

VIDEO MESSAGE BY PRESIDENT
BARROSO

**Conference on "Space policy"
8-9 Nov 2011
EP hemicycle in Brussels**

Dear President [Buzek],
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for having invited me to address this year's annual conference on space policy and its "Benefits for citizens and society". I regret not be able to be present with you today but I am pleased to share a few thoughts with you through this video message.

With the successful launch in Kourou, on 21 October, of the first two satellites of Galileo, I am happy to say that what we have witnessed is a major step for Europe and its citizens. It is of paramount importance, not only for the competitiveness of our industry, but also for Europe's independence in space technology.

It was also a remarkable example of EU-Russia cooperation given that it was launched by a Soyuz-ST vehicle, the most recent version of the launchers, that more than 50 years ago launched the Sputnik.

Space related activities are a key component of Europe's 2020 strategy, by creating high skilled jobs, new products and by boosting innovation all over Europe.

Our priorities have been set out in the communication "Towards a space strategy for the European Union that benefits its citizens", adopted last April. They include our flagship programmes, Galileo and GMES - the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security -, as well as security in space, space exploration and a competitive European space industry.

Galileo, Europe's own satellite navigation system, will improve our daily lives with a full range of services starting in 2014. It will ensure a modern and reliable transport sector for cars, planes and ships. It will also bring more secure banking transactions and more reliable electricity provision. It will make civil protection more robust and will help saving lives in remote areas.

But Galileo is also an investment in Europe's industrial future and competitiveness: it will benefit companies ranging from shipping, fleet management and finance, to electricity and telecommunications.

The Commission is dedicated to making Galileo a full success for the long term, as shown with its proposal of a budget of 7 billion to complete and operate it for the period 2014-2020.

GMES is another example of how space policy can contribute to improving European citizen's lives. It will provide us with crucial imagery and data on the environment, which will enable us to better understand and mitigate climate change.

It will also make our agriculture and fishery more efficient. This in turn will guarantee better food quality and food security. It will also be of great help in crisis response in emergency situations during natural or man-made disasters.

The system should be fully operational by 2014. To ensure its proper funding, evaluated at 5.8 billion euro over the next financial period 2014-2020, the Commission is planning to present a communication which will propose a consistent framework for its development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

These are just a few examples, but for the Commission there is no doubt that space activities are crucial and are directly beneficial to our citizens and our society.

Challenges remain ahead but having in mind what we have already achieved so far, I trust we will be up to the task.

I have the ambition for the EU to lead in space, for the benefit of all European citizens, and not to leave the leading role to others.

I wish you all a very fruitful and inspiring conference.

Thank you for your attention.

(578 words = around 5 minutes)