

Aarti Holla-Maini
Secretary General
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ROLE OF SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS IN EUROPEAN SPACE POLICY

Dear Sir, Madam,

I write to you on behalf of ESOA, the European Satellite Operators Association of which I am Secretary General. The members of ESOA are concerned by the development of the European Space Policy Implementation Plan and the role accorded therein to satellite communications. With this letter ESOA would like to make specific proposals to you with which satellite communications would be given appropriate recognition in the text of the Resolution.

ESOA would submit that the European Space Policy Implementation Plan should foresee:

- (a) A greater role for satellite communications calling upon them to deliver on key EU objectives, to which they are optimally suited,
- (b) A corresponding budget larger than that foreseen today, and
- (c) A commitment by the EU to protect vital spectrum required for satellite communications, including the implementation of flagship programmes such as Galileo & GMES, which are presently under threat.

The resulting text we would therefore like to see included in the Resolution is:

Concerning GMES:

“IDENTIFIES the need to ensure that adequate and crucial spectrum is available to ensure GMES, as a global programme, can be effectively implemented and specifically that EU commitments under the Maputo Agreement to extend GMES to Africa are not compromised by EU spectrum decisions;”

Concerning GALILEO:

“IDENTIFIES the need to ensure that the spectrum required for the implementation of Galileo as a global programme that involves communications between the EU and other parts of the world, is available;”

Concerning SPACE & CLIMATE CHANGE:

“RECOGNISES the unique ability of satellite communications to contribute to energy efficiency strategies, for example by providing real-time monitoring and data-transfer from often remotely located renewable energy plants to central control centres;”

Concerning CONTRIBUTION OF SPACE TO THE LISBON STRATEGY:

“CONFIRMS the key role of satellite communications in contributing to competitiveness of the EU with applications ranging from broadband connectivity, to digital switchover, to energy efficiency, to European security;”

IDENTIFIES satellite communications technology as using substantially less power than terrestrial alternatives therefore being an ICT infrastructure that should be called upon more often;”

Concerning SPACE AND SECURITY:

“RECOGNISES the increasing importance of commercial satellite communications for security applications, noting their flexibility, portability and their ability to be rendered secure to a ‘military grade’ as well as their significant cost advantages;”

The members of ESOA together fly over 90 satellites, generate a combined annual turnover in excess of €3 billion euros, and bring broadcast content to well over 100 million households in Europe. They are the main customers of the European Space Industry thus contributing to the competitiveness of the sector and bringing resulting benefits for European institutions. Among ESOA’s members are the world’s leading fixed and mobile satellite operators, an asset to Europe who make a substantial contribution to its economy. Whilst most commercial satellite operators do not benefit from the legacy of terrestrial incumbent operators, they nevertheless have driven innovation in key areas such as digital switchover, high-definition TV, and still to come, mobile wireless communications.

For these reasons and in line with the argumentation contained in the annex, I do hope you will be able to take our comments into account.

Sincerely,



Aarti Holla-Maini
Secretary General