

Session 4

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are moving back to the sea. The marine economy is growing. As land and water resources become more scarce, we are looking to the 71% of the planet that is ocean to deliver the food, energy, materials and medicines that we need to contribute towards the decent and sustainable standard of living that the seven billion people that live on this planet deserve and expect.

And as we move back to the sea we are facing challenges that are different to those on land. .Even though they are obvious, they are worth repeating.

We can't navigate by landmarks because there aren't any. We can't connect to the mobile phone network because it doesn't reach that far. And we can't observe what is going on because there is nobody there to observe it.

Therefore, even more than the terrestrial economy, the marine and maritime economies rely on earth-orbiting satellites for navigation, communication and observation. And, even more than the terrestrial economy, any deficiencies in the EU's space infrastructure are going to hold back these new opportunities for blue growth

This is why those of us who are concerned with developing and implementing the EU's maritime policy look at the EU's space policy with great interest. I would like to make three points.

First if all the EU needs to ensure that the Galileo and GMES Sentinel satellites are launched on schedule. This has already been repeated many times at this conference and probably the next speaker will make this point as well so I don't need to say any more on this.

Second we need to ensure that entrepreneurs and small businesses can access the data from these satellites on a reasonable basis. I think everybody accepts that this must be the case for Galileo. GPS has demonstrated that accurate and readily available positioning data can spawn large and profitable downstream industries. Galileo is Europe's insurance policy to ensure continuity of service should anything, for whatever reason, happen to GPS.

The same needs to be true for GMES. Some point to the huge public investments that have been made in GMES and indicate that it would be nice to recoup some of these investments by selling the data. This would be a mistake. I have seen many interesting services developed and demonstrated through EU research programmes based on publicly-owned satellite data that have collapsed once the EU funding finished. It proved impossible to build an operational service that anyone would pay for if the

service providers need to pay for the data. It is economically shortsighted for the taxpayer to invest in expensive satellites and to limit the use of these data.

In other words public investment to encourage innovation is better spent in providing the means by which companies can innovate rather than trying to force innovation along pre-determined paths.

Third we need to drive down costs. The days when nobody watched how the EU spent its money are over. Encouraging more competition, private investment and risk-taking in space will help us get more for the same money. It is already beginning. For instance within the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, we have used commercial services to provide signals from ships' automatic identification systems captured by satellites to trace and track ships suspected of illegal fishing activities.

I could say a lot more about space and the oceans. For instance about the essential role of satellites in monitoring the impact of climate. However I think my time is up and that other speakers will cover this point. I would like to thank you for your attention.

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