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THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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IND 71
TRANS 225
POLARM 14
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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From : Competitiveness Council of 29 May 2009

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Subject : Council Resolution on "The Contribution of space to innovation and
competitiveness in the context of the European Economic Recovery Plan, and
further steps"

Delegations will find attached the Council Resolution on "The Contribution of space to innovation and competitiveness in the context of the European Economic Recovery Plan, and further steps", as adopted by the Competitiveness Council meeting on 29 May 2009.

Draft "Space Council" Orientations/ Council Resolution

THE 'SPACE COUNCIL'

EMPHASISING the orientations and resolutions adopted at past meetings of the 'Space Council', in particular the Resolution on the European Space Policy of 22 May 2007¹ establishing a political framework for space in Europe and the Resolution "Taking forward the European Space Policy" of 26 September 2008² setting out new priority areas for the further implementation and development of the European Space Policy, the results of the ESA Council at ministerial level of 25-26 November 2008 and the EU Competitiveness Council Conclusions "Towards a GMES Programme" of 2 December 2008³;

RECOGNISING the progress made in the implementation of these Resolutions, in particular in the framework of the Structured Dialogue the increased coordination of space, security and defence related activities between key actors of the European Space Policy, including the identification of critical space technologies for European non-dependence; the acceptance of the Multinational Space-based Imaging System (MUSIS) as a new European Defence Agency (EDA) ad hoc category B programme; and, on Space Situational Awareness (SSA), the adoption of the ESA Preparatory Programme, while recalling that the EU will take, in liaison with ESA and their respective Member States, an active role to set-up progressively a European capability for SSA and an appropriate governance structure;

¹ Doc. 10037/07

² Doc. 13569/08

³ Doc. 16722/08

EMPHASISING the potential of space to impact on innovation in the economy, as well as on economic recovery, and the need for further orientations to the Commission and ESA in particular on the short- and long-term progress of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) initiative:

I) On the contribution of space to innovation and competitiveness in the context of the European Plan for Innovation and the European Economic Recovery Plan

EMPHASISES the Conclusions on the European Council of 11-12 December 2008, notably its support to the European Economic Recovery Plan (EERP) and its call for the launching of a European Plan for Innovation, which should also include space technology and services derived from it, as one of the main technologies of the future⁴;

CONSIDERS that, in view of the acknowledged contribution of space to the overall competitiveness and innovation potential of the European economy, space activities and their applications should receive full consideration in the use of funds allocated to economic recovery;

EMPHASISES the need to mobilise existing innovation support mechanisms at European, national and regional level, and consider new support instruments to ensure cross-fertilisation of knowledge, innovation and ideas between space and non-space sectors, and between space industry and leading research organisations and universities;

EMPHASISES the need to:

- identify innovation-boosting measures for the space sector in the framework of the European Plan for Innovation and in coordination, as appropriate, with national plans;
- encourage more prominent presence of the European space industry in trans-sectoral innovation clusters and networks;

⁴ Doc. 17271/08 - point 18, page 8

- define adequate conditions for the development of downstream services based on EGNOS, Galileo and GMES, taking full benefit of an integrated approach that combines satellite navigation, communications and Earth observation technologies with ground-based assets;
- consider including space applications among any further selection of new lead markets under the Commission's Lead Market Initiative, in the light of the review of that initiative⁵; and
- analyse and measure the innovative impact of space technologies on other economic sectors in an effort to provide solid analytical input to the preparation of future European programmes;

Further UNDERLINES the potential of space to develop enabling technologies and promote future economic growth in Europe. In particular:

- HIGHLIGHTS the potential of satellite communications technologies to bring broadband to European citizens and enterprises, ensuring a better access to modern ICT particularly in rural and remote areas⁶, in the context of the European broadband strategy called for by the European Council of 19-20 March; CALLS on the Commission, ESA and the EU and ESA Member States to consider integrating satellite technologies in future broadband projects with a view to support the implementation of the EERP, while respecting the principles of open competition, technology neutrality, and open and neutral internet architecture; and further RECOGNISES the need to explore innovative approaches and architectures for the provision of global satellite communications services in response to institutional demand in support of European programmes and policies, including transport, energy⁷ and security;

⁵ Doc. 5121/08

⁶ Doc. 7201/09

⁷ Doc. 7566/09

- STRESSES that space can provide a significant contribution to the 'Factories of the Future'⁸ initiative, as well to other strategic priorities of the EERP.

