

Good afternoon

Ladies and gentleman

Let me begin by saying what a great honour it is to have been invited to speak before you today as a member of the European Parliament. Sitting on the ITRE committee, I have been directly involved in dealing with research and innovation issues. In particular, I am rapporteur of the Specific Programme implementing Horizon 2020 and was rapporteur for the Simplification Report, a matter close to my heart as a former researcher and scientist myself. I am also, I should add, the EPP permanent rapporteur on the Budget Committee for Space.

Horizon 2020

In speaking to you today, I should like to offer an assessment of how I see Horizon 2020 and highlight a

number of key points that I believe deserve particular attention.

My talk will be in two parts. In the first, I shall offer a brief, general assessment of Horizon 2020. In the second, I should like to stress the importance of Horizon 2020 to the Space sector.

With regard to Horizon 2020, considered overall, the proposal represents a real step forward. It represents an excellent base on which we can now build. I should also like to thank the Commission for having absorbed the multiple recommendations emanating from the European Parliament but also from a whole range of other stakeholders and interested parties.

The structure of the new programme is certainly much improved by comparison with FP7. It is simpler and

strikes a highly satisfactory balance between the three pillars of

- * excellence in science
- * industrial leadership and
- * societal challenges

However, there remain a number of details that still need to be filled in and some aspects that could, undoubtedly, be improved.

Space sector

Space is considered as a Key Enabling Technology in Horizon 2020, placed under Pilar 2 – Industrial Leadership. Space Technologies are here correctly placed since they are of most importance for other sectors, such Transport, Environment, Climate Change, Agriculture, etc.

The objective of the activities is to maintain a leading role on the global level in space by safeguarding and developing a competitive space industry and research community and by fostering space-based innovation.

Priority Areas:

- Safeguard a competitive space industry and research community
- Boost innovation between space and non-space sectors
- Enabling advances in space technologies
- Enabling exploitation of space data
- Enabling European research in support of international space partnerships

The European Parliament added a priority for “*Developing applications in the area of GNSS to ensure positive return on investment in European satellite navigation systems*”.

Conclusion

Conference EU SPACE POLICY: A GLOBAL TOOL FOR GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Brussels, 29th January 2013 – Charlemagne Building

Initiative under the patronage of Mr José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission; Mr Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament; Mr Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council

Keynote speech delivered by Maria da Graça Carvalho

By way of conclusion, let me say that this week we start the trilogues between the Parliament, Council and Commission. I look forward to discussing these points in the forthcoming months and contribute for building a strong Programme for Research and Innovation in Europe.