Opening – video speech Jerzy Buzek

Dear President Barroso, President Van Rompuy, President Bresso, Dear Vittorio, Dear Participants,
Welcome to the EP for the Annual Conference on EU Space Policy! I am sorry that I cannot be there with you for this important event.

The aim of the EU internal market is to lower barriers to market entry and break-up cartels. If we want competition on earth, should we allow for monopolies in the sky and space? As the Commission Communication indicates, a credible space policy benefits first and foremost our citizens.

Three weeks ago, we witnessed what a successful EU Space Policy means. We launched the first two Galileo satellites. This was a collective European success. It could not have been achieved by Member States alone. Galileo will provide a myriad of useful applications in areas ranging from transport to rescue operations. It will deliver €60 billion to our economy in the next 20 years.

The spinoffs from research on space have huge benefits for the real economy. The EP and its Sky and Space Intergroup are strong supporters of an ambitious space policy: whether we are talking about Galileo or the system for Global Monitoring for Environment and Security. We have to ensure that appropriate funding is preserved in the next MFF in spite of Europe's economic difficulties.

I am confident that today's conference will provide us with helpful insights on how to make the EU more competitive in the space field. I look forward to reading the conclusions of this conference. Thank you!