II) On GMES Initial Operations

REAFFIRMS the importance of the rapid implementation of GMES services and TAKES NOTE of the Commission's proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Earth observation programme (GMES) and its initial operations (2011-2013)⁹, which aims at achieving a significant step towards a GMES Programme ensuring the sustainable long-term operation of GMES services, meeting the requirements of national and European users, while pursuing the development of a detailed data access and dissemination policy for these services¹⁰;

STRESSES the need, in this context, to give funding priority to the operations of the GMES Space Component;

UNDERLINES the need to ensure that GMES services are supplied on a competitive basis, when relevant, and that appropriate SME involvement is ensured in their provision;

STRESSES the need for a coherent and complementary approach for funding schemes of GMES services and the observation data and infrastructure implemented through the Space Theme of the Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration activities¹¹, the proposed Regulation on a GMES Initial Operations Programme,¹² the ESA GMES Space Component Programme and activities implemented at Member State level.

⁸ Designed to enable European industry to adapt to global competitive pressures by improving the technological base of EU manufacturing across a broad range of sectors (http://ec.europa.eu/research/press/2009/pdf/ppp-fact-sheet_en.pdf)

⁹ Doc. 10285/09

¹⁰ As detailed in the Council conclusions on Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES): "Towards a GMES Programme" (Doc. 16722/08)

¹¹ 2006/971/EC: "Council Decision of 19 December 2006 concerning the Specific Programme Cooperation implementing the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007 to 2013)", OJ L 400/86 30.12.2006

¹² Doc. 10285/09

III) On the long-term arrangements for the GMES Space Component (GSC)

RECALLS the need to define, at national and European levels, a sustainable funding approach for the GMES Space Component based on an assessment of the overall financing needs for this infrastructure, taking into account the three successive stages: R&D stage to be funded from R&D appropriations, transition stage with mixed R&D and operational funding, and an operational stage with dedicated funding for operations involving the users; EMPHASISES that some GMES Space Component elements are entering into the operational stage and WELCOMES that, with the adoption of a Regulation on the GMES Initial Operations Programme, operational funding would be introduced into GMES;

RECOGNISES the need to identify and ensure funding for the remaining elements of the initial GSC build-up and INVITES the Commission and ESA to elaborate in consultation with the EU and ESA Member States a funding strategy for these elements, without prejudging the next EU Multi-annual Financial Framework;

Concerning observations related to operational oceanography and atmospheric composition monitoring, respecting the overall coordination role of ESA for the GMES Space Component, INVITES the Commission and ESA to lead a dialogue with EU and ESA Member States and with EUMETSAT and its Member States to explore options for the role of EUMETSAT to coordinate the user requirements for space observations;

Concerning observations related to land monitoring, emergency response and security, INVITES the Commission and ESA to explore options for the long-term operation of relevant missions including procurement of data, by starting dialogues, based on terms of reference to be determined following close consultation of EU and ESA Member States, with those Member States which own infrastructure, in order to discuss programmatic, governance and financial aspects;

UNDERLINES the importance of the Commission and ESA defining the data policy for, and the ownership of, the Sentinel missions consistent with the INSPIRE directive¹³ and the provisions of the ESA GMES Space Component Programme Declaration approved at the ESA Ministerial Council 2008;

TAKES NOTE of the preliminary analysis carried out by ESA, notably the GMES Space Component Long-term Scenario¹⁴, as a basis for the estimations of the GMES Space Component evolution and costs, INVITES ESA to consolidate this analysis through further consultation with EUMETSAT and Member States owning infrastructure by the end of 2009, and REAFFIRMS the need for the EU to establish swiftly a long-term budget strategy, within the framework of the definition of the next EU Multi-annual Financial Framework.

IV) On space exploration

REAFFIRMS the need to assess the possibilities offered by European Union policies to embed space exploration in a wider political perspective and, recognising that space exploration has the potential to provide a major impact on innovation, LOOKS FORWARD to the Commission's proposed High-Level Political Conference on Space Exploration, on the basis previously agreed in the Space Council, as a first step towards the elaboration in due time of a fully-fledged political vision on "Europe and Exploration" encompassing a long-term strategy/roadmap and an international cooperation scheme.

¹³ Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2007 establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE)

¹⁴ ESA/C(2009)36

V) On adequate instruments and funding schemes

RECALLS the need to develop adequate EU instruments and funding schemes taking into account the specificities of the space sector (in particular, the relatively small size of its market and its dependence on public funding/programmes), the need to strengthen the space industry's competitiveness and the necessity of a balanced involvement of capacities in Europe, and examining the modalities for the full association of all ESA Member States;

WELCOMES in this context the Commission's initiative to conduct in-depth studies on these issues, on which it is consulting ESA and the results of which will provide much needed input to accelerate work in this domain, within the framework of the definition of the next EU Multi-annual Financial Framework and NOTES the invitation of the ESA Council at Ministerial level¹⁵ to its Director General to start reflections with the European Commission and Member States, with a view to making a common analysis of the current rules for joint ESA-EU programmes.

¹⁵ ESA/C-M/CCVI/Res. 4 (Final) 25.11.2009