

On **26 & 27 October**, the European Parliament hosted in its Hemicycle in Brussels one of the major Space event of 2010: the Conference on « **A new space policy for Europe** » organised by the « Sky and Space » Intergroup of the European Parliament, together with Business Bridge Europe.

This Conference, which took place at a key moment of the debates on the future of the European Union and its policies by 2020, attracted more than **800 participants**, who came to attend the **8 thematic plenary sessions** organised during these two days.

The audience has had the opportunity to listen to **79 high level speakers**, including 25 industrialists from the space sector, civil society representatives and numerous European and National decision makers (e.g. the President of the European Council, **Herman Van Rompuy**, the Vice-President of the European Commission, **Antonio Tajani**, the President of the Committee of the Regions, **Mercedes Bresso**, the Belgian minister of Space, **Sabine Laruelle**, the President of the European Interparliamentary Space Conference, **Liana Dumitrescu**, the Director General of ESA, **Jean-Jacques Dordain**, the Chairman of DLR (Germany), **Johann-Dietrich Wörner**, the President of CNES (France), **Yannick D'Escatha**, the President of ASI, **Enrico Saggese**).

The **European Parliament** as such was also widely represented at the forum with the participation of the President of the European Parliament, **Jerzy Buzek**, of a Vice-President, **Gianni Pitella**, of the President of the committee "Foreign Affairs", **Gabriele Albertini**, of the President of the committee "ITRE", **Herbert Reul**, of the Vice-president of the EPP Group, **Corien Wortmann-Kool**, of the Vice-president of the S&D Group, **Patrizia Toia**, of the President and three Vice-Presidents of the « Sky&Space » Intergroup : **Vittorio Prodi**, **Jacqueline Foster**, **Vladimir Remek** and **Potito Salatto**, and of two MPs : **Edit Herzog** and **Damien Abad**.

Debates of this 2010 Conference were surrounded by three important EU developments: - the entry into force, on 1 December 2010 of the Lisbon Treaty, which provides EU with new competences, shared with the Member States, on space policy and raises key-questions regarding governance and industrial policy, - the launch of "Europe 2020" Strategy refocusing EU policies on European priorities for 2020, in the context of an economic and financial crisis, - last, the negotiation to come on the multiannual financial framework.

### **Governance and Industrial policy**

The first two plenary sessions (26 October), one dedicated to the issue of the future governance for the European space policy and the other to the required industrial policy, have led the different national and European policy makers to state and outline the issues raised by the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty, in particular the 4 and 189 articles – in other words the new roles that are to be played by the European Union, the European Space Agency (ESA) and Member States, hopefully in the most complementary and coherent way.

The diversity of positions expressed during the first session has left its mark on the industrial policy debates. Every speaker agreed that a real industrial policy in the

space sector is not to be reduced to a simple supply policy, even if it remains necessary. A genuine industrial policy brings about many other aspects as R&D support or financing access, but also the incentives of/from many other European policies (climate change, agriculture policy, environment protection, transports, Security and Defence, etc.). It concerns every stakeholder as well (multinational companies, SMEs, launchers, applications, etc.). The speakers discussed, as expected, on the merits both of the “juste retour”(fair shares) (i.e. ESA procedures), and of the free competition required by the EU regulations that some consider as a competitiveness factor for enterprises. The debates have outlined the key-role the current “major players” had in the enviable position of the European space industry on the international stage, as well as the necessity to continue to support its efforts, especially regarding research and innovation. To give way to SMEs, involved in space activities as subcontractors or specialised in developing innovative technology, has also been pointed out as a critical point.

## **Financing**

DG Budget Director General admitted, during the third session, that the EU budget was limited today and will likely be so in the post-2013 financial perspectives, with regards to the size of major infrastructures projects of the EU. He therefore put forward the relevance to think, as underlined by the Commission in its Communication on the Budget review, about alternative and innovative ways to finance them: the need to develop processes which will enable private investors to join forces with the European Investment Bank (EIB) in order to finance long term projects. Every MEP’s intervention, during this session and the others, insisted on the critical issue of financing for space projects. They strongly expressed their intent to draw the European Parliament’s attention on that matter.

## **Space services potential**

One of the fifth session’s main points was the requirement for Europe to secure a permanent and independent access to space, especially in order to reinforce its international role and to back its external policy as well as its Security and Defence policy. This point was indirectly one of the guiding threads of the Conference. So was the issue, discussed during the eighth session, of an active presence of Europe at scientific level, including through international cooperation.

All the speakers and participants have insisted on the tremendous potential of services and applications that will be made possible by European space infrastructures, especially by the Global navigation satellite system (Galileo) and the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security System (GMES). This potential is established by the scope of space policy developments that were discussed – climate action, natural and human disasters and management of their consequences, environment protection, mobility, harvest and fishing resources monitoring, etc. It goes without saying that substantial positive consequences in scientific, technological, economic and social terms for European Union enterprises and citizens as well as a great deal of world population are predictable.