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