new European frontier for an expanding Union” remains the basis for Europe’s role in space and has to be elaborated into a coherent European Space Policy. The EU and ESA, which define and implement European space policy respectively, form the core of this role. However, these institutions should take into account the important contributions of the national space agencies and programmes.

The EISC members call upon the European Commission to define key priorities for a European Space Policy before the next European Interparliamentary Space Conference in 2007. The implementation of these priorities require the combination of all European and national space programmes into the European Space Programme. This programme needs to be reviewed on a regular basis.

The EISC members call upon the national governments and the European Council to continue to work in the spirit of the relevant articles in the Draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe.

The EISC members call upon the European Union to adapt its procedural rules and financial instruments regarding space in view of the uniqueness of the space sector.

The EISC members call upon the European Commission and ESA to work with the European Defence Agency to develop a common European position on security and defence issues relating to European space programmes, notably Galileo and GMES.

The EISC members stress that Galileo and GMES are the priorities of the European Space Policy, and that their financing can in no way be compromised.

### *3. Industrial Space Policy*

The EISC members stress that the principle of “juste retour” remains a fundamental mechanism for ensuring that Europe’s strong and dynamic space industrial base is shared fairly across contributing nations and promotes the interests of both large enterprises and SMEs across Europe.

The EISC members believe that a balance between this principle and the principle of “value for money” needs to be obtained.

The EISC members encourage the use of the principle of public private partnerships in the space sector, when and if viable.

### *4. Galileo*

The EISC members confirm Galileo being the most important result of European space policy and stress the importance of holding a debate in an open and constructive way around the possible use of the Galileo programme for security and defence purposes. As a contribution to this debate, the EISC will organise a Colloquy on Space, Defence and Security in September 2006.

The EISC members state that negotiations within the framework of Galileo cannot block the putting into place of the system, nor can it lead to reductions that may lead to the collapse or failure of the system and its capabilities. Refinancing of space applications and projects may not lead to a decrease of the Galileo budget as determined in the financial perspectives 2007-2013 and the financial plan of ESA.

### *5. Global Monitoring for Environment and Security – GMES*

The EISC members confirm that GMES will become a focal point of a European Space Policy lead by the European Union. However, GMES needs to be made known to the public and the possible end users. Dialogue and partnership with the user community on the utilisation of GMES is of the utmost importance.

The EISC members call upon ESA and the European Commission to organise a contest for all European citizens to find a name for GMES that can appeal more to the public and that is identifiable with the purpose of the system.

The EISC members believe that an open and objective debate must be held on the possible use of GMES for security and defence purposes.

The EISC members call upon the European Commission to provide substantial financial support from the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for the GMES Space Segment Programme of ESA. However, the introduction of a “GMES Infrastructure” budget line in the Budget of the European Union is necessary, since the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme is not the most appropriate funding mechanism for GMES. The European Commission is called upon to propose in close consultation with ESA and other partners that provide a significant contribution to GMES, alternatives for a suitable management structure for GMES as soon as possible.

### *6. Space applications*

The EISC members call upon all European and national institutions to take the requests and needs of the end users of space applications into account when determining the direction of a European space policy.

The EISC members are convinced that space applications are key in transferring the benefits of space infrastructures to the European taxpayer.

### *7.Exploration of space*

The EISC members believe that human space flight is to be taken into account for the mobilisation of society around Space. The current human space flight programmes as well as the co-operation with Russia in the development of the 'Klipper' programme could be encouraged.

The EISC members believe that the European Astronaut Corps could represent a symbol for the public opinion of the European human presence in space.

The EISC members also encourage the private sector to develop its own human space flight projects.

The EISC members stress nevertheless that robotic missions remain key for the success of Europe in space. Missions to other planets and in space today are best conducted by robotic means. This however cannot prejudge the ambition of Europe in the human space flight field. A symbiosis between robotics and human space flight has to be envisaged.

The EISC members confirm the great value of the International Space Station (ISS) for European human space flight. All commitments of the international partners in ISS need to be fulfilled in full.

### *8.Space and education*

The EISC members request all national governments to actively promote studies in science and technology, in order to resolve the lack of qualified engineers and scientists that exists today and brings the future of European space in danger. The encouragement of young people to start studies in science and engineering not only includes efforts to be made in the higher education. Mobilisation of youth around space must start by the age of 10 years . Special attention must also be given to higher education, in order to ensure the availability of first-class scientists and engineers for Europe.

The EISC members stress that the general public must be made aware of the importance of space for everyday life. A public awareness initiative is needed to promote greater understanding of the benefits of Europe's space activities.

### *9.Access to Space*

The EISC members demand the increase in industrial and operational activities in order to certify a competitive, trustworthy and available access to Space via the European launcher family (Ariane, Soyuz, Vega).

The EISC members insist on the importance of completing the launch pads for Soyuz and Vega in the European Space Port.

The EISC members believe that the next ESA Ministerial Council in 2008 is of the utmost importance for the future European launcher policy and sustainability.

*The EISC members commit themselves to work towards the realisation of these conclusions through permanent consultation and to evaluate the results obtained during the next EISC annual conference in 2007.*