

## Statement by the delegation of Romania

Your Excellencies, distinguished participants,

We would like first to express the satisfaction of our delegation for the opportunity offered to our country to attend this important meeting.

You should be aware that Romania is a country with consistent research and industrial facilities for space and aerospace. Following a stable development policy since more than one decade, the Romanian Space Agency (ROSA) is presently keeping in one hand the national research and technology development plans for space and aeronautics. Based on expertise and infrastructure of sound tradition, newly capacities in science and technology were established to complete the national needs and to promote specific capabilities.

Romania is providing a good partnership for the European Space Agency (ESA) and the ESA Member States by means of both potential to produce and market for space technology and applications. The first agreement of co-operation between ESA and the Government of Romania has been concluded in 1992, followed by a second one in 1999. Successful scientific and political collaboration joint projects confirmed the common willingness of ESA membership. Romania, after detailed negotiations with ESA? Have signed the last February the Agreement for a European Cooperation State, in the view of becoming a full ESA Member. Among the New Member States and Candidates, only the Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania acceded to this important membership.

Romania is also a participant and a contributor to the European Commission's Framework Programme dedicated to Space, in particular to the strategic projects GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security) and Galileo – the European satellite radionavigation system.

The national RTD Space programme – under the authority of the Romanian Space Agency (ROSA) is oriented towards five pillars : science, technology, enterprise, capacity building, and security. More than 600 research professionals from 120 institutes, universities, public and private companies and SME's are developing projects towards space exploration, space applications and aerospace technology. Almost 50 percents of the activities are developed under international co-operation, with organisations from ESA Member States, US, Japan, other countries and international organisations.

The Romanian national RTD policy is clearly oriented to accomplish the European Union's goal to build a knowledge-base society, in harmony with the specific national developments. The public amount of RTD support for the next year has been almost doubled and includes budgets for national programs on specific fields, core funding for national institutes and substantial incentives for the research of excellence; A next National RTD plan is to be started during 2007, in good complementarities with the European Union's Seventh RTD Framework Programme.

Space is already included as one of the main advanced research and technology development direction. Following the main goal to promote Romania as an ESA Member State, the space programme includes also specific national priorities, in particular science and technology niches and support to develop the space infrastructure. As a future EU Member State, Romania is participating to the Space Council and other space-related issues, contributing actively to the drafting of the European Space Policy and supporting the major role of ESA as the main space organisation of Europe.

The Romanian Parliament will initiate a political action in order to accommodate political support for putting Romania as an important and active partner dedicated to elaboration of European Space Policy and a supporter of European Space projects.

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