

**Round Table on Regional Policy: space applications and EU 2020 Strategy on
Tuesday, 8 June 2010, 9.40 – 10.40 h at Pierre Baudis Convention Centre/Toulouse**

Topic:

- 1.) Space and Regions:
 - a. What role does space play for regions from a point of view of a politician?
 - b. What role do regions play for space?

- 2.) Following the Commission's communication "Europe 2020: a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth" and the discussions held in the Council, on the 25-26 March 2010, NEREUS will focus on the key issue: "how can space applications contribute to EU 2020 Strategy objectives?"

Participants:

NEREUS-President Alain Bénéteau, chair of round table
Geraldine Naja-Corbin, European Space Agency, Head of the Institutional Matters & Strategies Studies Office
Gerhard Stahl, Secretary General Committee of the Regions (Video Message)
José António Vieira da Silva Contente, Regional Secretary for Science, Technology and Equipments, Azores
Félix Bellido Pla, Deputy Managing Director of the Madrid Aerospace Cluster, Madrid Region

Background:

With the Lisbon treaty space becomes a horizontal European policy and has to be taken into consideration when responding to the EU's overall political objectives. At the same time space technologies are on the political agenda of many regions and gained **significant impact at regional level**. At the latest since the two flagship projects of the Union GMES and Galileo space is not anymore exclusively limited to the national and European level (space agencies, ministries, governments) but concerns regions and their citizens directly. For economic growth, industrial competitiveness, scientific research and innovation as well as sustainable development in European regions space technologies are an indispensable driver.

NEREUS was created to implement the regional dimension effectively in the national and European space context and to provide European regions with a platform to identify and voice their needs.

Especially with regard to policy areas such as climate change, modern agriculture, environment and transport just to name few examples, space applications play now an important role. European regions need modern technologies and services to comply with latest EU-legislature and respond efficiently to tasks such as those derived from the INSPIRE Directive etc.

Space is in many regions an important business sector and in other regions a growing business opportunity that needs to be developed further. It provides solutions to a vast array of different areas in regions ranging from waste management to catastrophe management. Also with respect to innovation policies and their instruments space is more and more in the center of attention. In the context of the efforts to enhance economic growth and strengthen Europe's competitiveness as well as to create employment opportunities the space element is increasingly valued.

Against this backdrop regional decision maker are asked to impulse efforts to boost the use and uptake of space technologies and to enhance the development of a market place for space applications. In this context the dimension of ERDF might be germane to named objectives. Therefore it might be of useful to reflect on the one hand on how the objective “Cooperation” of the ERDF could contribute to the development of space applications in several Regions and on the other hand how the objective “Competitiveness and Employment” of the ERDF could contribute to facilitate space applications uses in the Regions.

According to EU 2020 priorities such as knowledge and innovation, a more sustainable economy, high employment and social inclusion, it might be interesting to discuss with politicians of our member regions about:

- the potential of space in their region;
- what role space plays in their policies;
- how regions can use space technologies in order to shift the Lisbon Agenda away from the purely "growth and jobs" focus of the past three years, putting policy as environment (climate change) and citizens (ageing populations, social exclusion) in the foreground instead.
- How to establish a better relationship between the EU 2020 Strategy, the European space programs such as Galileo, GMES and the Cohesion Policy.

Objective:

Demonstrate that the involvement of local and regional authorities using space technologies in the new EU 2020 strategy definition and governance process could allow a better implementation of European policies linked to EU 2020 goals.

Procedure:

- 1.) NEREUS-President Alain Bénétteau chairs round table and introduces into the debate;
- 2.) Each politician gives a short statement including the characteristics of his/her region, the role of space in its regions as well as his views on the chosen topic (max. 10 minutes each);
- 3.) Representative of European Institution gives short statement where he sees the role of regions in the context of the latest developments in European Space Policy and the today's challenges;
- 4.) Regional politicians close with joint political message;