

2nd October 2003

Conclusions of the Presidency

Parliamentarians representing the National Space Groups of Belgium, Germany, Finland, France, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Slovenia and Spain met in Berlin from 30 September to 2 October 2003 under German Presidency at the 5th European Interparliamentary Space Conference (EISC).

Representative Observers from Czech Republic, Switzerland, Japan, German Ministries, ESA, EUMETSAT, European Commission, DLR, WEU and Industry also attended the Conference.

The EISC constitutes a forum for cooperation between the European national parliaments. It aims to establish a permanent dialogue on space policy issues and support the national governments and European institutions in their efforts to achieve a common European space policy for the maximum benefit of Europe's citizens.

The specific political and programmatic Conclusions of the Presidency, reflecting the results of the Conference, are presented in the following sections.

The German Presidency will submit the results of the 5th EISC to the competent European institutions, such as the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Presidency of the European Union, the WEU and ESA. The Chairmen of the National Parliamentary Space Groups will present the results of the Conference to the national governments and actively pursue the issues arising.

The next EISC will be held in Madrid in 2004.

List of participating parliamentarian delegations:

- Belgium
- Germany
- Finland
- France
- Italy (not present)
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland (not present, written input)
- Romania
- Slovenia
- Spain
- United Kingdom (not present)

Observers:

- Czech Republic
- Switzerland
- Japan

- German Ministries

- ESA
- EUMETSAT
- European Commission
- DLR
- WEU

- Industry

Review of the situation and political conclusions

Space is currently high up on the agenda of the political debate in Europe. There are two main reasons for this:

- a. The call of the European Parliament for a White Paper on European Space Policy, to which the Commission already reacted at the beginning of the year by producing a Green Paper as a first step;
- b. The proposal of the European Convent, confirming this call, that a reference to space be introduced in the new European Constitution as a "shared" competence of the European Union and enhanced cooperation within Europe.

The interest in the subject derives from the realisation that space can open up new political, economic and strategic dimensions for Europe. The EISC therefore stresses that Europe must play a leading role on the international stage and be in a position to independently engage in space activities and develop corresponding technologies.

1. The EISC is convinced that space and its utilisation are essential for a better definition and more efficient implementation of European Union policies, comprising horizontal and sectorial policies. An increased budget for space policy in Europe should allow to achieve more rapidly the objectives set by the European Union in Barcelona, i.e. the investment of 3% of EU Member States GNP for R&D. Consequently, the EISC calls upon the Commission to also establish new budget lines for space within the EU in the next few years, in order to support the Union policies (transport, agriculture, environment, knowledge society and security). In addition, the EISC calls upon the EU Commission to organise space-related issues to identify and assign responsibilities for the utilization of space to serve the European people in accordance with their horizontal nature, of which research is just one element. In this context the EISC recommends to substantially increase space related budgets in Europe on a long term scale.
2. The EISC appreciates the fact that many elements of decisive items included in the Final Declaration of the 4th EISC Conference in London have been realised. This includes, inter alia, the inclusion of space in the draft of the EU Constitution, the start of development of the Galileo European Satellite Navigation System and the securing of independent access to space with the ARIANE 5 launcher.
3. The EISC appreciates the resolutions of 27.05.03 adopted at the special meeting of the ESA Council of Ministers responsible for space activities in the member states concerning Ariane, with the EGAS (European Guaranteed Access to Space) programme, designed to safeguard competitiveness, and the restructuring of the European launcher industry. The decision to use the Ariane launch site in Kourou for the launch of Russian Soyuz launchers in the future is also supported. This is a positive stimulus for further cooperation between Europe, Russia and CIS, also in research and development fields above and beyond space.
4. The EISC supports the explicit incorporation of space in the future Constitution of the European Union. Space is to be a shared competence of the European Union and its Member States [including ESA and their national agencies and administration]. In the future the role of the EU would be to federate the demand on space activities and related services whereas the ESA would take the role of a federator for the offering of supply. The EISC welcomes the fact that, according to the proposal of the Convent, Article 155 will assign a special role to the European Union in space policy and that it will have the possibility of funding joint initiatives for supporting research and

