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BELGIAN HIGH REPRESENTATION
18/02/2010 FOR SPACE POLICY

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Conference: “Space for the African citizen”

Topic

To organise in Brussels, on 16th September 2010 under Belgian presidency of the EU, a high level conference (political, scientific and industrial) demonstrating the contribution of space to the general development of Africa, to the benefit of its citizens. More precisely, this conference will aim at confirming the usefulness of space tools for the African continent socio-economic development and resources management.

Context

This conference is a contribution to Partnership Number 8 between the EU and the AU (particularly to its “space” component). It intends to demonstrate the relevance of space technologies as a transversal tool to favour development and growth, to facilitate good resources management, to contribute to the preparation and the implementation of the policies in various fields (health, education, agriculture, transport, etc.).

This conference could therefore be a contribution to the work of the 3rd European Union – Africa Summit, and more generally to help attain the *Millennium Development Goals*.

Expected output

The conference aims at:

1. Obtaining the acknowledgement, by the EU and Africa, of the major interest of space applications in favour of a global and sustainable development of the continent (specifically, by contributing to the achievement of the *Millennium Development Goals*) and serving the efficiency of the European policies for development aid;
2. Obtaining the acknowledgement, by the EU and Africa, of the African States’ need for having the necessary abilities (for instance the institutional structures) to improve their autonomy toward the space technologies, and, hence, an acknowledgement of the importance of supporting the African nations in their will to acquire these abilities and, in partnership, to build on existing initiatives and ambitions;
3. Defining the first actions to be implemented in the framework of the GMES/Africa action plan which is being elaborated and indentifying resources for the implementation of prioritised actions.

To conclude, the conference could therefore pass the following recommendations to the EU Council (via the Space Council):

- a) European development aid policies should take space applications into account, for their own use in view of improving its efficiency and also to promote their use in Africa;
- b) Europe should increase its collaboration with its African partners to develop their abilities in the field of space, according to the needs expressed;
- c) the implementation decisions of the priority points of the GMES Africa action plan.

Practical aspects

Place: Brussels, Palace of Fine Arts (Room M), 23 Ravenstein Street, 1000 Brussels

Duration: One day, with a reception on the previous evening and, if possible, a visit of the exhibitions scheduled in the framework of Africa @ Bozar 2010.

Date: 16 September 2010

Targeted audience: High-level European and African personalities likely to increase the political support to the conference goals; African actors representing the space tool users communities; European actors involved in the cooperation to development with Africa; representatives of the African and European space sector (EU, AU, ESA, Eumetsat, Member States, regional organizations, national agencies, scientists, industries, etc.)

Expected number of participants: 300