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THE EUROPEAN INTERPARLIAMENTARY SPACE CONFERENCE – THE WAY TO INFLUENCE THE SPACE LAW AND POLICIES IN POLAND

Abstract

The article presents the European Interparliamentary Space Conference as an interesting and effective way to collaborate on space law. It shows the path that needs to be followed to join the European Interparliamentary Space Conference. The presentation of its activities is assessed in light of the space governance concept.

The European Interparliamentary Space Conference affects the creation of law by national parliaments and the legal regulations of European institutions working for space. It also affects law-making by the European Parliament and the European Commission. The article assesses the role of the European Interparliamentary Space Conference as an actor in the European space arena. It evaluates the ability of the EISC to determine a common strategy for Europe's space activity, the shape of its space policy, and the directions of the European space industry integration. The history of Poland in the EISC is presented, and the assessment of Polish activities in the forum is characterized. Conclusions underline that the EISC is a significant actor in the space sector in Europe. Moreover, Polish participation in the activities of the ESIC should be more visible, especially at the national level.

KEYWORDS

space governance, the European Interparliamentary Space Conference, space law

SŁOWA KLUCZOWE

zarządzanie przestrzenią kosmiczną, Europejska Międzyparlamentarna Konferencja Kosmiczna, prawo kosmiczne

1. INTRODUCTION

The Space Era beginning with the launch of the first satellite in October 1957 is continuing until now. It has permeated human activities related to space exploration, space technology, and many cultural aspects of our civilization.

The United States and the former Soviet Union invested tremendous resources to obtain results in space exploration. These space powers involved their state infrastructure to develop space-related activities. Therefore, the role of parliaments in the creation of this policy grew to be important. Soon it proved clear that space activity became a technology driver in many areas of daily life and other nations became space-faring too. These countries formed structures to support creation of space policy and commercial applications of space-based technologies. The space era has introduced not merely competition but also cooperation between the nations involved. National parliaments have become crucial actors in this policy.

As Oltrogge and Christensen state, “the space domain today is characterized by a broadening and increasingly diverse set of activities and actors. Developing effective legal and policy regimes for these activities requires the coordination of multiple different stakeholder groups and the identification of enhanced mechanisms for improving understanding between the private sector and the multi-lateral space governance”.¹ To meet the need for improved communication in the space sector it is worth presenting the European Interparliamentary Space Conference (EISC) which plays “an important role as a hub for international, inter-regional cooperation”.²

¹ D. Oltrogge, I. Christensen, *Space Governance in the New Space Era*, ‘Journal of Space Safety Engineering’ September 2020, Vol. 7(3), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsse.2020.06.003> (accessed 21.02.2023), p. 434.

² *Ibid.*

Even though the EISC was omitted in Balogh's presentation of the institutional aspect of space exploration³, it fits the definition presented by this author as "regional governmental forums and organization or mechanism that involves entities that have close links to governments".⁴ Its achievements through the years of its activities confirm that it is worth increasing its importance. Additionally, its specific structure, described below, raises its attractiveness, as Vent argues that "space has increasingly become a political issue." This shows that we need to build upon the area where we have already created regional political cooperation on space activity.⁵

2. EUROPEAN INTERPARLIAMENTARY SPACE CONFERENCE

The European Interparliamentary Space Conference⁶ (EISC) is an entity to which national parliaments can submit their delegations. This is a proven and most frequently practiced form of permanent interparliamentary cooperation. The EISC was established in 1999 on the initiative of parliamentarians from four countries: France, Germany, Italy and Great Britain (and established its Charter in 1999).⁷ The parliaments of Belgium and Spain joined the initiative the year after. Delegations of the parliaments reformulated the Charter in 2006 (now known as EISC Charter 2006).

Currently, Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Spain, Luxembourg, Germany, Norway, Poland, Romania, Great Britain, and Italy are its permanent members.^{8,9} I can also add that the Polish delegation, during the 2022 Plenary Conference in Paris, submitted an application to initiate the procedure of admitting Ukraine to the Conference with its status of associate member.¹⁰ The application was accepted, and thus the procedure was started.

³ W. Balogh, *Institutional Aspects*, (in:) Ch. Brunner, A. Soucek (eds), *Outer Space in Society, Politics and Law*, Vienna 2011, p. 208.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ C. Vent, *The Political Dimension*, (in:) Ch. Brunner, A. Soucek (eds) *Outer Space in Society, Politics and Law*, Vienna 2011, p. 73.