- technological development and of coordinating the efforts required for space research and utilisation.
5. In this context - heading towards an enlarged European space policy - the EISC welcomes the Green Paper initiative and the accompanying consultation process, in which a broad majority, also in the space sector and among the general public, spoke in favour of the Union assuming greater political and financial responsibility than in the past, in order to substantially increase the funds available for space in Europe. The EISC hopes that the Green Paper process of the European Commission will have provided sufficient knowledge for a substantial, far-reaching White Paper which will contain the outlines of a European space policy. The EISC recommends the establishment of a regular space related agenda involving the highest political level of the member states and European Union.
 6. The EISC welcomes the signing of the agreement on the start of development of Galileo, the European satellite navigation programme, and once again points out the significance of the Galileo programme for public safety, the improvement of airspace management, land and sea traffic, as well as environmental and regional planning policy: the EISC therefore calls upon the Commission and ESA to tackle the outstanding items relating to the start-up phase without delay, in order to be able to adhere to the envisaged schedule and enter the navigation market in 2008. The EISC welcomes the envisaged EU agreement with China and recalls the necessity to establish similar agreements with Russia, and other interested states.
 7. The EISC calls upon the Commission and ESA to accelerate the GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security) related activities, taking into account the contribution EUMETSAT is ready and able to make, in order to effectively support the Union policies on sustainable development and on a Common Foreign and Security Policy. As demanded by the European Council, implementation of the GMES initiative must lead to a substantial, independent European monitoring capacity for the environment and security by 2008. Partial implementation of the initiatives should be started already in 2004. Rapid coordination regarding this topic in the framework of the Union is likewise necessary, in order to be able to set out a joint European position as an alternative in the expected debate on the proposal of the United States to establish a "Comprehensive, Integrated Earth Observing System" on the basis of worldwide cooperation.
 8. The EISC is of the opinion, taking into account the enlargement of the European Union, in line with the Lissabon strategic goals and the special attention that Europe is giving to the Mediterranean, the continent of Africa and Latin America, the EISC strongly encourages the creation of a European programme aiming at reducing the digital divide in the European countries and overseas. The EISC requests the immediate inclusion of this proposal into the White Paper and the securing of its short- and medium-term funding, making use of supporting funds of the EIB and/or EBRD.
 9. The EISC stresses that only autonomous and competitive European access to space can guarantee Europe's independence as regards space-based communication, navigation, earth observation and scientific infrastructures. The European Union and its Member States must also cater to this fact in financial terms. In this context the EU should also contribute to the funding of the launcher infrastructures and operational capabilities. Consequently, the EISC calls upon ESA and its Member States to also ensure a long-term guarantee of autonomous access to space and, to this end, to elaborate a viable concept for the further development of the ARIANE 5 and a future

ARIANE successor system by the time of the next ESA Conference of the Council of Ministers in 2004/2005. In addition the EISC invites ESA, European Commission and Member States to reflect about the future organisation of European space industry (primes, non-primes and suppliers).

10. The EISC underlines that substantial independent capacities constitute an important prerequisite for Europe's role in international cooperation. However, it is also important that the right framework conditions be established, especially in the commercial sector. In this context, the EISC once again stresses the need to eliminate the trade barriers and obstacles impeding the access of European enterprises to the global market and preventing the export of products containing parts manufactured in the USA.
11. The EISC points out the importance of international cooperation, especially for unmanned and manned space research, and considers it essential that the European Union further expand technical/scientific and economic cooperation in space policy with the USA, Russia, CIS and the Ukraine, China and Japan; it is of the opinion that, as regards the United States, it is important to support and revitalise the activities and projects of the International Space Station and to progress scientific knowledge relating to the Earth and the Universe by strengthening Europe's weight in the International Space Station in keeping with the technological/industrial capacities and the ambitions of the European Union. The EISC recommends the ESA member states to carefully prove the decision regarding the future option for manned space flight in the "Soyuz in Kourou" context.
12. The EISC demands that, in recognition of the pioneering work and innovative activities of European space-based science, greater attention be devoted to staff qualification and that basic research be guaranteed greater and more permanent support, also in order to arouse new interest in scientific and technical occupations among young people; the EISC therefore calls upon the European Commission, ESA, the National Space Agencies and the European space industry to take all the necessary steps to improve the framework conditions for European scientists and engineers in such a way that Europe acquires a unique, lasting attraction as a location for excellent space research and technology thus increasing the interest of the young generation in space engineering and sciences.
13. In its heyday, the proportion of commercial sales in the space industry in Europe was as much as 50%, but it has been on the decline since then. With its resolutions on GALILEO and GMES, the European Union has laid the foundations for boosting institutional demand. Now, concepts for increasing commercial interest must be developed and implemented at the national and European levels. In this context, Europe's industry should assume co-responsibility wherever possible and play an active role in the financing of operational space infrastructures.
14. Space makes important contributions in connection with national and European foreign and security policy, primarily through communication networks, reconnaissance systems and navigation. The EISC is of the opinion that the European Agency for Armaments, Research and Military Capabilities, which was proposed by the Convent, demanded by the European Council and will be open to all EU Member States in the framework of the method of structured cooperation, can contribute to the industrial and technological potential of the space sector actually being exploited. This agency should federate the demand on space activities for security and defence purposes. In order not to mix up the roles, ESA should be responsible for the supply and technical assistance.

