



# FOREWORD

By Antonio Tajani  
Vice President  
European Commission

Space activities and applications have become truly indispensable for our citizens, our economy and our society. They have a direct impact on our daily lives by enhancing our well-being, as well as by contributing to the sustainable, smart and inclusive development of our economy. The two EU flagship space programmes, the global satellite navigation system "Galileo" and the European Earth monitoring system "GMES" will soon be operational. The downstream applications they enable represent a huge potential for job creation and economic growth.

The launch of the first fully operational Galileo satellites in October 2011 has shown that the Union will remain non-dependent in a strategically important field. In February 2012, the programme has been accelerated by the signature of a contract for 8 additional satellites, as well as contracts securing the use of the European Ariane-5 launcher. Galileo is now well underway to enable services that are critical for many sectors of our economy. We are confident that the system will generate up to €90 billion in social and economic benefits over the next 20 years. At a time when a boost for the European economy is needed, this is welcome news.

GMES, the EU's second flagship programme, ensures the continuous provision of accurate and reliable data and information on environmental issues, climate change and security matters. Thus, GMES will help us getting a better understanding of how and in what way our planet may change, and how this might influence our daily lives. It will also provide services help us to improve the security of our citizens and better manage crisis situations. As for Galileo, we expect GMES services to be a great opportunity for job creation and development of innovative SMEs. Therefore, the Commission will take concrete actions to support the development of the GMES downstream sector.

Europe's space policy is aimed at promoting technological and scientific progress, stimulating industrial innovation and competitiveness, enabling European citizens to reap the benefits of space applications and raising Europe's profile on the international stage in the area of space. Therefore, in 2011 the Commission adopted a Communication "*Towards a space strategy for the European Union that benefits its citizens*".

In 2012, the Commission will define an industrial policy for the space sector in order to provide the right framework for improving down-stream business development. Helping the development of innovative SMEs the space downstream sector could provide even greater opportunities for job creation.

Recent events have shown that space infrastructure needs to be protected from threats such as space debris and radiation bursts. The Member States identified the need for the EU to put in place a 'space situational awareness' service to protect our space infrastructure.

The wide-ranging success of the Lucca international space exploration conference at the end of 2011 has established for the first time a political dialogue with all major space faring countries. The Commission will continue to support this 'high-level structured policy dialogue' on space exploration.

The EU's FP-7 R&D programme has funded a substantial number of research projects in space. Horizon 2020, starting in 2014, will enhance such funding level, with a focus on both research and innovation. These research and innovation projects provide jobs and training to top European scientists and engineers, and prepare the ground for next generation European space systems. EU space research and innovation projects are also a driver for cross-fertilization between the space and non-space sectors.

In 2012, the EU will expand its space dialogues with international partners. International cooperation in space activities is a tool for external policy implementation, and it allows space nations to participate in common ambitious space programmes.

Space is clearly an indispensable tool for Europe's economic development, and the European Union is taking action.