⁶ <https://eisc-europa.eu> (accessed 21.02.2023).

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ The Sejm of the Republic of Poland, Parliamentary Delegation – Space Group, <https://www.sejm.gov.pl/SQL2.nsf/skladdelinnna?OpenAgent&61&PL> (accessed 21.02.2023).

¹⁰ Proceedings of ESIC 2022, <https://eisc-europa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/EISC-2022-Proceedings-EN.pdf> (accessed 21.02.2023).

The EISC is headed by the state that holds the presidency in a given year. The presidency is rotary. However, which state will head the EISC is decided upon by the permanent members' vote during the Plenary Conference.

In terms of content, organization and technology, the EISC supports the European Space Policy Institute in Vienna. The role of the European Space Agency (ESA) should not be downplayed either.¹¹

The Conference is open to all European countries that meet the specific requirements set out in the Charter 2006 of the European Interparliamentary Space Conference.¹² Admittedly, it is necessary to obtain an approval of the majority of the permanent members of the EISC in a voting at a plenary meeting of the Conference, but, as practice shows, after meeting the formal requirements, including a positive acceptance of the presentation of a given state, and submission of an appropriate request by the chairman of a given parliament, it is a formality.¹³ A state may have the status of a permanent Conference member; an associate member; or an observer.¹⁴

A parliament wishing to participate in the EISC as a member must have a body that deals with space activity. Most often, these are National Parliamentary Space Groups. The group members represent a given parliament in the EISC and participate in all the activities of the Conference. The National Parliamentary Space Groups respond to proposed resolutions and presented opinions and programs related to the activities of the ESIC. Moreover, the ESIC National Groups, within the competence of the parliament, participate in the space activity in which a given country is involved. This is also the case with Poland. The Polish Parliamentary Space Group currently consists of 51 members of parliament and operates at the International Affairs Office of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland.^{15,16} Permanent membership may only be held by a state which is a member of the European Union or the European Space Agency.¹⁷ The presiding state organizes and sets work directions in a given year. It also proposes program topics for debate.

The main form of EISC activity is the Conference organized in the autumn each year. In addition to the members, representatives of the European Commission, the European Space Agency, invited delegations of non-member parliaments (e.g. from China), selected national space agencies (including NASA), organizations of the European space industry (e.g. Eurospace), as well as other institutions

¹¹ <https://www.esa.int> (accessed 21.02.2023).

¹² Documents stored in the Archives of the Office of International Affairs of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland.

¹³ Art. 2 of the Charter of the European Interparliamentary Space Conference.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ The Sejm, *op. cit.*

¹⁶ Statute of the Polish Parliamentary Space Group.

¹⁷ Art. 2 of the Charter of the European Interparliamentary Space Conference.

of the space sector and space industry attend the meetings. It is customary for the Conference to be opened by the head of the presiding parliament, and a representative of the government presents their country's achievements and plans regarding space policy. The EISC Conference concludes with its stance on the issues included in the agenda in a Resolution adopted by voting.

Thematic seminars are also organized. At least one by the currently presiding parliament and by other members. Plenary conference topics are generally preceded by seminar agendas. Bilateral meetings of the National Space Groups of particular parliaments are also organized. They are often accompanied by a presentation of the infrastructure, policy and ways to strengthen mutual cooperation. Their achievements are submitted to the Presidency for inclusion in the program materials of the Plenary Conference planned in a given year. The EISC members also organize or support the organization of seminars for scientific or business communities aimed at, for example, leading to their cooperation.

The purpose of the Conference meetings is, among other things, to determine a common strategy for Europe's space activity and the shape of its space policy. The activity of the EISC has shown that the visions and directions of development regarding space adopted in this group's resolutions have formed the basis for defining the European Space Policy and related agreements adopted by the European Union and the European Space Agency. This also relates to the EISC's contribution to determining the directions of the European space industry integration. The resolutions of the annual meetings (Conferences) are addressed to the parliaments and governments of the member states.

