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NOTE

from : Council Secretariat

to : Coreper/Council

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Subject : Competitiveness Council: Space policy - Preparation of the 3rd Space Council

Delegations will find annexed:

- (a) draft orientations on Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES), following the meeting of the High Level Space Policy Group on 14 November. It is intended that these orientations should be adopted by the Council on 28th November 2005.
- (b) a Presidency discussion paper on "First Reflections on International Relations". This will serve as a background document for the exchange of views under point three of the "Space Council" agenda.
- (c) a questionnaire to structure the exchange of views mentioned in (b) above.

Draft orientations

Global Monitoring for Environment and Security

The objective of GMES is to provide, on a sustained basis, reliable and timely information related to environmental and security issues in support of public policy makers' needs.

The third joint and concomitant meeting of the Council of the European Union and of the Council of the European Space Agency at ministerial level ("Space Council") notes the Communication of the Commission, drafted after consultation within the Joint Secretariat and with other stakeholders.

1. On overall strategy, the "Space Council":
 - a. Reaffirms the strategic dimension of GMES, which should be user-driven and service-oriented, meeting initially public sector needs through services delivered in the most efficient way, where possible by the private sector;
 - b. Recalls the importance of maintaining a European autonomous Earth Observation capacity supporting political decision making;
 - c. Recalls the importance of the international dimension of GMES – its status as the main European contribution to GEOSS and the need to develop partnerships;
 - d. Recognises the positive results of the cooperation between the EU, ESA and their Member States in the initial phase of GMES, and recommends that this cooperation continues to play a key and visible role in the overall management of GMES;
 - e. Supports a phased approach for the implementation of GMES based on clearly identified priorities, starting with the development of three fast-track services on Emergency Response, Land Monitoring, and Marine Services due to begin their pilot phase as operational services by 2008, with other services to be developed and validated in due time ;

- f. Agrees that, correspondingly, a management structure for GMES has to be progressively developed and welcomes the Commission's intention to set-up an internal GMES organisational structure as the next step in this process;
- g. Welcomes the ESA proposal for the development of the space component of GMES and the corresponding Programme Declaration adopted by participating States on September 28 last which includes the development of the first mission of the GMES space component.

2. The Roles and Responsibilities of the EU and ESA, have been identified in the orientations of the second meeting of 'Space Council' and remain valid. Consistent with these, the "Space Council".

- a. Notes the Commission's current intention, in view of GMES being an EU-led initiative, to allocate a substantial majority of FP 7 funding which is earmarked for space to fund GMES and, from this allocation, to fund both GMES services and a significant proportion of the budget for the GMES Space Component until 2013, once the FP 7 funding has been approved;
- b. Requests the Council and the European Parliament to explore possible further funding sources in the Community-budget enabling the Community to finance operational costs of GMES services;
- c. Notes that a confirmation point will occur for the ESA programme in the 2008 timeframe, taking into account the decision on EC funding for GMES and the further consolidation of user requirements for the next phase of GMES;
- d. Further underlines that it is essential that this ESA Programme continues to be developed in a way that is demonstrably coherent with the emerging user requirements being aggregated by EC. The continuity of data necessary to the establishment of GMES services on an operational basis needs to be provided making the best use of existing and planned European satellite and in-situ systems;

3 On Implementation, the "Space Council"

- a. Confirms the need to develop a comprehensive programme plan, addressing an overall GMES architecture, including the interrelationship between the components, and consolidating user requirements, costs & benefits and the financial resources necessary for the implementation of a phased operational GMES system. It also confirms the need of outlining, in close liaison between EC, ESA and their Member States, the policy to be followed for accessing the information produced by GMES services. This should be prepared as soon as possible in order to be available after the EU Member States have reached agreement on the Financial Perspectives;
- b. Requests that best use of existing and planned satellite and in-situ systems on European and national level is being made in order to efficiently ensure the continuity of data necessary to the establishment of operational GMES services and to avoid duplication;
- c. Welcomes the establishment and the mandate of a group of experts, involving Member States, EC, ESA and other organisations, to evaluate the most appropriate structure for the longer-term governance and implementation of GMES;
- d. Invites those Member States, which already possess or are in the process of building up assets and capacities which could be valuable for GMES, including those existing in other European agencies and organisations such as EUMETSAT, to make their capacities available to the GMES services under appropriate conditions.

