

**FIRST EUROPEAN INTERPARLIAMENTARY SPACE CONFERENCE**  
**PARIS, 29 - 30 APRIL 1999**

**FINAL DECLARATION**

The representatives of the Parliamentary Space Groups of France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom assembled in Paris on 29 and 30 April 1999.

This meeting is a clear proof of their commitment to intensify the ties between them and their respective activities through the creation of a « European Interparliamentary Space Conference ».

This Conference aims at the exchange of information concerning space activities and the promotion of the mutual understanding of the national policies. It forms an assembly for the analysis of the European space interests. For this reason, the Conference can give recommendations and can adopt resolutions addressed at everyone involved in this field.

The will to work together is embedded in a Charter for Interparliamentary Cooperation, drawn up in this sense.

During the debates, the parliamentary groups also agreed upon several resolutions addressed to the actors in the European Space Sector. In these resolutions, the parliamentary groups are satisfied with their common efforts in the space field and are convinced that these efforts, which they will continue to do, will contribute to a further evolution in the field. These evolutions will contribute to the reinforcement of the European construction.

The members of parliament hope to have contributed in a useful way to the work of their governments and wish them all the best during the next Ministerial Council Meeting of the European Space Agency.

The next European Interparliamentary Space Conference will be held in Italy in 2000.

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***POLICY RESOLUTIONS***

The European Interparliamentary Conference on Space, meeting in Paris on 29-30 April 1999, adopted, as follows :

***Resolution n°1***

Convinced that a natural trend for the European Union is, in the longer term, to acquire full and complete competence on space issues, the Parliamentary Groups consider that, in the meantime and to this end, co-operation should be developed and intensified within the framework of the European Space Agency.

As in the past, the Agency should strive for of a multi-configuration Europe focused on the Agency's programmes and multilateral programmes. Such a pragmatic approach should, in the longer term, facilitate the emergence of a European strategy. Finally, they wish to encourage the dialogue established between the two institutions.

***Resolution n°2***

Considering that one of the shortcomings of the ESA Convention is the weakness of its policy-making machinery and, therefore, of programme launching, the Parliamentary Groups call on ESA Ministers to ensure that this issue is given priority consideration in the course of their forthcoming meetings.

The need for regular periodicity, dialogue and decision-making for such a body could lead to the creation of a "European Space Conference" which would meet on an annual basis. The European Space Agency would act as General Commissioner.

***Resolution n°3***

The Parliamentary Groups are in favour of in-depth consideration of the distribution, role and position of agencies in Europe. They support the idea that the agencies should be structured within a "Union of Centres" aimed at becoming integral part of Europe's space agency.

#### Resolution n°4

Aware of the limitations of the principle of “a fair return”, the Parliamentary Groups nevertheless acknowledge its relevance for any participating country. They do consider, however, that this principle is becoming increasingly incompatible with industrial restructuring taking place at the European level.

In order to prevent European space policy from being developed around a few major centres contrasting with vast industrial “wastelands”, the Parliamentary Groups consider it necessary that a strong impulse be given by the States and their agencies to ensure greater dissemination of technical expertise between the various countries of the European space community.

#### Resolution n°5

Mindful of initiatives taken by industry, the Parliamentary Groups take note of the restructuring which gives companies a better standing on the world market in response to ever-growing competition. They are, however, concerned to ensure that the logic of Community integration should prevail over privileging alliances with American firms. They express their utmost vigilance on this issue and invite national authorities to endeavour to limit this risk and to provide, particularly for their export strategies, the responses which will ensure the efficiency of European industrial groups.

They also hope that particular attention be given to small and medium sized enterprises which make up a vital network for the space sector.

#### Resolution n°6

Regional development planning has succeeded in linking major constructors with the local authorities of the areas in which they operate. There is a widespread need for future-oriented planning of partnerships between industry and local authorities. The Parliamentary Groups consider it should be further investigated so as to implement other forms of partnership and solidarity at the European level.

#### Resolution n°7

The Parliamentary Groups consider it essential that the agencies set up a forum for dialogue not only with the direct partners but also with the users, whether actual or potential, of the space sector and its applications. They welcome all initiatives, including structural, which may promote such co-operation.