3. POLAND'S ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN INTERPARLIAMENTARY SPACE CONFERENCE AND THE 14TH EISC EUROPEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY SPACE CONFERENCE HELD IN POLAND

In 2002, during the "Space Information Seminar" organized in Warsaw by the European Commission and the European Space Agency, the issue of the participation of representatives of the parliaments of the then-candidate countries to the European Union in the work of the EISC was raised.

Since this seminar, the EISC has opened up and the Speaker of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland has received invitations for the Polish Parliament to participate in the events organized by the EISC. Also, the scientific community carried out undertakings aimed at convincing the Speaker of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland to the activity of the members of parliament in the EISC. As a result, the Speaker of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland appointed two deputies from the

Committee for Education, Science and Youth to participate in the works of the EISC. The deputies, with the support of the Space and Satellite Research Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences¹⁸ and the Space Research Center of the Polish Academy of Sciences¹⁹, began their activity and thus initiated the journey to Poland's permanent membership in the European Interparliamentary Space Conference. They have established the National Parliamentary Space Group and asked the Speaker of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland to apply for EISC membership.²⁰

In the second half of 2006, the Speaker of the Sejm sent a letter to the Chairman of the then Belgian Presidency of the EISC, in which he declared the will of the Polish Parliament to join the works of the EISIC. The Belgian Presidency forwarded the request to the Italian Presidency, which took over the duties. The Italian Presidency, after previous presentations on the scope of Polish space activities delivered by Deputy Bogusław Wontor at seminars in Kourou and Rome and discussions among ESIC members, accepted the Polish application and submitted it with a positive recommendation to the plenary session of the Conference. The 9th ESIC Plenary Conference, which was held in October 2007 in the Chamber of Deputies of Italy, accepted Poland's full membership in the ESIC.

As far as Polish activity in the EISC is concerned, it is worth emphasizing that Poland, at the invitation of the Speaker of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, was awarded the organization and chairmanship of the 14th European Interparliamentary Space Conference in 2012.²¹ As part of the presidency, among other things, we organized a seminar at the Collgium Maius of the Jagiellonian University during which we discussed the impact of space policy on ensuring sustainable development in the European economy. The seminar was attended by parliamentarians from national parliaments and the European Parliament. There were also scientists and experts from the European Space Agency, national space agencies of member states, space sector institutions and representatives of the European space industry and science.²²

The main event of our presidency was the Plenary Conference organized in the Sejm of the Republic of Poland. Its theme was "The space sector and sustainable development". The debates were ceremonially opened by the Speaker of the Sejm Ewa Kopacz and Deputy Speaker Jerzy Wenderlich, who chaired the first part of the debates. The conference was also attended by a delegation of the Polish gov-

¹⁸ <https://kbkis.pan.pl> (accessed 21.02.2023).

¹⁹ <https://cbkpan.pl/en/> (accessed 21.02.2023).

²⁰ Documents stored in the Archives of the Office of International Affairs of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland.

²¹ Documents stored in the Archives of the Office of International Affairs of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland.

²² E. Mamos-Gawryś, *Europejska Międzyparlamentarna Konferencja Kosmiczna*, Radio Parlament – Polskie Radio SA, 14.05.2012, <https://www.polskieradio.pl/51/640/Artykul/603420,Europejska-Miedzyparlamentarna-Konferencja-Kosmiczna> (accessed 21.02.2023).

ernment headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy Waldemar Pawlak. In addition to the delegation of EISC member countries, as well as MPs, the conference was attended by numerous experts and scientists from Poland²³ and abroad and representatives of: ministries, the President of the Republic of Poland, the National Security Bureau²⁴ and state administration offices.²⁵

During the meeting, the following topics, among other things, were discussed: the issue of stimulating the development of life on Earth through the achievements in space and the use of space applications. The participants of the debate discussed the global management of space research, the possibilities of its use and the sustainable development of the space industry.

The speakers included: Japan's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Kazayuki Hamada, who spoke about his country's involvement in space science and its support for space policy. He emphasized that Japan has regulated activities related to space exploration by law. Hamada added that the exchange of information between parliaments is an important element of space policy.

