

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As EPP rapporteur on COPERNICUS, there are five points that I should like to stress in particular:

Firstly, COPERNICUS is the successor of the European Earth Observation Programme GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security), to provide data and information stemming from space-borne and in-situ observations which contribute to the protection of the environment, to civil protection and to security - and ultimately to economic growth.

Secondly, the Copernicus programme will have a dedicated budget line under heading 1a with an amount of EUR 3,786 million in 2011 prices (EUR 4,291 million in current prices) for seven years. Unlike the other financial programmes for the 2014-2020 period, the present proposal has been tabled by the Commission

only after the conclusion of the negotiations on the new Multiannual Financial Framework.

Thirdly, my opinion in the BUDG committee reflects the position of MFF Interim Report so as to ensure adequate funding for this project while at the same time protecting other EU programmes, mainly in the research field, from possible redeployments. Additional unforeseen financial obligations should therefore be covered by the margin available between the MFF ceilings and the own resources ceiling.

Fourthly, it is important to avoid cost overruns in the future. For the sake of clarity and in order to facilitate cost control, the Copernicus envelope should be broken down into various categories according to the specific objectives and

Finally, the European Parliament should have an important role to play by supervising and controlling the

development of the programme. The Commission shall provide in a timely manner, all relevant information pertaining to the programme, in particular in terms of risk management, costs, schedule and performance.