

# 10 YEARS OF POLITICAL DIALOGUE

A decade of advocacy with the European institutions

The Political Dialogue on behalf of the regional level is a fundamental mission and feature of NEREUS. Through regular meetings between regional authorities and representatives of the EU institutions, national governments and Space Agencies, NEREUS brings the regional dimension into European Space policies and programmes.

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Sole EU institution responsible for proposing legislation, the EC is the political responsible of two EU space flagship programs and is, with its agencies, one of the main interlocutor of NEREUS in matters of space uses.

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

As directly elected body, the EP adopts and amends proposals from the EC and votes for budget. Because its MEPs have their constituency in NEREUS regions, the network holds a privileged relationship with this institution. NEREUS is active the the Sky&Space intergroup.

## COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

As assembly of local and regional representatives, the CoR provides sub-national authorities with a direct voice within the EU's institutional framework. From all, this is the closest EU institution with whom NEREUS voices regional concerns in matters of space uses.

## EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

As technical responsible of the EU space programs, ESA has shared efforts with NEREUS in bringing space closer to regional stakeholders through specific initiatives targeting local and regional authorities across Europe

## NATIONAL SPACE AGENCIES

Strengthening the dialogue with national space agencies in EU Member States is a corenerstone of NEREUS' political dialogue. Over the years, the French and Italian ones became Associate Members and regular coordination meetings are organized with the Gemran one.

## EUROPEAN REGIONS

As voice of Regions in matters of space uses, NEREUS operates at both EU and local level. Through its regional initiatives, NEREUS strives to increase the involvement of regional politicians and stakeholders broadening the discussion on space-based solutions for local needs.

## ADVOCACY CHANNELS

Over the past decade, NEREUS has built institutional relationships, acquired recognition and credibility when voicing regional concerns in matters of space through a broad range of advocacy channels: conferences and workshops, position papers, public hearings and stakeholder consultations, presentations at both technical and political level.

Looking at the next decade, what are the hot topics? The societal and political trends? The new approaches to advocacy?

**2007**

SIGNATURE OF POLITICAL CHARTER

**2008**

FOUNDATION OF THE ASSOCIATION  
as International Non-Profit Association

**2009**

EP EVENT, 17 November

The proposal by the EC to establish a EU programme for Earth Observation (GMES) offered the perfect background to launch the dialogue with the newly elected European Parliament. NEREUS' first EP event was hosted by MEP's Françoise Castex (Midi-Pyrenees) and Michael Gahler (Hesse), attracting some 100 participants, including 18 MEPs.

**2011**

POSITION PAPER

The first Position Paper called for the funding of Copernicus as EU Program within the EU budget. The PP was broadly distributed through the mobilization of all NEREUS Member Regions.

**2012**

The first joint NEREUS/ESA publication on "The Growing Uses of GMES/Copernicus among European Regions" was launched at the EP and became a reference book for administrators, technicians and non-experts by bringing the value of EO applications for territorial management purposes through 67 concrete examples.

**2013**

POSITION PAPER

The 2d and 3d Position Paper brought forward NEREUS' recommendations on the provisions of GMES for the MFF 2014-2020 as well as the key priorities for GMES from a regional perspective.

**2014**

SPACE SOLUTIONS FOR SOCIETY

NEREUS set up a task force reflecting on how space uses could respond to societal challenges and developing a dialogue with the existing EIP. This resulted in a high-level conference in Rome, which broadened the discussion on how space can contribute to non-space policies to local administrators.

SPACE4YOU

Regional initiatives are crucial to bring EU Space Policy closer to citizens. Apulia Region hosted an international conference with over 300 participants and 800.000 followers on social media in order to bring forward pragmatic messages to non-experts.

**2015**

SPACE 4 Growth and Jobs

With the 2 EU flagships programs entering the stage of operability, NEREUS organized a high-level event in order to discuss the economic impact of the uptake of space-based solutions at regional level and looked into how regional innovation programs could foster space uses for societal challenges.

**2016**

POSITION PAPER

Prior to the publication of the European space strategy by the EC, NEREUS published a Position Paper recommending to add a regional dimension to it.