



FOREWORD

By Antonio Tajani
Vice President
European Commission

A wide range of key European policies, such as environment, security, transport, maritime, health, agriculture, development and energy, are supported by space applications. Space is an enabling tool, offering an essential contribution to address major societal challenges, supporting innovation and economic growth, addressing climate change, ensuring security of energy supply and reinforcing Europe's political and economical position on the world scene.

Since 1 December 2009, the Treaty of Lisbon provides the EU with modern institutions and optimised working methods, and also gives an explicit competence to the European Union to carry out activities and conduct a common policy in the area of space. The President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, has recently stated that space policy is an area he wants "to see in the future as progressing at EU level".

This is also reflected by the bringing together of the flagship EU programmes Galileo and GMES under the Directorate-General Enterprise and Industry, allowing more efficient management and facilitating the relationship with the European Space Agency, responsible for the technical implementation of both projects. The Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth will also rely on an effective space policy to provide the tools to address some of the key global challenges and in particular to deliver Galileo and GMES.

The European Union intends to progressively become a full fledged space actor. Priorities for the EU space programme are defined along the lines of key policy challenges: space and climate change, space and security, innovation and exploration. But the basis for this strategy, our top priority, remains the successful delivery of the flagship space programmes.

Owing to the significant efforts and resources allocated to them, Galileo's implementation is well on course and GMES is now making a critical transition from a research to an operational stage. Both represent long-term commitments for the European Union, also providing key contributions to the European action on space and climate change, as well as boosting innovation and competitiveness to harvest all the potential economic returns that run into billions of Euros. The security dimension of GMES will protect citizens and ground infrastructure against natural and man-made hazards, and provide an important contribution to the European Foreign and Security Policy. In addition, to protect our critical infrastructure in space, the EU cooperates with ESA also to develop an independent capacity to monitor satellites, debris and other objects in the space environment.

May this momentum be a booster for a user-oriented European Space Policy which will provide real value to the European citizen.