

GLEC 2019 - Marrakech – 24-25-26 April 2019.

Mister President,
Mister Director General,
Excellencies,
Dear Friends of space,

You know, space is where you least expect it!

Only a few years ago, Space was inaccessible to most of the people.

- Gradually it contributes to the general economy.
- More recently it has become more social and part of our everyday life, fostering the socio-economic development of our society.

What will be the next challenges in space?

For my point of view:

- the emerging countries
- the rural regions
- the downstream sector

Space applications are one of the key factors according to the needs of the final users but also responding to the political and economic context.

Where the downstream sector is growing and a user community is clearly identified the fertile environment favours the adoption of innovative solutions.

But it is not true everywhere! The lack of technical knowledge or infrastructures, dedicated funds or political sensibility, make it complicated and create a gap not only in the emerging countries but also in rural regions too!

Being President of Eurisy and also a career politician, I know how important - and difficult- it is to sensitise politicians: the Ministers at the national level and representatives of big cities of course. But not only. Also, the ones who take decisions at the regional and local level!

Direct relations with politicians & civil servants are essential, they are those who choose the guide lines of their territory and are decision makers!

One of the ongoing projects of Eurisy “Space4rural” demonstrates the importance of working with them and gives us a clear view where space can be a facilitator of development and a lever for the enterprises.

Even if Eurisy mostly focuses on Europe, the improvement of rural areas is something that involves also emerging countries.

I know we are talking about different contexts, with different backgrounds and different dedicated policies but the challenges are the same:

- developing the connectivity
- facilitating the socio-economic development
- investing in education & staff training
- making space accessible and more comprehensive to the people

it's time to conclude,

I would like to thank Jean-Yves Le Gall, Pascal Ehrenfreund, Driss El Hadani, Jean-Pascal Le Franc and Valanathan Musami for organizing this conference which remind us that space of course advances science and open the doors of the universe. But space will really achieve its goals when it fully shares its technological progress for a sustainable development on earth and for the human well being **both** in developed and emerging countries.

I thank you for your attention.

Dominique Tilmans

Q&A session:

- *To the new comers, in which areas do you focus your activities, and how to best advocate them in front of the political decision makers?*
- *Aux nouveaux arrivants, dans quels domaines concentrez-vous vos activités et comment les défendre le mieux possible devant les décideurs politiques?*

The motto of Eurisy is bridging space and society. We work actually on 3 domains: health & Aging // Emergency // Smart cities //Space4 rural

In particular, Eurisy has concentrated on matching the capability of the space sector with the user needs. We work mostly with local authorities and, in our perspective, it is fundamental to communicate with the political decision makers. We try to achieve this through engagement activities, as thematic conferences, position papers, dissemination of good practices. In addition to this, we contribute to space and non-space events to present our outcomes and perspectives on specific topics.

- *To the new comers, what role do you see for regional cooperation, in the Arab world or in the African region for example?*

Beyond our European members we count the Turkish Scientific and Technical Research Council (TUBITAK) and the Moroccan Royal Centre for Remote Sensing (Centre Royal de Télédétection Spatiale). Both are key members for two areas where the space sector is growing at a fast pace. In particular, CRTS could play a crucial role in increasing awareness on satellite applications in Northern Africa involving other countries in a regional roundtable to share good practices or shared view to respond to the regional challenges. If we consider that space is the highest example of cooperation for peaceful uses, I think that starting from this assumption it is realistic to think space as a tool to strengthen the cooperation in the area.

- *To all: in which way can New Space benefit to emerging economies, and what space agencies could do to make it happen?*

I can't talk from the perspective of a space agency, but from an NGO one. In our events, we often cross our path with start-ups and SMEs. I believe that New Space can benefit from emerging countries because this new phase that is starting to revolutionize the sector and it is injecting new lymph in the whole system while posing new challenges. This means that space is turning to be more and more inspirational for the young generations. In emerging economies, the consequences would be more than positive

because the creation of a New Space ecosystem would boost the national economy, improve the technology advancement of the region and finally would help in enhance international cooperation.

- *To all again: what recommendations could be presented as operational conclusions for this session?*

- . Invest in STEM education, the future workforce.

47.000 people are working in the space sector in Europe, the average age is 44, but people between 48 &58 year old represent 35% of the total staff, it means a lot of retirement during this decade and the enterprises have a lot of difficulties to recruit!

- . Invest in communication to make space accessible for society

- . Convince the political side, we must bridging the industry with the national, regional and local authorities. We cannot let them beside!

Question for the audience:

Which has the most influence in generating a vibrant downstream economy?

1. Space agencies
2. Politicians
3. Industry
4. End users