

7th Space Council resolution:
“Global challenges: taking full benefit of European space systems”

Brussels, 25 November 2010

"The COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION/
The COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL,

HAVING REGARD to the Framework Agreement between the European Community – which has been succeeded by the European Union – and the European Space Agency (the “Framework Agreement”), which entered into force on 28 May 2004¹, and to the increasing cooperation between the two parties;

HAVING REGARD to the European Space Policy welcomed and supported by the Council of the EU and the Council of ESA at ministerial level on 22 May 2007, and WELCOMING the progress accomplished by the European Commission and ESA in the implementation of the European Space Policy;

RECALLING the Space Council resolutions of 22 May 2007 and 26 September 2008 and orientations of 25 November 2004, 7 June 2005, 28 November 2005 and 29 May 2009; .

RECALLING the European Parliament Resolution of 20 November 2008 on the ‘European Space Policy: how to bring space down to Earth’;

RECALLING the Presidency conclusions of the European Council of 11 and 12 December 2008 on the need to include space technology and services in the planned European plan for innovation;

NOTING that the EU competence in space established through the entry into force of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, strengthens the political dimension of space in Europe;

FULLY AWARE that space is an enabler for the delivery of EU policies and that it can deliver a significant contribution to the ten-year strategy “Europe 2020 - A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth ” adopted by the European Council on 17 June 2010;

AFFIRMING that space is of strategic importance and a key element for independent decisionmaking and action;

ASPIRING that Europe can continue to develop world class space infrastructures and applications, as well as to rely on efficient operational space systems to serve its citizens;

I – Strategy and investment

1. INVITES the EU, ESA and their Member States to further develop, together, an overall space strategy in order to
 - a. enable new economic growth and job creation in Europe, foster the innovation potential and support world class scientific progress;
 - b. respond to public policy objectives and user needs at regional, national and European level;
 - c. contribute to the development of scientific and technical vocations in Europe;

2. CALLS UPON the EU, ESA and their Member States to undertake the necessary actions
 - a. to further develop the space scientific and industrial base across Europe to facilitate the availability of critical space technologies (e.g. electronic components), launchers, satellite systems and know-how;
 - b. to promote a healthy commercial space sector, as a key factor for a sustainable European space industry;
 - c. to protect satellites and satellite signals and to secure frequencies, taking into account emerging new threats to space assets;

¹ OJ L 261, 6.8.2004, p. 64

- d. to ensure that their respective current and future space activities, including R&D, are adequately devised to make effective use of available funding according to agreed priorities;
- e. to make optimal use of European space systems and technologies;

3. CONSIDERS that industrial policy for space should take into account the specificities of the space sector and the interest of all Member States to invest in space assets, and aim at the following common objectives: support the European capability to conceive, develop, launch, operate and exploit space systems; strengthen the competitiveness of European industry for both its domestic and export markets; and promote competition and a balanced development and involvement of capacities within Europe;

4. RECOGNISES that the development and operation of space programmes, which are by nature long-term and high risk activities, require specific financial means and implementing rules, as well as long-term commitments;

5. INVITES all European institutional actors, in order to maintain an independent, reliable and cost effective access to space at affordable conditions, to consider as a high priority the use of launchers developed in Europe and to explore issues relating to their possible participation in launcher-related exploitation activities;

II – The successful deployment and sustainable exploitation of the flagship programmes

6. UNDERLINES that Galileo and GMES are the flagship programmes and priorities of the European Union in space; consequently REAFFIRMS that it is a priority for the EU to seek their appropriate long-term financing for the period post 2013 without prejudice to future discussions on the Budget Review and the next Multiannual Financial Framework;

7. UNDERLINES the importance of rapidly identifying, on the base of agreed governance schemes, the required operational schemes for the flagship programmes in the long-term, which are essential

- a. to ensure the proper interface between the space agencies, service-providers and endusers;
- b. to take the responsibility for long-term operations and adaptation of the infrastructure;
- c. to ensure the delivery of continuous data and services to users;
- d. to make optimal use of existing capacities across Europe;
- e. to maximise opportunities for the development of commercial services;

A – Galileo and EGNOS

8. ENCOURAGES the promotion of the utilisation of EGNOS and the extension of its coverage, in particular within the EU;

9. EMPHASISES the urgency to deploy the Galileo infrastructure, according to the GNSS Regulation²; to ensure that services are available to users in a timely, cost-efficient and risk averse manner; to complete the mid-term review of the programmes and, in this context, the European Commission should examine how to support the period 2011-2013.

