

Welcome everybody to Venice and to my Region.

First of all, let me thank the Veneto region and the Nereus network for the organization of this important event.

The topic we discuss today is the Galileo programme and its applications in the maritime sector.

It's very important to speak about applications in this moment, because right now the European Parliament and the Council are working to define the financial capability of Galileo until 2020 and the role of the Agency in the management and the implementation of the programme.

The great number of possible applications is the tangible sign of the usefulness of Galileo. Unfortunately, often citizens are not aware of this fact.

Considering this, I believe that the role of the local entities and in particular of the Regions must be recognized and increased, to make the programme more familiar for the public opinion, and to help the Agency to develop as many applications as possible.

As for me, I decided to follow closely this topic, because I believe that Galileo can have a public service value. I also see in it a commercial opportunity.

Personally, I think that GSA must have powers proportionate to its responsibilities, and create a market for the applications. Datas show that there is a great potential for this market: if Galileo will be successful, many other related technologies will follow.

In this marketing activity, I believe that the Agency must use the possibilities offered at local and regional level. For example, industrial districts that are specialized in particular sectors.

Thank you very much.