The Chairman of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) Yasushi Horikawa spoke about the cooperation of UN member states in the field of space research. He stressed that space science, Earth observation and climate research are critical fields of international cooperation. The Chairman of COPUOS pointed out that the UN Committee is an important international platform that serves, among other things, as a negotiation forum for space-related decision-making. Horikawa, discussing the stages of the global regulation of space research, added that it is vital that we support the sustainable and safe development of space. "Space is getting more and more crowded (...) we have to be careful," said COPUOS Chairman in his speech during the Conference in the Polish Parliament.²⁶

The speeches of participants focused on showing the importance of the space sector for the economic development of the world, especially in the European context. Members of the European Parliament: prof. Vittorio Prodi (President of the Space Group in the European Parliament), prof. Jerzy Buzek and prof. Bogusław Liberadzki spoke about the use of space in the European Union.²⁷

The then Director General of ESA Jean-Jacques Dordain also delivered a speech devoted to the relations between the European Space Agency and the

²³ Kronika Sejmowa (The Sejm Chronicle) No. 24 (749) of 31 October 2012.

²⁴ National Security Bureau, *The 14 European Interparliamentary Space Conference*, 23.10.2012, <https://www.bbn.gov.pl/pl/wydarzenia/4173,14-Europejska-Miedzyparlamentarna-Konferencja-Kosmiczna.html> (accessed 21.02.2023).

²⁵ Documents stored in the Archives of the Office of International Affairs of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland.

²⁶ Documents stored in the Archives of the Office of International Affairs of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland.

²⁷ Kronika Sejmowa (The Sejm Chronicle) No. 24 (749) of 31 October 2012.

European Union (EU). He recognized the rightness of the close cooperation postulate, which was applauded by the participants of the meeting.

During the 14th EISC European Space Conference, the issue of European projects in a global context was also raised. The representative of the European Commission Rudy Aernoudt presented the idea of Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES). Its goal was to create ways to monitor the state of the environment from satellite, air and ground levels. The data collected in this way will be processed in order to enable more effective management of the environment and to increase the level of EU citizens' security. GMES consists of three components. The first one is outer space, which allows for obtaining data from the satellite level. The second one is the ground component, i.e. devices and instruments for ground measurements. The third one is the data delivery infrastructure, i.e. the service component. – “GMES allows for long-term continuous monitoring, costless access to free information, common scales in all regions, as well as rapid information updating” – stressed Rudy Aernoudt (currently GMES has been renamed to COPERNICUS).

Axelle Pomies, a permanent representative of the Galileo Service, discussed the developing Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) market. The idea behind the GNSS is to create a civil navigation system with a worldwide coverage. Such an investment will contribute to the economic growth of the EU countries. “We cannot lose the opportunity that has opened up to us, it is a very important opportunity for today's Europe” – noted Pomies. The European satellite navigation system Galileo is an element of the designed solution (GNSS).

The Head of the Space Forum in the Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Claire Jolly drew attention to the development of space economy. However, she noted that it is still small compared to other sectors.

ASD-Eurospace Secretary General Jean-Jacques Tortora estimated that the turnover of space industry producers in Europe is EUR 6 billion per year. He also added that the manufactured products are mainly used in science and the military.

Director of the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) Peter Hulsroj raised the issue of the prospects for the sustainable development of the space industry in Poland.²⁸ He emphasized the importance of the space industry for the economy. He pointed out that the sustainable development of the space industry is not self-sufficient and requires investment from public funds and the involvement of public authorities.

Director of the Space Research Center of the Polish Academy of Sciences Marek Banaszekiewicz spoke about the achievements of the Polish space sector.

²⁸ More about ESPI in M. Polkowska, *Prawo kosmiczne w obliczu nowych problemów współczesności*, Warsaw 2011, p. 138.

President of BUMAR Krzysztof Krystowski presented the prospects for the development of Polish companies in the space sector, which he exemplified with the company he manages.

Director General of HERTZ Systems Zygmunt Rafał Trzaskowski discussed the regional development of the space industry. He emphasized that the creation of the space economy sector has provided Polish investors, among others, with opportunities for establishing an interesting and responsible business.

In addition to the scientific and industrial dimension of the use of space, the issue of educational programs for young people and the need to create incentives for young people to gain qualifications that will enable their active involvement in the further development of this sector in the future were important topics of the debate. The search for such mechanisms was inscribed in an idea, which arose on the initiative of the Belgian and Polish delegations, to establish, under the auspices of the EISC, the ESA “Outer space as a space for sustainable development” Award, which was discussed during the conference by prof. Kai-Uwe Schrogl, the then Director of the ESA Strategy Department. He said that “... [t]he originators want to draw young people’s attention to the importance of sustainable development. The submitted projects should combine space and sustainable development, using them together in such areas as telecommunications or navigation.”²⁹ I can add that the program is very popular among young people. Many projects are submitted to ESA every year. During the conference, Secretary of State at the Ministry of National Education Tadeusz Sławecki gave praise to this program. He also said that school curricula should include elements related to the broadly understood space.

