



EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS' BAND PRESERVED FOR SATELLITE USE AT WRC 2007

Brussels, 21st November 2007 - Members of the European Satellite Operators' Association (ESOA) have welcomed the decision of the UN's ITU, which completed weeks of negotiations at the World Radio Conference 2007 on 16th November in Geneva, to confirm the uninterrupted, interference-free use of C-band spectrum for the future.

The work to preserve the C-Band showed complete harmony between satellite operators and organisations all over the world that lobbied hard, mobilising the humanitarian community as well, to achieve this result. ESOA in particular hosted a high-level dinner involving the Valery Timofeev, Director of the ITU's Radio Communication Bureau, Francois Rancy, Chairman of this year's WRC and the Heads of various delegations including Iran, Brazil and Syria. ESOA, building on relationships developed with the UN community over the last year, called upon representatives from UNOSAT, the UNITAR Operational Satellite Applications Programme and UN OCHA, the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to speak out before the influential crowd about the reliance on and investment made by the humanitarian community in C-Band for emergency communications. UN OCHA confirmed that the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications (WGET) had in fact adopted the C-Band as the radio frequency standard for all UN humanitarian communications.

Christodoulos Protopapas, Chairman of ESOA said: "I wish to thank the ESOA member companies and other global satellite organisations for their efforts and the outstanding collaboration that was necessary to achieve this result. In particular I wish to thank UNOSAT, UN OCHA and the UN World Food Programme, for their interventions to support this 'life-saving' cause. In the news over the last days we have heard about the numbers of people who will die in the Bangladesh floods simply because of the inability to communicate with them, assess their locations and deliver on their needs – this is the kind of life-saving role that satellite communications, that work so often using C-band, can provide and with its decision, the WRC just took a huge step in maintaining an important global responsibility."

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About ESOA

The European Satellite Operators' Association was formed in March 2002 to represent the interests of the industry with the European Commission, Parliament, Council and the European Space Agency as well as other international organisations, national governments and regulators. ESOA's goals include ensuring that satellites benefit from the appropriate political, industrial and regulatory environment to fulfil their vital role in the delivery of communications. ESOA is governed by a Board of Directors made up of the CEO's of its Member Companies.

The activities and other details about ESOA can be found at www.esoa.net. Members of ESOA are: Astrium Services, Eurasiasat, Eutelsat, HellasSat, Hispasat, Inmarsat, SES, SES Sirius, Telenor and Telespazio. Arianespace, Astrium Satellites, Avanti, International Space Brokers, Mansat, Marsh, Thales Alenia Space and Willis are Supporting Members of ESOA.

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