



European Satellite Operators Association ('ESOA') elects new Chairman, approves new member and sets agenda for 2005

Brussels, 4 April 2005

The Chief Executive Officers of Europe's satellite operators met yesterday in Brussels for a Board meeting followed by the Annual General Meeting of ESOA, the European Satellite Operators Association.

The Board elected Enrico Saggese, Director for Space for Finmeccanica and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Telespazio, as Chairman of the Board. He will succeed Dan Goldberg, President and CEO of New Skies Satellites. Jacinto Garcia Palacios, CEO of Hispasat, was elected Vice Chairman of the Board. Both appointments are for one-year.

Saggese said: "I am very proud to take on the responsibility of leading ESOA for the coming year following the excellent leadership provided by Dan in 2004. I believe it is our responsibility to ensure that policy-makers really understand the advantages that satellites and their services have in terms of bringing information to people all over the world. We must also make sure they have a clear understanding of the obstacles we - satellite operators - face in trying to do this as ultimately our technology could contribute to the achievement of public sector goals such as those mentioned in the Lisbon agenda."

In the past two years ESOA has been very active, working on the market access issues and regulatory issues around the globe - such as the new spectrum policy being planned at present in the UK. Notably ESOA's work has contributed over the last year to significant trade negotiations going on between the European Commission and third countries as well as to improving the understanding regulators have of the impact their policies on the business of satellite operators.

Current priorities for 2005 are to contribute to the implementation of European Space Policy and the definition of the European Space Programme together with the EC's 7th Framework Programme. The European Space Programme, being developed by the EC together with the European Space Agency and Member States, will set the scene for space activities for the next years. ESOA considers it vital that appropriate priority be given to satellite telecommunications and related services.

On this occasion, the ESOA Board of Directors also approved the candidature of EADS Space Services, the operating arm of EADS Space as a full member of the Association, bringing the total number of full members to 11.

Further Members of ESOA are: Eurasiasat, Europe*Star, HellasSat, Hispasat, Inmarsat, New Skies Satellites, Nordic Satellite AB, SES GLOBAL, Telenor Broadcasting Holding and Telespazio. Arianespace, EADS Astrium and International Space Brokers are all Supporting Members of ESOA. For more information please contact:

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