

Good afternoon

Secretary of State

MEPs

Ladies and gentleman

Let me begin by saying what a great honour it is to have been invited to speak before you today. Sitting on the ITRE committee as full member – and on the Budget Committee as substitute member – I have been directly involved with research, innovation and space issues over the last few years.

In particular, I was the rapporteur for the Specific Programme on H2020 in the ITRE committee and for the Copernicus, Galileo and SST programme reports in the Budget committee.

In speaking to you today, I should like to concentrate on the importance of Horizon 2020 to the space sector and

Brussels, 29th January 2014 – Charlemagne Building

Initiative under the patronage of Mr José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission

Keynote speech delivered by Maria da Graça Carvalho

I shall leave Copernicus and Galileo to my colleagues MEPs Vittorio Prodi and Marian-Jean Marinescu. I shall briefly describe the overall goals of H2020 before going on to describe the specific place of the space sector within H2020. I shall finish by making a few remarks about the importance of space technology in stimulating knowledge, innovation and the economy.

General on H2020

The European Commission's investments in Space are made through the global satellite navigation systems (Galileo & EGNOS) and the programme of Earth monitoring (COPERNICUS, former GMES) while the EU space research is supported through Horizon2020, the framework programme for Research and Innovation.

Indeed, Horizon 2020 will be a fundamental instrument in structuring research and innovation in Europe over the years to come. It is a simple, well-

Brussels, 29th January 2014 – Charlemagne Building

Initiative under the patronage of Mr José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission

Keynote speech delivered by Maria da Graça Carvalho

structured and adequately funded programme. Out of the 79.4 billion EUR for the Horizon2020 program, 1.3 (54) billion EUR is to be invested in space research and innovation. Moreover, the new programme has been designed in such a way as to overcome fragmentation and to encourage collaboration across Europe and beyond. It is devoted to encouraging excellent science and industrial leadership whilst ensuring that we equip ourselves with the means to tackle a range of societal challenges.

In this respect, a whole range of instruments have been either set up, re-shaped or reinforced. The aim is to, at once,

support the European research base

but also to ensure that we are able to bring

European research to the market

and to transform innovative ideas into products

that will enhance European competitiveness

or improve the well-being of our citizens.

Space sector

Turning now to the position of the space sector within H2020: space is considered as a Key Enabling Technology in Horizon 2020 and has placed under Pillar 2 – Industrial Leadership. This is the most appropriate place for space technologies given that they are of direct significance for an number of other sectors such as Transport, Environment, Climate Change, Agriculture and so on.

The aim is to ensure that we are able to

~ safeguard a competitive space industry and research community

~ boost innovation between the space and non-space sectors

~ enable advances in space technologies

~ encourage the exploitation of space data

~ further European research in support of international space partnerships

Conclusion

By way of conclusion, let me make one or two recommendations. To achieve the ends that I have briefly outlined, the European space industry is already well-positioned. However, greater emphasis should be placed on granting access to the the sector on the part of small and medium-sized enterprises. This will represent a welcome source of stimulation for this sphere of activity.

Secondly, particular stress should also be place to ensuring that the European space industrial outcomes reach other sectors and public at general.

If we achieve this, the space sector

will represent a real driver of innovation,
one that will have real and tangible benefits
in terms of new knowledge and services,
on the one hand,
growth and job creation,
on the other.

Thank you very much