

## FP8 HEARING – SPACE THEME

Venue: Charlemagne Building, 170 Rue de La Loi, 1040 Brussels

Date: Wednesday 8 December 2010, 10:00 – 17:30

### BACKGROUND

The current FP7 research programme will come to an end in 2013 and, within the frame of the general discussion on the next financial perspectives, preparations for the follow-on to FP7 (working title: FP8) have started in earnest.

The Space theme of FP7 had an overall budget of €1.4 bn. over a 7-year period. The majority of this budget (85%) was devoted to the development of GMES operational services, support to the GMES space component and the procurement of data for use by the GMES operational services. In the future, it is foreseen that GMES operations be financially supported through the GMES Regulation. Nevertheless, it is expected that the FP8 Space theme will continue to address research in support of Earth observation, for example through the development of new enabling technologies such as new Earth observation sensors or new data processing methodologies.

The Space theme of FP7 also dedicated some €200 million to new space research areas under the general heading of "Strengthening Space Foundations", covering such topics as space exploration, space propulsion, planetary exploration, new launch technologies, space science and critical space technologies. Given the European Union's growing responsibility for space matters (Article 189 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union), FP8 is expected to have a major role to play in supporting space research and exploration, possibly also addressing new areas not currently covered by FP7.

### HEARING OBJECTIVES

The aim of the hearing is to give Europe's space research community an opportunity to provide the European Commission with ideas to drive the preparation of the FP8 Space theme. Hearing participants are expected to provide concrete input regarding the particular research areas to be addressed, with a particular focus on any new areas that may not have been adequately addressed under FP7-Space, and with the aim of identifying the space research challenges to be addressed over the next decade. Directors of research from universities, research centres and industry are particularly welcome. For further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item\\_id=4635&tpa\\_id=1004&lang=en](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=4635&tpa_id=1004&lang=en).

### **Preliminary draft agenda:**

09:30 -10:00 Registration

10:00 – 12:30 Morning session

- Welcome and introduction (EC)

- Keynote: Space exploration as an essential human endeavour (tbd)

- Space research challenges: Short presentations from participants

12:30 – 14:00 Buffet lunch served adjacent to the meeting room

14:00 – 17:30 Afternoon session

- Research needs for Europe (European Science Foundation)

- Space Advisory Group – report on FP8 (SAG member)

- Space research challenges: Short presentations from participants

- Closing remarks