

Thank you, Mister President, for giving me the floor, it's a great honour for me to be here.

Before answering your three key questions, I have one!

Permit me to reverse the role, beg your attention and ask this question: Who here knows Eurisy ? Please put your hand up.

That is what I thought. Many of you don't know Eurisy, so to understand better my answers to the key issues, please give me one minute and a half to explain what is Eurisy and what Eurisy is doing.

Eurisy is an association whose members are mainly space agencies in Europe, but who also some other public bodies and universities.

**Our motto** is "Acting collectively to bridge space and society".

Each word is important.

**Acting** means not just talking, but to work **actively** in the field to be efficient.

**Collectively** means our members **work together**, not individually country by country.

**Bridging space and society** means to **connect** the world of space **experts** with the world of **users**.

Our mission is to create awareness about the benefits that satellite applications can bring to sectors of society that until now have never even thought about space.

To be concrete, for example, we are currently concentrating our efforts on three main themes, not traditionally associated with space:

- how satellite applications assist **healthcare**,
- how they support the development of "**smart cities**"
- and how they aid **search and rescue** in the Alps.

Having very briefly explained Eurisy, to bring your attention to the importance of organisations like Eurisy that link institutions such as UNOOSA with communities of non-users of space applications.

I come to answer to the three questions addressed by our panel.

## **Firstly, how does Eurisy think that Capacity-Building in Space is changing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?**

I would like to begin by thanking the people who created UNOOSA and took the initiative to set up a global cooperation for the peaceful use of space. They were visionaries who could hardly imagine how humanity would benefit from space as it does today.

If we look back to the first UNISPACE meeting in 1968 Capacity-Building was all about developing the ability to go into space and less about developing space as a resource.

The most important way that Capacity-Building is changing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is that globally it is moving down-stream to smaller enterprises and users.

Allow me to make a comparison with the evolution of the car. In the beginning cars were restricted to only a few people. With the development of knowledge and technology, the impossible become possible. The cars become accessible, popular, and indispensable to everybody.

It must be the same with space!!

The goal of Capacity-Building in the downstream sector is to use space to solve problems and provide services to all humanity. To be clear, Capacity-Building in the upstream sector remains indispensable for its own sake, but also for developing the down-stream.

Encouraging and supporting the development of down-stream industry is one way that Nations who have not been active in space exploration can take part in the current space revolution, to the benefit of their citizens.

## **Your second question is how does Eurisy see UNOOSA's strength and position for Capacity-Building for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?**

We hear much debate about the drawbacks of globalisation but in space, globalisation is clearly essential and inevitable.

This is for two reasons: firstly, satellites, although they may be operated by individual nations, are capable of providing global services.

And secondly, useful applications developed within individual nations can generally be applied anywhere in the world.

A global organisation, like UNOOSA, therefore has a very important role to play in encouraging the communication of ideas and the sharing of information which will allow all nations around the globe to benefit from the potential of space to change our lives.

**UNOOSA** is in a unique position to encourage international collaboration and cooperation between the nations - and with of course emerging nations - in the peaceful use of space.

**UNOOSA** must help overcome national interests in favour of cooperation that crosses continents.

**UNOOSA** is a lever to move nations closer together.

### **Finally, you last question: what can UNOOSA offer under the roof of the United Nations?**

One consequence of the growth in the downstream space sector is that existing companies that previously had no interest in Space can now access satellite data and services to create new applications focussed in many different areas of society.

This seems easy, but in fact there are many barriers.

In Eurisy's experience some of the main barriers to the successful take-up of satellite applications are:

- the lack of understanding in the space sector of end-user needs,
- the lack of knowledge by user communities of what satellites can provide;
- the perception by user communities that space is expensive;
- the lack of easy access to useful satellite data;
- the lack of coordinated public-sector procurement policy.
- the lack of interest of most politicians because space is still not popular and it's not a theme who brings back votes. It's a former Senator who says it! We have to make a particular effort to make to convince them! I'm sure Petra Bayr share my opinion.

UNOOSA can help overcome these barriers by leading a global effort to communicate the benefits of satellite applications in society, and to create the framework that brings together experts, application developers and users.

Although many individual nations or public bodies are working hard in these areas, it will be much more effective if they act together under the umbrella of the United Nations to avoid unless an expansive duplication.

In fact, Eurisy's motto applies to all of us here today: we must all "act collectively to bridge space and society".

Dominique Tilmans.