

**Speech by Mr Li Yuanzheng, Head of the Chinese Delegation, at the 8th
European Interparliamentary Space Conference**
(Brussels, June 13, 2006)

Distinguished Mr Chairman du Vivier,
Distinguished Parliamentarians,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, please allow me to express on behalf of the Chinese National People's Congress (NPC) congratulations on the convening of the 8th European Interparliamentary Space Conference in Belgium, and thanks to the Belgian Parliament and Chairman du Vivier for their efforts in making this conference possible.

The NPC Delegation is very pleased to be invited to the Conference, the first time ever for the NPC. We would like to take this opportunity to learn more about the EUP space policies and technological development. Having said that, I would like to brief you on the development of China's space industry and its co-operation with foreign partners in peaceful utilisation of outer space, in an effort to strengthen China-Eu co-operation in space industry.

Mr Chairman, through 50 years of hard work, China has made considerable progress in space technology, space applications and space science. A complete system of research, design, trial production, production and test is now in place. It has also set up well-equipped launch centres capable of sending various satellites and necessary TT&C networks.

The technologies of Long March series launch vehicles independently developed by China are more mature. We have developed, entirely on our own, 12 versions LM series launch vehicles that are capable of launching spacecraft to near-earth orbit, sun-synchronous orbit, geosynchronous transfer orbit and highly elliptical orbit. Up to now, the LM series launch vehicles have made consecutively 47 successful launches since October 1996.

China has independently developed and successfully launched more than 70 satellites of various types, including communications satellites, meteorological satellites, scientific and technological experimental satellites, scientific exploration satellites, resources satellites, oceanic satellite, navigation and positioning experimental satellites and manned spaceships. All these spacecraft have been widely used in China's economic construction, social development and scientific and technological progress as well as various areas that bear on the livelihood of the people.

Over the past 50 years, China has carried out fruitful co-operation in space with other countries in the world. It has signed 32 inter-governmental/agency international space co-operation agreements/MOUs with 23 countries, agencies and international organisations, and promoted Asia-Pacific multilateral co-operation in the region. In the meantime, space co-operation between China and EU is deepening. In addition to establishing co-operation mechanisms such as the Chinese-Franco Joint Committee on Space, China is working closely with ESA, and has successfully implemented the Geospace Double-Star Exploration Program, participated in the R&D activities of the

Galileo Satellite Navigation Program, and signed and carried out 11 co-operative projects.

Mr Chairman, according to the actual needs of national economic development, China has worked out a space development plan for the 11th Five-Year Plan (2006-2010) period. The main contents of the plan are as follows :

- To build up a satellite earth observation system for long-term stable operation. We will develop and launch new meteorological satellites, oceanic satellites, resource satellites, surveying satellites and small satellite constellation for environment monitoring so as to set up an space-time co-ordinated, all-weather, all-time and multi-spectral global earth observation system;
- To establish a co-ordinated and complete national satellite remote-sensing application system. We will build up a national remote sensing satellite data centre and new satellite remote sensing application centres covering satellite environment applications, satellite disaster reduction applications and satellite surveying applications.
- To develop and launch long-life, high-reliability and large-capacity GEO communication satellites and TV direct broadcast satellites, vigorously develop satellite TV live broadcast, live audio broadcast and Internet access businesses, and develop and launch public communications satellites;
- To establish an independent satellite navigation and positioning system and initially set up satellite navigation and positioning application industry;
- To develop the next generation launch vehicles with non-toxic, non-polluting, high-performance and low-cost qualities; to improve the performance and reliability of the existing Long March series launch vehicles;
- To continue the manned spaceflight program and realise astronaut EVA and space docking;
- To develop deep space exploration and complete Phase I of the Lunar Exploration Program, i.e. the Lunar Orbiting Exploration Project;
- To strengthen research in space astronomy, space physics, microgravity science and space life science;
- To develop new technology test satellites to demonstrate certain new technologies, new equipment and materials in orbit.

Mr Chairman, with regard to international co-operation in space industry, China is of the view that the outer space is the common property of mankind. All countries are entitled to explore, exploit and use the outer space and celestial bodies; The activities in the outer space by all countries shall be helpful to economic development and social progress in these countries, the security, survival and development of mankind, and to friendly co-operation among the people across the world.

To this end, China will work to promote and intensify international exchanges and co-operation in space on the basis of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, peaceful utilisation and common development.

China will actively expand and develop South-South Co-operation with the developing countries, consolidate international space co-operation with Europe. While adhering to the principle of independence and self-reliance, it will, according to the needs of modernisation strategy, co-ordinate domestic and international markets

and resources and carry out active, pragmatic, multi-level and multi-form international space exchanges and co-operation.

China has always been opposed to the weaponisation of and arms race in outer space. It has worked for and hope to see early conclusion of an international legal instrument preventing weaponisation and arms race in outer space through negotiations with a view to maintaining a peaceful outer space. China is willing to make a weapon-free peaceful and safe outer space together with other countries in the world.

Mr Chairman, we understand that the exploration and peaceful utilisation of outer space is a complicated, arduous, high-risk and high-investment undertaking and difficult for one or two countries to realise. Therefore, broad international co-operation is an effective way to promote and popularise the space technology, space science and space applications for the benefit of the human society. For this reason, China will continue to strengthen and expand space exchanges and co-operation with friendly countries in the world. We are ready to further expand and deepen co-operation with EU in particular, in civilian satellite application fields, including space science and technology, environment supervision, disaster management, satellite data sharing and Galileo Satellite Program, and make contributions to peaceful utilisation of the outer space, promote the advancement of human society and development of economy.

To conclude, I wish the Conference a complete success !

Thank you.