First reflections on International Relations

Presidency discussion paper

I. Background/First Conclusions

- International cooperation is becoming increasingly important since many major problems have become global and can only be solved on a global level, space technologies provide an important tool in tackling such problems (e.g. sustainable development ↔GEOSS).
- International partners, also due to their increasing space budgets, might in the future approach Europe more often with proposals for substantial cooperations in space.
- In view of its limited resources, Europe will have to set priorities both for its programmatic activities and with regard to international cooperation.
- In the present situation, the present ad-hoc approach to international co-operation in EU – “International Partner” Summits appears to be most inappropriate.
- Rather, Europe needs first to develop an international cooperation strategy (as part of the European Space Strategy) to which all European players commit themselves as partner of an inclusive process.
- Furthermore, an agreement has to be reached as to the responsibilities of the European players and a mechanism installed, which ensures a coherent implementation of the joint cooperation strategy.

II. Principles to be respected in the development of an international cooperation strategy

- International cooperation is not a goal in itself. It has to serve concrete European objectives, which Europe might not achieve on its own.
- Europe has to establish an overall strategy for international relations that takes into account international activities of ESA, the member states and the EU.
- This strategy will optimize international cooperation and the sharing of resources in the best way, while at the same time enhance competitiveness of the European space industry.
- Due to its limited resources, Europe will not be able to cooperate in a substantial way with all interested parties. It therefore has to set priorities.
- In general, international partners may be classified corresponding the following subgroups:
 - Established space powers
 - Emerging space powers
 - Other powers
 - International organisations
- Not all international partners can be given equal priority. With a view to European benefits, competence in the space field is one clear criterion for the ranking and prioritisation of possible partnerships. Possible markets is another.
- International cooperation may help to increase Europe's role in the world.
- International cooperation data provided by Member States through their information on their national programmes have to be duly taken into account.

III. Principles to be respected in the representation of Europe versus Third Parties

- In general, the representation of Europe in proposed co-operation with Third Parties should be led by those with relevant financial responsibility.
- Action by any European player should respect the joint cooperation strategy (to be developed).
- The Second Space Council has in essence decided on the programmatic priorities of the EU and ESA. Accordingly, the flagship programmes of the EU will be GALILEO and GMES. It appears therefore appropriate, that the Commission shall take the lead as to the overall representation of Europe regarding GALILEO and GMES, after consultation of Member States and duly taking into account the interests of ESA.
- Following the same line of argument, ESA shall take the lead as to the overall representation of Europe in the areas of science, launchers, technology and human space flight, after consultation of Member States and duly taking into account the interests of the EU.
- Information regarding national activities should be shared, where possible, to avoid unnecessary duplication. National authorities will represent their own programmes.
- The Commission shall also take the lead with a view to any market regulating measures to be introduced internationally.

IV. Organisational principles to be respected in development of cooperation strategy and establishment of coordination mechanism

- Strategy development and endorsement (by Space Council) follow the general rules established by the framework agreement between the Community and ESA.

The HSPG may also be used for operational coordination. Major initiatives (e.g. space as topic on an EU-“International Partner” Summit) of the Commission and of ESA should be presented to the HSPG. Member States (national authorities) will inform HLSP on their on-going major international initiatives.

- The process of developing strategies for international cooperation should include appropriate consultation with industry.

V. Overall conclusions

- International cooperation is more important than ever before. It not only offers Europe benefits in economic, commercial technological and scientific terms but allows it to contribute to the welfare of the global community
- Hence, Europe has to develop as soon as possible a joint strategy and to establish a corresponding coordination mechanism. If Europe is to deliver a coherent approach to international cooperation it must first establish the purpose, the roles and responsibilities, and the resourcing.
- Following discussion at the Space Council in November, a strategy and coordination mechanism proposal should be elaborated, which can be endorsed by the Space Council in the course of the next year.

Themes for Discussion at the Space Council

28th November 2005

International Co-operation

International co-operation with our non-European partners (countries and agencies) is becoming increasingly important to Europe - both for reasons specific to our space activities but also in promoting wider objectives. To date such international co-operative initiatives involving Europe and non-European partners has been carried out on a case by case basis with the roles of EU and ESA in such activities being defined on an ad hoc basis. In ensuring a cohesive approach it seems necessary to elaborate a joint cooperation strategy as well as a coordination mechanism for managing future European international co-operation activities.

This framework should address the **purpose(s), rationale** and priorities for Europe's international co-operation activities, the EU/ESA **roles and responsibilities** and the **financing principles** for these activities, as well as establish a mechanism for coordination among the various actors. In order to give guidance for developing such a framework, Ministerial views are sought at the Space Council Discussion, on the following questions:

- *In relation to managing Europe's future space-related international co-operation, what are your views on*
 - *The need to develop an overall cooperation strategy, detailing purpose / rationale and priorities?*
 - *the roles and responsibilities of EU, ESA (in their respective remits) and Member States in maintaining a cohesive approach? And*
 - *the financing principles that should apply in funding?*