

THE CHARTER OF INTERPARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

Preamble

The world stands on the eve of evolution which, by its scope and consequences, can be compared to the great revolution which began at the end of the 19th century.

Space, through its capacity to provide a global response in such varied fields as communications, remote-sensing, localisation or the environment has become an essential key to influencing such developments, to gaining access to high added value activities.

In the face of this challenge to society, with all its strategic, scientific, technological, economic, social and cultural dimensions, it is vital that Parliaments should address the space issue, play their rightful role in Europe and demonstrate the resolve required for developing, between themselves and with their partners, a genuine strategy so as to accompany these major developments.

The political forum and the relay function that are the distinctive features of Parliaments argue in favour of the existence of a body which could facilitate the exercise of their duties by serving to express enduring political determination against the background of decision-making allotted to the relevant ministries, the industrial interests of the various partners and the demands of electoral representation.

Bringing together national parliamentary representatives with a particular interest in the space sector, the German, British, French and Italian Groups have decided that :

Art. 1. The Parliamentary Groups on Space from the countries of the European space community shall create the European Interparliamentary Conference on Space (EICS).

Art. 2. The Conference shall be aimed at facilitating the exchange of information on space activities and at promoting mutual understanding of national policies. It shall provide a forum for analysing the major issues at stake in the European space sector. In this context, the Conference shall have the right to express opinions and adopt resolutions for consideration by all partners acting in the sector.

Art. 3. The European Interparliamentary Conference on Space shall meet at least once a year. It shall be chaired, alternately, by one of the member Groups. During its term of office, the chairing Group shall assume responsibility for the secretariat of the Conference.

Art. 4. The parliamentary groups will work together as good as possible.

Art. 5. Any Parliamentary Group shall be free to join the European Interparliamentary Conference on Space on condition that it has been set up along the same lines as the Member Groups.

Art. 6. Resolutions shall be adopted unanimously.

Interim provisions

Art. 7. The 1st European Interparliamentary Conference on Space met in Paris on 29-30 April 1999.

Art. 8. The delegation of Italy offered to make arrangements for the next Conference. France shall chair the Conference until the end of 1999.

Art. 9. On the creation of the Conference, the German, British, French and Italian Groups were represented. The Groups present set themselves the objective of regularly increasing the number of Member Groups.