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15. The EISC welcomes the progress achieved by the Commission and ESA as regards the negotiation of a joint Framework Agreement and now calls upon both parties to devote more attention to the practical aspects of future cooperation, especially with a view to joint projects in the enlarged Europe. One of the key objectives in this context is to clarify issues relating to organisation, decision-making mechanisms, industrial policy, the financial regulations, the respective roles and responsibilities...
16. The EISC supports the target of establishing a European Space Programme that encompasses all relevant public activities and players in Europe, and implements the goals of European space policy on the basis of mutual coordination. It is of particular importance for Europe's efficiency and competitiveness that the individual Member States are also capable of providing significant stimuli for European space developments in the framework of their National Space Programmes. The European Space Programme is a suitable platform for coordinating the key areas of national research and development programmes with the activities of all European partners more closely than in the past and for making more efficient use of available resources.
17. The EISC hopes that the White Paper on European Space Policy will appropriately reflect the above considerations and that the EU Council and the ESA Council will extensively discuss and implement the White Paper. The "joint meeting" of the EU Council and the ESA Council at ministerial level as foreseen in the ESA/EU Framework Agreement, is a suitable forum for discussions which should also debate the White Paper. Corresponding to the ESA/EU framework agreement the respective independence of the two organisations will be maintained.
18. The EISC insists on the rapid initiation of a program for the enhancement of the development of critical technologies related to launchers, satellites and respective components in Europe. The programme should have as a target the strong improvement of overall European industry's competitiveness and independence (producers, users and equipment and service providers). With respect to the strategic importance of enterprises in this sector, the EISC recommends to carefully observe the industrial shareholder structure.
19. Europe should, as stressed in the Green Paper, develop a new ambition in the area of "space discoveries" and "new frontiers". Therefore the EISC encourages a debate on visionary endeavours such as manned or unmanned planetary missions in collaboration with international partners.

Addendum: The Charta of the European Astronaut Corps

The EISC welcomes the presented Charta of the European Astronaut Corps.

THE 5th EUROPEAN INTERPARLIAMENTARY SPACE CONFERENCE (EISC)

Berlin, 30 September – 2 October 2003

Kurt J. Rossmannith, MdB
The President of the 5th EISC
Germany

Belgium

Finnland

France

The Netherlands

Norway
(to be signed by protocol)

Rumania

Slovenia
(to be signed by protocol)

Spain

The Charta of the European Astronaut Corps

Our Vision

***Shaping and Sharing Human Space Exploration
Through
Unity in Diversity***

Our Mission

We ***Shape Space*** by bringing our European values to the preparation, support, and operation of space flights that advance peaceful human exploration.

We ***Share Space*** with the people of Europe by communicating our vision, goals, experiences, and the results of our missions.

Our Values

S***apientia***: We believe that Human Space Exploration is a wise choice by and for humankind.
Sapientia reflects our commitment to pursue our goals for the advancement of humanity.

P***opulus***: We put people first, in a two ways: First, the purpose of our missions is to contribute to a better future for people on Earth. Second, ***Populus*** serves as a reflection of our respect for the people with whom we work: that we value their opinions, praise their work and compliment them for their support.

A***udacia***: We acknowledge that Spaceflight is a dangerous endeavour. While accepting the risks inherently involved in space travel we work to minimize these risks whenever we can.
Audacia reminds us that the rewards will be unparalleled if we succeed.

C***ultura***: We continue the exploration started by our ancestors. Conscious of our history and traditions, we expand exploration into space, passing on our cultural heritage to future generations.

E***xploratio***: We value exploration as an opportunity to discover, to learn and, ultimately, to grow. We are convinced that humankind must embrace the challenge of peaceful human space exploration. We, the European Astronauts, are willing to take the next step.