The conference was accompanied by an exhibition dedicated to the Polish space sector organized in the Sejm. Our devices were also presented during the exhibition. The following companies presented their achievements: ABM Space, Astri Polska, BUMAR, CBK PAN, Geo Systems, GMV, HERTZ Systems, KNP-LiK, Kosmonauta.net, MAGMA 2, PIAP, Warsaw University of Technology, Radiotechnika, Robotics Inventions, SENER, Small GIS and SKA.³⁰

It may be added that the EISC Plenary Conference coincided with the final phase of the legislative process related to Poland’s accession to the European Space Agency, which was not accidental.

After the presidency of the Polish Parliament, the headship was taken over by the following parliaments:

- In 2013, the presidency was held by the Belgian Parliament.
- In 2014, the presidency was held by the French Parliament.
- In 2015, the presidency was held by the Spanish Parliament.
- In 2016, the presidency was held by the Romanian Parliament.

²⁹ Documents stored in the Archives of the Office of International Affairs of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland.

³⁰ Kronika Sejmowa (The Sejm Chronicle), No. 24 (749) of 31 October 2012.

- In 2017, the presidency was held by the Estonian Parliament.
- In 2018, the presidency was held by the Belgian Parliament.
- In 2019, the presidency was held by the German Parliament.
- Due to the pandemic, the presidency was held by the Norwegian Parliament for two years, i.e. in 2020 and 2021.
- In 2022, the presidency was held by the French Parliament.

In 2023, the presidency will be taken over by the Austrian Parliament.³¹

Each Conference yields the passing of a resolution by parliamentary delegations, which is the result of work during the entire presidency. It is the most important political document that goes to national parliaments in Europe, the European Union bodies and institutions of the space sector. Below are the resolutions adopted by the 14th EISC – Polish presidency and the last 24th EISC – French presidency.³²

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Stelmakh believes that Global Space Governance “is not about taking a leadership but about interacting and involving all space actors”. This is why it is worth underlining that the EISC should be included in this global structure.³³ Considering this concept, it is also essential that membership in this entity be expanded, whereby we can build a stronger understanding and familiar voice of actors involved in space exploration.

At the same time, the EISC voice takes into consideration national interests represented by the parliaments involved. Each country has its own regulations with respect to national law regulating its involvement in space exploration. One of space activities applications is military, which requires that space national systems be oriented towards national security.

The EISC as a parliamentary platform provides the possibility for partners to create the necessary political understanding at the early stage of discussion.

³¹ The EISC homepage, eisc-europa.eu (accessed 21.02.2023).

³² Appendix 1.

³³ O. Stelmakh, *Global Space Governance for Suitable Development*, UNISPACE +50 – High Level Forum, 22 November 2016, https://www.unoosa.org/documents/pdf/hlf/1st_hlf_Dubai/Presentations/75.pdf (accessed 21.02.2023).

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Vent C., *The Political Dimension*, (in:) Ch. Brunner, A. Soucek (eds), *Outer Space in Society, Politics and Law*, Vienna 2011

Appendix 1:

<p>Resolution 14th EISC European Interparliamentary Space Conference Parliament of the Republic of Poland Warsaw, 22–23 October 2012</p>	<p>Resolution 24th European Interparliamentary Space Conference Paris, France, 15-16 September 2022</p>
<p>RECOGNIZING space activity as not only advancing the knowledge and applications domain but also the unique means to understand, measure and monitor most of the environment and climate related phenomena in a regular way over the world on large regions, hence providing invaluable awareness, insight and indicators to inform the political decision makers.</p> <p>BEING AWARE of the negotiations of the European Commission’s proposal on the Next Multiannual Financial Framework of the EU (MFF, 2014 - 2020), including space matters,</p> <p>TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the ESA Council Meeting at Ministerial Level to be held on November, 20/21, 2012,</p> <p>The 14th European Inter-parliamentary Space Conference strongly encourages:</p> <p>a successful and appropriately funded European space policy</p>	<p>RECALLING the crucial role of space for economic growth, innovation and employment, for Europe’s security and defence, and for dealing with global challenges, in particular climate change and its consequences;</p> <p>NOTICING the deterioration of the geopolitical context resulting in particular from the unacceptable Russian aggression in Ukraine, and its consequences for the European space sector and for international cooperation in space;</p> <p>RECOGNIZING the strategic need, in this context, for Europe to have autonomous and sustainable access to space;</p> <p>EMPHASIZING the importance to keep in mind the economics of the European autonomous and sustainable access to space;</p> <p>RECALLING that Europe should develop its independent human and robotic space exploration capabilities while continuing to coop-</p>

