



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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LIMITE

PE-QE 334

PUBLIC

**PRELIMINARY DRAFT REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION
E-1985/09 put by Anne Laperrouze (ALDE)**

from : General Secretariat of the Council
to : Permanent Representations of the Member States
Subject : **"EGNOS and Galileo programmes"**

1. Delegations will find attached:
 - the text of the above Written Question;
 - a preliminary draft reply prepared by the General Secretariat.

2. If no comments have been received from delegations **by 17.00 on 30 April 2009**, this preliminary draft reply will be submitted to the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) and to the Council for approval.

Any comments received will be examined by the Working Party on General Affairs.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1985/09

by Anne Laperrouze (ALDE)
to the Council

Subject: EGNOS and Galileo programmes

In connection with the financial rules governing the in-orbit validation (IOV) contract, industry has again had to face institutional deadlock that has been resolved by what amounts – regrettably – to another makeshift quick fix.

The European institutions and the arrangements applying between the European Commission and the European Space Agency are exposing industry to wholly exceptional risks and constraints (at both national and international level).

Galileo is about to enter a critical industrial phase in which a final decision will be taken on the selection of suppliers and their contracts will be finalised.

There is a particularly great deal at stake in terms of industrial risks and jobs and, of course, as regards the success of the programme.

What is needed, therefore, both for industry and for the Galileo and EGNOS programmes, is overall coherence, that is to say, visibility and long-term commitments.

The institutional response has to move into line with industrial reality and not the other way round (implying a need for better decision-making and for long-term commitments to be formalised). What solutions should be brought to bear on the constraints affecting these programmes and the industries that will implement them?

The above points apply equally to EGNOS, the forerunner of Galileo in a number of respects, which has been fully operational for more than a year, but for which no contract has yet been formally concluded with those who will be called upon to carry out long-term operations, keep the programme running, and develop it over the next five years, starting on 1 April 2009. What is involved here is certification of the system and the marketing of its signals, as well as the success of Galileo.

REPLY

to Written Question E-1985/09

put by Anne Laperrouze (ALDE)

The importance of the Galileo and EGNOS programmes for the EU has been stressed by the European Council and the Council several times. Recently, at its meeting of October 2008, the Council expressed its expectation that space applications such as EGNOS and Galileo would create substantial global market opportunities, specifically for SMEs¹.

The Galileo and EGNOS programmes are among the priority projects included in the Lisbon Strategy and contribute to the fulfilment of a broader macroeconomic agenda with the aim of creating sound economic perspectives for both industry and workers, in order to maximise socio-economic benefits. They also represent one of the major pillars of the European Space Programme. These programmes aim at the establishment of a first global satellite and radio navigation and positioning infrastructure specifically designed for civilian purposes and at improving the quality of signals from existing global satellite navigation systems.

To achieve these objectives, in July 2008, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Regulation (EC) n° 683/2008 on the further implementation of the European satellite navigation programmes (EGNOS and Galileo)².

The Regulation provides for the financing of this project from Community funds and constitutes the legal basis for the budgetary implementation of the programmes, by stipulating the amount allocated to finance the next phase of the programmes. The Regulation furthermore provides for a strict division of responsibilities between the different parties involved in the implementation and the supervision of the programmes, notably a strict division of responsibilities between the European Community, the European GNSS Supervisory Authority and the European Space Agency (ESA).

¹ 12959/08, p. 29

² OJ L 196, 24.7.2008, p. 1

The Commission will be the owner of all tangible and intangible assets created or developed under the programmes and will be responsible for the management of the programmes. The GNSS Supervisory Authority, while respecting the Commission's role as manager of the programmes, will accomplish certain tasks such as security accreditation of the systems and the operation of the Galileo Security Centre and other delegated tasks, as well as contribute to preparations for the commercialisation of the system. Through a delegation agreement with the European Community, ESA will be responsible for procuring the infrastructure in accordance with the principles for procurement set out in the Regulation as well as with the Community's procurement rules.

The Council will monitor the implementation of Regulation n° 638/2008 and is currently awaiting the report on its implementation which will be presented by the Commission at the end of April, in accordance with Article 22 of the Regulation, together with the preliminary draft budget.
