

Good morning colleagues, esteemed guests and audience!

I will try to be brief and touch the most important points concerning the subject of security and defence of the European Space in my presentation from a point of view of the European Parliament.

As a freshly elected Member, I know that the seventh legislature of the Parliament has quite a lot of new ideas and opinions on the issue – **there is quite a wide degree of interest on the matter of European Space in the Parliament**. More than this, given the very wide background of Members, I can tell you that there is also a **certain level of expertise** on the matter which we hope will be taken into account by the Council and also by the future Commission.

In the past the Parliament had quite a wide number of initiatives of the subject of Europe and space. **On one hand, there is the special role Galileo has and will have to play for the EU as a major tool for global positioning in civilian terms, to be fully operational in 2013, and on the other there is the GMES program, dealing with environment and security**. The Parliament was an ice breaker in what concerns combining the usage of these two projects. In terms of security and defence, and most of all for ESDP missions, a major issue encountered often was the data available to troops on the ground. **Global positioning, terrain survey, monitoring, secure satellite based communications and finally and just as important – warning systems** – all these are the kind of elements that should not lack from a military and even civilian deployment of an Union that wants itself to be at the top of space technology and mission efficiency.

Yet there were and still are **many problems** with all these. First of all that **all systems were split**, programs of surveillance differed from those of positioning and there were **little comprehensive strategies suggesting that the Member States work together to put forward cohesive solutions**. **It was the diversity and democratic nature of the European Parliament that helped identify all these issues and put them forward in structured recommendations**. A main example would be **the Resolution on Space and Security adopted in July last year**. Given our very intimate political experiences from our national backgrounds, we the Members of the European Parliament seem to be somehow able to see more features and assist the Council, work with the Commission and advise the European Space Agency in very constructive ways.

Of course, our work and everyone's will be **greatly helped by the Lisbon Treaty** – as long as it will enter in to force. **We need Article 189, the EU needs its mention of the European Space Policy**. More than this, the Union

needs that the Parliament, with its already rich background, to be consulted regularly by its sister institutions. In order to be a real actor, in order to be truly able to implement the Headline Goals for security and defence, to protect and serve its citizens, the **ESDP needs space assets**.

As for what **the future can bring** in terms of initiatives, well, there are a great number of possibilities. **We have talked about early warning anti-missile systems** (not a missile shield, but a satellite based warning), and the **issue of geospatial intelligence gathering capabilities development**. There can be many other sectors, but one thing is for sure – **Member States need to coordinate much more** beyond the development of Galileo and its usage in ESDP, helping with the GMES. Members need to **develop common capabilities** and, perhaps, **common mindsets** when it comes to the usage of space. Sadly, even though we have a Space Policy and an Agency, we see much too often, on military matters, either dependence on transatlantic relations or, usually, strictly national thinking. Even in this day and age, when satellite programs in Europe are almost all multinational, **telecommunication assets used from space are sometimes very difficultly shared** for ESDP missions.

On my part, I can assure you **that the Parliament will continue to closely monitor these subjects and never hesitate to work to improve them. Joint development of new technologies, sharing of the latest ones, all these should become the core of the European space policies in order to ensure a cohesive security and defence cooperation.**

Thank you for your attention!