- CONSIDERS therefore the development of a European space policy and its implementation as a joint responsibility of the EU, ESA and Member States, which has to take into account the contribution of this policy towards sustainable development by the integration of space and ground-based segments in R&D, industrial areas and space-enabled applications;
- URGES the definition of clear roles, with no duplication of responsibilities; for the implementing bodies – the EU, ESA and other related agencies (including GSA, EEA, EUMETSAT, FRONTEX, EUSC, EMSA, EDA);
- INVITES the ESA Council Meeting at Ministerial Level 2012 to encourage those EU Member States which are not Members of ESA to engage in ESA activities of common interest;

A sustainable European Space Policy

- WELCOMES ESA's approach to the comprehensive application of principles of sustainability, encompassing technology development, governance and operations as well as social factors;
- INVITES the EU, ESA and the Member States to safeguard the future of space activities by protecting the environment, both on Earth and in Space and ENCOURAGES all parts involved to continue working towards a fully operational European SSA program, building on the work performed so far.
- WELCOMES the announcement by ESA to launch a 'Space for Sustainability Award', under the auspices of the EISC, for students and young professionals in order to promote the link between space and sustainable development in response to European and international challenges.

The sustainable deployment and exploitation of the European flagship programmes

- WELCOMES the discussions between the EU Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission in the context of the negotiations related to the adoption of the Regulation on GNSS programmes, which make possible a further role of ESA,

erate internationally in this field of strategic, economic and societal importance;

ENCOURAGING therefore all efforts to increase participation in the EISC, including through the extension of participation to European States which are not yet members in accordance with Art. 2 of the Charter of the European Interparliamentary Space Conference;

EMPHASIZING the challenges of sustainability in space, particularly in view of the proliferation of space debris in low earth orbit;

BEING CONCERNED that space pollution, which includes phenomena such as but not limited to space debris, light pollution, and congestion of the frequency spectrum, may restrict the access of European States to space and jeopardize the safety of the space infrastructure and the security of space actors;

CONSIDERING that regulating activities through appropriate national or multilaterally agreed regulations in outer space is essential to ensure the economic growth and sustainability of the orbital environment and the continuation of space exploration activities;

CALLING therefore on all European States to continue their efforts in adopting such national or multilaterally agreed regulations and space laws in line with the objectives of sustainable development and in accordance with international space law.

The XXIV European Interparliamentary Space Conference (EISC):

On the objective of European strategic autonomy to guarantee a more sustainable access to space

- AFFIRMS that European strategic autonomy in space is more than ever a priority that must be pursued by all European States;
- CONSIDERS European strategic autonomy in space requires a competitive and

in addition to its original role vis-à-vis its Member States;

- ENCOURAGES ESA, the EU and Member States to continue dialogue to define stable and sound governance and industrial policy for future common space projects; which should clearly define responsibilities, avoid duplications and preserve a balanced and competitive space sector throughout Europe
- ENDORSES the Resolution of the European Parliament on the financing of GMES by allocating within the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) the means to secure GMES deployment and operations in the timeframe 2014 -2020;
- WELCOMES the 2011 Space Council Resolution on “Benefits of space for the security of European citizens” in which it “RECOMMENDS that the European Commission in close collaboration with the European External Action Service (EEAS), Member States and relevant EU agencies, such as FRONTEX, EUSC and EMSA, finalize the definition of, and accelerate the transition towards, fully operational GMES security services in support of EU external actions and border and maritime surveillance, based on user demand;”
- CALLS UPON the European Commission, in close consultation with all relevant stakeholders, to study and apply in the context of the GMES security services a sound governance structure taking into account their specificities;