10. STRESSES the need for continued cooperation with all international partners on issues of system compatibility and interoperability, in particular at bilateral and multilateral level, with the objective to find an acceptable and timely compromise on the compatibility of frequencies and signals between the respective global satellite navigation systems, without impacting on the national security of Member States;

11. CALLS UPON the European Commission to prepare, in consultation with ESA, the long-term sustainable exploitation of EGNOS and Galileo, based on options for appropriate arrangements related to the future evolution of infrastructures, while taking fully into account the relevant expertise and experience in ESA;

² Regulation No 683/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the further implementation of the European satellite navigation programmes (EGNOS and Galileo)

B – GMES

12. EMPHASISES the need and the urgency to start the deployment of the GMES Space infrastructure and services, and to ensure that they are available to users in a timely manner; in this context, CONSIDERS therefore that the European Commission should examine how to support the period 2011-2013;

13. URGES the European Commission to implement the GMES Regulation³ by rapidly elaborating in consultation with ESA and all Member States the details of the GMES data/information policy as soon as possible, thereby also supporting the build-up of a commercial European Earth observation services sector; and, as a step in answering the recommendations of the Council Security Committee on the data security policy of GMES, to submit in the nearest future a risk assessment of the assets of GMES to the GMES Security Board, about to be established;

14. REAFFIRMS as the priority for the EU

- a. to finalise in 2011 the decisions on GMES governance including a sustained scheme for the operations of the GMES space, in-situ and services components;
- b. to devise a scheme that addresses the ownership and liability of the Sentinel infrastructure;
- c. to ensure an active programme of engagement with potential users of GMES services, including through swift implementation of the GMES user forum;

15. CALLS UPON the European Commission

- a. to invite appropriate European organisations to propose user requirements for each of the GMES services;
- b. to prepare the consolidated European user requirements necessary to be provided to ESA in the planning of the evolution of the GMES Space Component; and
- c. to specify the links and interfaces between the GMES services and the global effort under the Group on Earth Observation to build a Global Earth Observation System of Systems;

III – The Contribution of European Space Systems on the monitoring of Climate Change and its Effects

16. INVITES the European Commission, ESA and all Member States, with the support of relevant European organisations (e.g. EUMETSAT and the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting) to build on existing capacities and implement adequate mechanisms in order to ensure the exploitation of existing data, reanalysis and know-how for sustaining the most crucial climate-related information services;

17. DRAWS ATTENTION to the need for

- a. continuous and long-term observations from space over several decades in line with the Global Climate Observing System recommendations in order to provide high quality climate records required to improve predictions and monitoring, to assess the impacts of climate change, to develop innovative climate services and to identify affordable mitigation and adaptation policies;
- b. additional streams of information to be developed for a more complete understanding of climate change and its effects;
- c. continuous provision of data from existing missions, to enable fast transition from proven research capabilities to user-driven operational services;

18. CALLS UPON the European Commission and the ESA DG, in close cooperation with the Member States and EUMETSAT, on the basis of users requirements and together with their international partners, to coordinate their space-related activities and, building on the Global Climate Observing System, to undertake an assessment of existing and future gaps regarding space sensors essential to a more complete understanding of Climate Change and its effects; In doing so, they should take particular account of those sensors available within Europe and make best use of international cooperation through coordination mechanisms such as the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, in order to define future measures to fill those gaps;

³ Regulation No 911/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2010 on the European Earth monitoring programme (GMES) and its initial operations (2011 to 2013) - OJ L 276, 20.10.2010, p. 1–10

IV – The Role of Space Systems for Security Policies and the Security of Space Systems

A - Space for security

19. UNDERLINES that the GMES programme will allow Europe to deal more effectively with global security issues and RECOMMENDS that, within the GMES programme, additional consideration should be given on how to meet the specific needs of security policies and the services dedicated notably to maritime surveillance, border control and support for EU external actions;

20. ACKNOWLEDGES the reinforced EU engagement in security and defence matters embedded in the Lisbon Treaty and the setting-up of the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the significance of crisis management as a key element of the EU and its Member States' actions both in Europe and globally; therefore INVITES the European Commission, the EU Council, assisted by EDA, together with Member States and ESA, to explore ways to support current and future capability needs for crisis management through cost-effective access to robust, secure and reactive space assets and services (integrating global satellite communications, Earth observation, positioning and timing), taking full advantage of dual-use synergies as appropriate; and INVITES the European Commission and the EU Council to propose policy solutions where necessary;

21. WELCOMES the growing support of the EU Satellite Centre to EU missions and operations; RECOMMENDS the setting up of appropriate arrangements to improve the effectiveness of EUSC service provision to EU missions and operations, and to facilitate access to national programme imagery;

B - Security for space

22. ACKNOWLEDGES the increasing dependence of the European economy and policies, in particular the Common Foreign and Security Policy, on space assets and the critical nature of space infrastructures for autonomous European decision-making, and the need to define and introduce appropriate measures to monitor and protect these assets, including at the outset of their development;