### Resolution n°8

The applications and developments of the space industry are having a growing impact on everyday life and are one of the distinctive features of the sector. In this context, the existence of a forum for debate on the political and civic issues at stake would seem called for. The Parliamentary Groups suggest to the space institutions that the “European Interparliamentary Conference on Space” should serve as such a forum. They are now prepared to respond to any request aimed at securing a concerted, unanimous opinion.

### Resolution n°9

The Parliamentary Groups express the wish that the budget contributions of the States to programmes and research should be increased. They consider that the European space effort, as related to the stakes involved, is inadequate. In actual fact, this situation partly accounts for the difficulties encountered. They therefore encourage the respective Governments to strengthen their commitments in this regard.

### Resolution n°10

The Parliamentary Groups expect of the agencies and industry alike a genuine communication effort, aimed at both the general public and at the participants in the sector so that the stakes and the need for public commitment are as widely shared as possible.

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***PROGRAMME RESOLUTIONS***

The European Interparliamentary Conference on Space, meeting in Paris on 29-30 April 1999, adopted, as follows :

*Resolution n° 1*

Considering that the Ariane programmes have, from the outset, been, the main pillar of European space policy, giving European countries independent access to space, the Parliamentary Groups suggest that these programmes, in particular Ariane 5 and subsequent programmes, be considered as a priority.

*Resolution n° 2*

Moreover, the Parliamentary Groups advocate that Europe should acquire a series of launchers which would provide wide flexibility in meeting actual or potential needs.

*Resolution n° 3*

Aware of the imperative schedule involved in the development of a new generation of propulsion systems and the growing competition in the space transport sector, the Parliamentary Groups call for the research and technological development programmes on future launchers to be started at the earliest opportunity.

*Resolution n° 4*

The Parliamentary Groups view satellite navigation as the new major European programme, similar to what the Ariane programme was thirty years ago. The urge that all the European participants involved in the project do their utmost so that Europe may rapidly and effectively have an autonomous satellite navigation system at its disposal.

*Resolution n° 5*

Whether it be for telecommunications or satellite navigation, the Parliamentary Groups appreciate the importance for Europe of acquiring its own frequencies. In order to address the current confused situation, they encourage European authorities to establish an international regulation regime that should be both free and transparent.

### Resolution n° 6

The Parliamentary Groups fear that the stakes of Earth Observation be not sufficiently taken into account by the European space community. While there are remarkable success stories in this field, they remain limited. The Parliamentary Groups consider that Europe lacks a global strategy and suggest that the European Observation Centre assume, as a principal aim, to secure a wide dissemination of data without being in charge of their exploitation. Attention should be given to users in order to make a real commercial market develop in Europe.

### Resolution n° 7

Aware of the budget difficulties relates to the development and constraints of an international space station project, the Parliamentary Groups consider that continuation of Europe's involvement in major orbital infrastructure projects is a necessity. Moreover, they invite Europeans to make the best possible use of the investment already made in the international space station, especially with space transport activities, in condition of a real financial decision parity.

### Resolution n° 8

Aware that there cannot be any future without a high-standard Research and Technology policy, the Parliamentary Groups invite the respective Governments as well as the European Union to increase their contributions so that Europe may have high-performance research activities and to continue their efforts to control duplication.

In particular, they consider it essential that a wide-ranging scientific programme be maintained within the European Space Agency. Such a programme should grant adequate opportunities a sufficient role to small-scale assignments which are particularly useful in securing the balanced development of national scientific communities.

### Resolution n° 9

The Parliamentary Groups stress the need for closer co-operation between civilian and military activities. They consider that today this synergy is totally inadequate in relation to the challenge of the space sector.

### Resolution n° 10

The Parliamentary Groups are aware of the expanding role played by the European industry, in terms of innovation, organization and funding. They believe it should naturally be granted specific importance through the strengthening of exchanges and partnerships between the structures.

They also wish to encourage any thinking aimed at entrusting industry with those activities it can best manage in full respect of the strategic, social and cultural considerations with regard to which the States are particularly watchful.

