



The basics of European space governance

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Purpose of the conference

- Main objective:
 - Provide an overview of European space governance evolutions, almost two years after the Lisbon Treaty and five months after the EC space strategy
 - Come up with a balanced view taking full account of the complexity of the issues at stake
- How to get there:
 - First panel: structural trends, key transversal issues
 - Second panel: impact on specific programmes
 - Third panel: focus on specific actors



What is European space governance?

- No single definition of governance:
 - « Governance is about the maintenance of collective order, the achievement of collective goals and the collective process of rules through which order and goals are sought » (Mazurelle et. al., 2009)
 - European Space Governance (ESG) is « the combination of legal norms that emanate from international, European and national legal frameworks which, together, organize a coherent European decision-making process in both space policy and programmatic activities » (Ibid.)



What is European space governance?

- Implications:

- Governance is at the crossroads of policy, politics and polity (substance, processes, actors)
- Governance is an instrument, not a goal
- Governance implies power-sharing

Why did ESG become an issue?

- Starting point = increasing political relevance of space
 - ESA used to be the main European space actor
 - Rise of a new category of actors: space users
 - Rise of the EU as a new institutional actor in space
- Space is a political endeavor (*Wise Men Report, 2000*)
 - Space is a policy tool for the EU, both domestically and globally
 - Task of ESG: define and implement this policy

Why does ESG matter?

- Potential threats:
 - Contrast between unity of technological basis and diversity of space users
 - Discrepancy between technical and industrial potential and lack of political will to develop a coherent space policy
- ESG must be considered in the broader framework of the European integration process
 - Permanent tension between sovereignty issues/integration dynamic



What is the current situation?

- Triangle EU/ESA/Member States:
 - Central role of Member States (consequence of the political nature of space)
 - ESG is primarily of intergovernmental nature
- EC/ESA Framework Agreement
 - EU federates user demands/ESA performs R&D activities to meet user requirements
- Lisbon Treaty
 - Recognises strategic (i.e. political) importance of space
 - Shared competence

What is at stake?

- Central challenges for ESG:
 - Conciliate different national priorities/positions/situations
 - Sustainable funding
 - Decision-making authorities + procedures
 - Military space
 - Gather user communities
 - Transition from R&D to operational phase
 - Support the European space industrial basis