23. NOTES the EU's proposal for a Code of Conduct for activities in Outer Space;

24. RECOGNISES the need for a future Space Situational Awareness (SSA) capability as an activity at European level to develop and exploit existing national and European civil and military assets and INVITES the European Commission and the EU Council to propose a governance scheme and data policy that will allow Member States to contribute with relevant national capabilities in accordance with applicable security requirements and regulations, and INVITES all European institutional actors to explore appropriate measures which would

- a. build on defined civil and military user requirements
- b. make use of relevant assets in accordance with applicable security requirements
- c. take into account the early developments from the ESA SSA preparatory programme;

V – The European Vision on Space Exploration

25. CONSIDERS that Europe should undertake its action in robotic and human space exploration within a worldwide programme – without any monopoly or appropriation by one country – which can be developed by building upon current partnerships, notably the International Space Station (ISS) partnership;

26. ENCOURAGES the European Commission and ESA DG, consulting closely with all Member States

- a. to reinforce Europe's role and visibility in future international exploration endeavours by voicing as a single position at international level;
- b. to invite international partners, as welcomed in the Second International Conference on Space Exploration, to establish a high-level platform to exchange views on their different goals and provisional strategies, scenarios and new cooperation schemes, while complementing existing technical fora,

27. TAKES NOTE of the positive decision by some ISS partners concerning the extension of the utilisation of the ISS until at least 2020 and EMPHASISES that ISS exploitation and utilisation is a key element of any future exploration programme; therefore INVITES

- a. ESA DG to finalise consultations with ISS partners with a view to optimising the exploitation of its potential accordingly;
- b. Member States of ESA to assess all the possibilities to meet the financing implications of the extended ISS operations;
- c. all European institutional actors to explore issues relating to their possible participation in the ISS exploitation and utilisation;
- d. the EU, ESA and their Member States to consider with international partners the benefits stemming from a common space transportation policy for exploration;

28. STRESSES the strong common interest of Member States in Mars exploration and TAKES NOTE of the adoption of the ESA ExoMars programme, within a long-term cooperative framework with NASA;

29. In the light of the above, CALLS UPON the European Commission and the ESA DG, jointly, to develop and propose a European exploration strategy encompassing the following tenets

- a. long-term roadmaps and associated programmes for technologies in particular in the fields of automated and robotic systems, advanced propulsion, energy systems and life support systems;
- b. the fostering of inter-disciplinary innovation and cooperation;
- c. the European contribution to an international exploration programme, built on European expertise and interests in line with the above mentioned roadmaps;

VI – The Partnership on Space with Africa

30. ACKNOWLEDGES the contribution that space technologies and applications, including satellite communications, bring to a global and sustainable development of the African continent, specifically by contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

31. INVITES the European Commission, ESA and Member States to expand partnerships with the African Union Commission, the Regional Economic Groupings and the African nations and to build upon existing initiatives and ambitions to enable African nations to develop the technical and institutional capacities to allow them to acquire, as well as to exploit relevant space systems;

32. ACKNOWLEDGES the potential value added of EGNOS for air transport safety, economic development in Africa and intercontinental exchanges; and INVITES the European Commission to work with the African Union Commission capacity building in this area and the way a similar infrastructure to EGNOS could be implemented in Africa;

33. UNDERLINES that the GMES and Africa initiative represents a step towards the sustainable management of natural resources and the preservation of the environment by African citizens and decision-makers; INSISTS that the decisions to implement the related priorities of the GMES and Africa action plan be taken without delay;

34. INVITES the European Commission to consider possible modalities to support the implementation of these activities;

VII – The Governance of Space Activities in Europe

35. RECALLS that the EU, ESA and their respective Member States are the three key actors of the European Space Policy, and INVITES these actors to further reinforce their partnerships to the benefit of all European citizens;

36. STRESSES that, within such partnerships, relations between the EU and ESA – based on clarity and complementarity of roles reflecting the respective strengths of both organisations – are the cornerstone of ensuring continued success of the European Space Policy and future endeavours in space;

37. RECOGNISES the interest among Member States not members of both the EU and ESA to participate in all phases of collaborative programmes, WELCOMES their wish to do so and INVITES the European Commission and ESA to facilitate this process by examining, and proposing as necessary, modalities to ease the full association to such collaborative programmes;

38. UNDERLINES the importance of early definition, for each operational programme, of the entity(ies) to be the operating body on the basis of agreed governance schemes;

39. INVITES the European Commission and ESA DG to evaluate before May 2011 the experience under the Framework Agreement in the light of the lessons learnt and the changed EU legal environment as well as to work jointly, in close cooperation with the Member States, in order to extend the collaboration between the EU and ESA in an evolving context."