

SUNDAY 24th MARCH

Mister Ambassador,

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

I am very happy to welcome you here at the Palais de la Nation, in the reception rooms of the President of the Senate. We are gathered here today to participate in a casual dress workshop beginning tomorrow in the Province of Luxembourg.

We will visit the ESA Redu Center, the Galaxia Business Incubator and the Euro Space Center where you will have the opportunity to test a walk on the moon and turn your head upside down in a multi-ax chair!

It is the third time Belgium has the honour to chair, the European Interparliamentary Space Conference.

As you know, we want to dedicate this Belgian Chairmanship to the importance of interesting young people to space careers, since industry is lacking young professional scientists to develop the future of humanity : the SPACE sector.

Though Europe is not lacking ambition and is taking part in several space programmes, the interest for space among young people remains too weak. Following the US's conquest of the moon, there was a boom in the amount of PHD's in science and engineering... making the United States the 1st industrial power of the world. Space has inspired an entire generation.

As elected members of our parliaments it is therefore our responsibility to think pro-actively about re-inspiring young people once again and to raise awareness, to convince and to support dynamic space politics in our relation with our Governments.

During our workshop we will focus on small satellites - Cube Sats, Nanosats, Microsats, Minisats, Picosats..., those small satellites weight between 500 kg and 10 kg and in the near future 100 grams and be small like a postage stamp !!

This type of small satellites will not only revolutionize space technologies through miniaturization, but its designing, building and launching are, from now, accessible to young people unlike big and heavy satellites.

For creative and imaginative young space scientists, those small satellites constitute a great access to space. A cocktail mix of new technologies and spectacular progress is making its way and will aim at a better preparation of our students in the industrial field.

I won't be too long, tomorrow, you will have to wake up early and I promise you will discover a new scenery of space in a casual and friendly atmosphere.

I wish you bon appétit !

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