

## **Orientations from the second Space Council - 7 June 2005.**

1. The first joint and concomitant meeting of the Council of the European Union and of the Council of the European Space Agency at ministerial level (“Space Council”) identified the need to prepare a European Space Programme for end 2005. The Joint Secretariat, in consultation with the High Level Space Policy Group, prepared a document on the Preliminary Elements of a European Space Policy, which addresses the orientations of the first “Space Council”. The second meeting of the “Space Council” takes note of the approach outlined in this document and reaffirms its objective to endorse at its next meeting, planned for end-2005, a European Space Policy and Programme covering the period to 2013. This will be drawn up by the Joint Secretariat in close association with the Member States, in particular in the High-level Space Policy Group, and in consultation with private and public stakeholders.
  
2. In particular, the “Space Council” confirms that the European Space Policy should contain the following main elements
  - a. the European Space Strategy outlining the objectives,
  - b. the European Space Programme, listing the priority activities and projects to achieve the strategy and reflecting the costs and funding sources of these,
  - c. a commitment by the main contributors to their respective roles and responsibilities, and
  - d. key principles of implementation.

The European Space Programme will be the common, inclusive and flexible programmatic basis for the activities of ESA, EU and their respective Member States. Existing capacities will have to be used to their maximum extent and complementarity ensured.

3. The “Space Council” recommends that the fully elaborated draft of a European Space Policy is developed on the basis of these orientations, in accordance with the Framework Agreement between the European Community and ESA and the ESA Convention. It notes in particular:

– **On strategy:** Space is strategic for Europe, a tool to serve the policies of the Union, European governments and European citizens. Many European and national policies already benefit from operational space systems, integrated with related terrestrial systems. Space-based systems shall increasingly be developed on the basis of user requirements, taking into account the benefits of using broadly supported European solutions contributing to the strategic importance of space for Europe. The European Space Policy will seek to ensure continuity of these benefits and that they are shared by all.

– **Roles and responsibilities:**

The EU will use its full potential to lead in identifying and bringing together user needs and to aggregate the political will in support of these and of wider policy objectives. Subject to the requirements of strict budgetary discipline and to objective evaluation, it will be responsible for ensuring the availability and continuity of operational services supporting its policies, and will contribute to the development, deployment and operation of corresponding dedicated European space infrastructure, in particular for Galileo and GMES. It will also pursue an optimum regulatory environment to facilitate innovation, access to international markets and the effective coordination with ESA of the European position in international fora.

ESA and its Member and Co-operating States will develop space technologies and systems, supporting innovation and global competitiveness and preparing for the future. Their activities will focus on exploration of space and on the basic tools on which exploitation and exploration of space depend: access to space, scientific knowledge and space technologies. They will pursue excellence in space-based scientific research. On a voluntary basis, they will support the technological preparation, including validation, of space systems responding to user needs, including those relevant to EU policies.

Most Member States of the EU and of ESA are already investing in operational infrastructures through their membership of EUMETSAT and will consider the experience of similar organisations and Eumetsat's role in relation to wider operational services.

– **On priorities within the European Space Programme:**

the EU will focus on space-based applications to contribute to the achievement of its policies, particularly Galileo and Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES).

ESA activities will focus on securing a guaranteed and competitive access to space through a family of launchers, pursuing excellence in science of space, from space and in space, exploiting its know-how in exploration of the solar system, and developing technologies to maintain a globally competitive European space industry equipped to meet Europe's future space system needs, including in all elements of the value chain.

Individual EU or ESA Member States will be responsible for identifying their national contribution to the European Space Programme and provide this input to the Joint Secretariat for consideration of its inclusion in the overall European Space Programme to be presented to the next "Space Council".

- **On key principles of implementation:** The implementation of the European Space Policy requires an industry policy tailored to the specificities of a sector subject globally to government influence. This policy should provide all stakeholders in Europe with the motivation (i) to maintain and reinforce their scientific and technological expertise and capacities and (ii) to encourage Member States and stakeholders to make the necessary investment to maintain know-how, independence in selected critical technologies and a globally competitive space industry. This is central to the achievement of Europe's economic and political objectives, thus contributing to Growth and Employment.

Key instruments for delivery will be, for the EU, in particular the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme of Research, Technology and Development, the trans-European network programme and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme; and for ESA, a combination of mandatory and optional programmes. Programme costs will be estimated in the European Space Programme, which should highlight that user policies will in the future need to be more adequately reflected in the funding scheme.

The management of EU space-related programmes will be based on efficiency, in line with the EC-ESA Framework Agreement and drawing on the management and technical expertise of ESA, in cooperation with the relevant agencies and entities in Europe, and taking into account factors such as the integration of space with terrestrial systems and the diversity of sources of funding. The management of ESA programmes will be based on the rules laid down by the ESA Convention.

4. The “Space Council” notes that decisions on future programmes to be taken at the coming ESA Ministerial Council and the decision on the EU Financial Perspectives will determine the ability of the Programme to match the ambitions of the European Space Policy.
5. The “Space Council” invites the Joint Secretariat in close consultation with the High-level Space Policy Group to identify possible cost-efficient scenarios for optimising the organisation of space activities in Europe in the future and to initiate a wide-ranging appraisal of these in comparison to present processes, taking all relevant factors into account. It invites the Joint Secretariat to report back on the outcomes of this appraisal.