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**European
Interparliamentary Space
Conference**
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The Chairman

Udvalget for Videnskab og Teknologi
UVT alm. del - Bilag 94
Offentligt

Brussels, 23 December 2005

Mr Chairman,
Dear Colleague,

2005 was an important year for Europe in general and the European space sector in particular. Unfortunately, the events that occurred were not always that positive.

Europe saw the birth of a draft constitution and its rejection by two important EU member states. Apart from the important political consequences, the double "no" put a stop to the development of a true EU Space Policy, based on article 13 of the Draft Constitutional Treaty which defined space as a shared competence between the European Union and the member states.

The results of the ESA Ministerial Council of December 2005 in Berlin, and the agreement on Galileo, were a more positive note. These are strong signals that prove the determination of Europe to go forward with its space project.

In this context, the European Interparliamentary Space Conference came to maturity in June when the shared French-German presidency organised the 7th annual conference in Paris, not only with the permanent members of the EISC, but also with parliamentary delegations of countries all over the world.

The Belgian EISC presidency plans three major events next year, to which a delegation of your parliament will be invited. Formal invitations will follow in due course.

First of all, a Space Law Seminar will be organised in the Belgian Senate on Wednesday 26 April 2006. This will be followed by the 8th European Interparliamentary Space Conference in Brussels from Monday 12 to Wednesday 14 June 2006. Finally, a Seminar on Space, Defence and Security will be organised jointly with the WEU Assembly in Kourou from Tuesday 19 to Friday 22 September 2006.

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More information on these events will become available soon. I can already mention the 2006 EISC website that will be online in the beginning of 2006: <http://www.eisc-brussels2006.be>.

I hope to welcome you and members of your parliament during these events. It is only with the involvement of all European national parliaments that a step forward can be made in the further development of European Interparliamentary co-operation in space matters.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Roelants du Vivier', with a horizontal line above the first part of the signature.

François Roelants du Vivier

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