



**DRAFT**

**NEREUS-session within the Conference  
« EU-Science: Global Challenges, Global Collaboration (ES: GC2) » under Irish Presidency  
Wednesday, 06 March 2013, 14.30-17.30h  
Venue: Representation of Lazio Region (Conference room/8<sup>th</sup> floor),  
Rond Point Schuman 14, B-1040 Bruxelles**

Title of session: ***“Role of EU-flagships (EGNOS/Galileo and Copernicus(formerly GMES))  
to respond to societal challenges of Horizon2020-program”***

**Objectives:**

The session wishes to highlight with practical examples by FP-7 funded projects and other initiatives the significance of Europe’s space systems for EU-science, research and innovation dynamics. Representatives of the European Network NEREUS<sup>1</sup> and representatives of relevant European institutions are going to debate how European space systems can contribute as a vital tool to advance in the different societal challenges of Horizon2020 and thus serve European society. The emphasis of the NEREUS-network is on the use of space technologies and provides its members with a dynamic platform to mobilize projects, share experience and knowledge and raise awareness for the regional dimension of space applications. Several EU-projects have been mobilized on the NEREUS-platform and speak for themselves.

In numerous ways satellite data and services bring an added value to all six societal challenges<sup>2</sup> and pave the way to more knowledge and a wider insight. To quote just a few examples, Galileo is fundamental to develop innovative transport solutions, Earth Observation/Copernicus-data brings an immense treasure of information to research activities in areas such as climate change, health, agriculture, marine and maritime, raw materials, energy. A recent study on the economic benefits of Copernicus showed that 1 Euro invested in the system brings up to 10 Euros back to the European society in terms of economic benefits, in addition to strategic advantages which cannot be accounted for. The science community is a key beneficiary of space-based information. The session wishes to call for a close linkage between the different columns of the Horizon2020, in particular of bringing the dimension of space into the topics of the societal challenges. In particular with both space systems growing increasingly mature, establishing synergies to societal challenges are crucial to ensure an optimal exploitation and capitalization of these systems for Europe’s research endeavors.

**Format:** Moderated Panel Discussion

**Venue:** Representation of Lazio Region (Conference room/8th floor),  
Rond Point Schuman 14, B-1040 Bruxelles

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<sup>1</sup> NEREUS – Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies

<sup>2</sup> Health, demographic change and wellbeing; Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research & the bio-economy, Secure, clean and efficient energy\*, Smart, green and integrated transport, Climate action, resource efficiency and raw Materials, Inclusive, innovative and secure societies



Chair: MEP Antonio Cancian (Christian Democrats) (EPP),

The session is chaired by MEP Antonio Cancian, an Italian politician and Member of the European Parliament (MEP) in the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) in the EP. Elected in 2009, MEP Cancian is member of the Committee for Transport and Tourism (TRAN) where he has been Parliament's Rapporteur (2nd reading) and Parliament's representative to the Conciliation Committee for the "Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004". He drafted the TRAN Opinion on European Project Bonds Initiative 2020. As substitute Member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy he has been Opinion's Draftsman on the Communication from the Commission "A sustainable future for transport: Towards an integrated, technology-led and user friendly system".

Participants of the session:

**Mauro Facchini** (EC, DG Enterprise and Industry, Head of Unit Space Research - G2) -**confirmed**: Mauro will explain the ideas of the EC to establish synergies between the space program and the other columns of the Horizon2020.

**Josef Aschbacher** (Head of ESA GMES Space Office)-**confirmed**: Josef will share his views how Copernicus can impulse and contribute to research activities across the topics of the societal challenges of Horizon2020. While referring to the joint NEREUS/ESA-initiative "*The growing use of GMES across Europe's Regions*" he will explain the potential of the system on different sectors that are addressed by the third column. He will also demonstrate how accurate global observations from GMES satellites (Sentinels) contribute to environmental and climate change monitoring.

**Prof. Alan Wells** (NEREUS-vice-president, University of Leicester) - **confirmed**: Alan is Science Coordinator of THE ISSUE<sup>3</sup> consortium (full title: *Traffic- Health-Environment Intelligent Solutions Sustaining Urban Economies*), a project funded in the FP7-Regions of Knowledge program, bringing together research clusters from 5 NEREUS member regions (East Midlands, Molise, Midi-Pyrénées, Aquitaine and Mazovia). Common themes of expertise within the consortium apply to the fields of Traffic, Health and Environment (THE); the objective of the project is to apply this research base to achieve Intelligent Solutions for Sustaining Urban Economies-(ISSUE). Alan will explain how data from Earth Observation and Satellite Navigation, integrated with advanced information technology systems, are brought together in a range of transport applications that are beneficial to urban economies. From studies done to date, THE ISSUE is identifying new opportunities for exploitation of space based data in applications addressing societal and economic challenges and contributing to smart, green, integrated transport and

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<sup>3</sup> More info on THE ISSUE: CORDIS:[http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=proj.document&PJ\\_RCN=12437080](http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=proj.document&PJ_RCN=12437080)  
Project Website: <http://www2.le.ac.uk/projects/g-step/the-issue>



climate actions, which are, of course, headline themes identified in the European Commission's Horizon 2020 vision.

**Paola Carrara** (Coordinator of the DORIS\_NET, CNR) - **confirmed**: Paola coordinates the NEREUS-flagship project DORIS\_NET, an FP-7 funded CA (full title: *Downstream Observatory organised by Regions active In Space – Network*). The objective of this project is to pave the way for anchoring Copernicus downstream sector in regional and local economies and a stronger involvement of regional actors. Establishing a network of "Regional Contact Offices" (RCOs) that links European regional and local authorities, service providers and other Copernicus stakeholders across Europe, the project aims at facilitating the development of Copernicus downstream services at regional level. The idea is to engage more regional actors in a structural dialogue and intra/inter-regional co-operations in order to maximize the benefits from innovative Copernicus-services which can be exploited for manifold purposes. Bearing in mind the structures and dynamics that have been established within the DORIS\_Net Project Paola will define the role of the Copernicus-downstream sector to contribute to research activities within the societal challenges of Horizon2020.

**Pierpaolo Campostrini** (Chair of NEREUS-GNSS-WG, Director CORILA) - **confirmed**: Pierpaolo has profound expertise with international research activities within the EU-framework programs and is member of the FP7-Environment committee. Referring to his experience as a participant of EU-funded research activities, in particular with research activities in the Venetian lagoon, he is going to explain where he sees the potential of Europe's space systems to support research activities within the societal challenges of Horizon2020.

**Prof. Dr. Frans G. von der Dunk** (ESSC/ESF European Space Science Council/European Science Foundation, Head, )-: Prof. Dr. von der Dunk will make the conclusions and elaborate on his views how Europe's space systems can contribute to gain breakthroughs in research activities related to societal challenges of Horizon2020. This can come from the current EU Flagships (Galileo, Copernicus), but also from flagship-type projects emerging from the Strategic Research Clusters that should be implemented within Horizon 2020.