

Esteemed President,  
Honourable Deputy Prime Ministers  
Dear Colleagues  
Ladies and gentlemen,

To organise in Bulgaria, on the shores of the Black Sea, in the middle of the Balkan region, in this period of tremendous instability in the area, such an event exploring innovative methods to improve the security of our territories is a demonstration of insightful and clear-sightedness.

Dear President, I would like to thank you for having me and for having endorsed this event today, as well as all the Ministries and deputy ministries here with us.

I'm really delighted to see so many Policy-Makers because Science, Technology, Innovation as well as Security and Defence, are not the only prerogative of the military domain and engineers. It is – and must be also – a prerogative for women and man engaged in politics.

A special thanks goes to Kamen, Katja and the team at the National Center for Security of Defence of the Bulgarian Academy of Science for the efforts made in cooperation with my team to make this gathering possible.

The current geopolitical context, deeply affected by the Russian-Ukrainian conflict and its repercussions on the regional equilibrium in the Balkan area, bring us to rethink security and defence priorities at the national and European level. Multiple threats are now posed for Europe as a whole, from cybersecurity issues, conflicts, illegal migration, and as well climate change effects, which are putting defence and security at the top of the political agenda of all European countries.

With the evolution of the threats, we need to think about how to respond and protect both civil population and critical infrastructure. Space technology can be of help to support first aid field units, help in collecting intelligence, improve border control, hence contributing to the disaster management cycle.

In the civil domain, this work is still ongoing, particularly in the policy development process, where satellite data is not always fully exploited, even though this trend is slowly changing.

In the military domain, the deployment of space technology is not a novelty, it's widely used for specific activities that require the mapping of large portions of territories or inaccessible areas.



On its side NATO considers space as a strategic asset and, also, a tool to improve the surveillance measures and intelligence capacities of their member states.

With the explanations of Pascal and Ralitsa from ESA and EUPSA/ we have seen how Space Security & Defence/ is also high in the political agenda.

That said, one could wonder what is Eurisy's role today?

It's to bring to our discussions a perspective based on interactions with a diverse range of stakeholders from space technology experts to final users of satellite applications, especially in the field of security.

Well, it's to bring to our discussions the field of possible actions in Space Security and Defence based on interactions with a diverse range of stakeholders: from space technology experts to final users especially in the field of security.

Before going further, one word on our mission. We raise awareness of the benefits of satellite services/ for the European economy and society stimulating dialogue and collaboration between public institutions, SMEs, industry and academia from the space and non-space sectors.

Our 22 members are European Space Agencies and governmental offices.

We act as a facilitator and matchmaker supporting the uptake of satellite applications by professionals in non-space sectors.

We also act as advisers providing our members and decision-makers at local national and European levels with bottom-up feedback on user needs and challenges

Over the past year, building on the EU Directive on Resilience of Critical Entities, Eurisy developed a series of public open sessions on numerous thematic areas as energy, transport, banking, health, drinking water, wastewater, digital infrastructure, public space infrastructure and food supply chain security.

By presenting practical cases, we want participants to assess their needs to improve internal processes and the benefits of using space technologies to provide more informed decisions.

Because, we see every day how external threats - natural and man-made - endanger many economic and political activities.



To give you an example, in May 2022, we jointly organized with EUPSA and the Greek Ministry for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection and the Greek Ministry for Digital Governance, the first national workshop 'Satellite-based services for disaster risk management'

The aim was to present operational satellite capabilities to reinforce a common understanding between national and European stakeholders of what those services can provide throughout the disaster management cycle and how to facilitate better access and use.

Because we live in such a period of strong instability, a risk for us all and our future, we want to reaffirm loud and clear:

- that satellite technology should no longer be regarded as innovation, but rather as practice.
- that satellite technology should be considered as an integral part of political decision-making and risk mitigation.

Today, we all are participating in this important workshop with the objective to capitalize on the discussions and key elements that will emerge during the exchanges to prepare a new strategy.