A competitive European space industry

- CONSIDERS that the independence of Europe in space depends on the availability of a sustainable supply chain that can deliver the critical technologies required for the implementation of its programs;
- CALLS UPON the need to develop and expand commercial markets in Europe through and for space technologies.
- RECOGNISES the importance of a competitive space industry, taking into account the crucial role of exports to the health of the European space sector, and therefore welcomes the ambitious proposals of ESA at

innovative industry in Europe in a context of an increasing international competition;

- RECALLS the importance of competitive approaches in the European launcher sector;
- AFFIRMS that the continuation and the development of Ariane 6 is a main priority for at least the next ten years;
- CONSIDERS in this regard that it is essential to master the technologies of the future and their supply, production and marketing chains in order to guarantee autonomous and sustainable European access to space;
- DEFENDS the preference for the European space infrastructure, through priority use of European launchers from European launch bases, and that exemptions to this principle may apply in case adapted European infrastructures are unavailable.

On the development of “New Space” to guarantee a more sustainable access to space

- RECOGNIZES the complementary role that can be achieved, at all levels, by the traditional economic and industrial actors of the space sector and those of “New Space”;
- SUPPORTS the development of micro-launchers and small launchers as a complement to heavy launchers in order to allow a European preference for the whole range of launchers;
- ENCOURAGES in particular the research, development and financing of promising technologies, such as but not limited to reusable technologies, in order to allow European States to have a more sustainable access to space and to ensure the pace and sustainability of their own launches;
- CALLS UPON the European States to Use public procurement as a leverage as well as to establish ecosystems of specialized investment funds to support the growth of European “New Space” actors at all stages of their development;
- EMPHASISES that “New Space” activities, in particular deployment of large constellations of satellites, need to be conducted in a sustainable way and thus

<p>the Ministerial Council and urges the EU to encourage the development of space based telecommunications throughout Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CALLS FOR agreement to ensure a sustainable, independent European launcher capability <p>A responsible use of outer space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WELCOMES the ESA Clean Space Initiative, which ensures the proactive environmental awareness of European space programmes and promotes innovation for the sustainable exploitation of space for future generations; <p>The use of space assets to promote global sustainable development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENCOURAGES the EU, ESA and Member States to take a joint approach to implementing space applications and services as an instrument in the European sustainable development regulations in eco-strategy; • SUPPORTS CALLS FOR European space programmes to make a greater contribution towards the sustainable management of natural resources and the protection and preservation of the environment in developing countries. <p>The further development of EISC EISC welcomes and accepts the request for Full Membership by the Parliament of Estonia.</p> <p>Appointment of the next presidencies</p> <p>The Presidency of 15th EISC, from 1 January to 31 December 2013, will be held by the Parliamentary Space Group of the Parliament of Belgium.</p> <p>The Presidency of 16th EISC, from 1 January to 31 December 2014, will be held by the Parliamentary Space Group of the Parliament of France.</p> <p>Therefore, the Trio of the EISC for 2013 comprises: Poland, Belgium and France.</p>	<p>ENCOURAGES the European States to develop technologies for safe spacecraft operation, maintenance and disposal at end of life.</p> <p>On the fight against space pollution to develop more sustainable uses of space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RECALLS that the development of space applications contributes to better observation of the Earth, monitoring of climate change and its consequences, and thus plays a key role in supporting public policies implemented to preserve our environment; • INSISTS on the need to guarantee the peaceful and more environmentally friendly uses of outer space in order to limit space pollution, in particular the proliferation of space debris of all sizes in lower orbit; • CONSIDERS it necessary to strengthen synergies between governmental and commercial space situational awareness (SSA) data collection and analysis capabilities in order to improve capabilities for the identification of space debris of all sizes and the prevention of collision risks; • CALLS on the European space community to strengthen the obligations of space sector actors to avoid and reduce space debris in terms of equipment sustainability, mitigating space debris, and the safe disposal and deorbiting of space systems and objects which are no longer used and, for the Member States of the European Union, to support and contribute to the development of common standards and rules for space spacecraft operations and space traffic management, while preserving the competitiveness of the European space industry on the global market. • HOPING that the next ministerial conference of the European Space Agency will allow rapid progress on these strategic subjects.
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