

Cabinet Newsletter

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Dear Reader,

It was another busy week for Vice President Tajani and the Cabinet for Industry and Entrepreneurship. Particularly in the sector of space, a few key events took place that demonstrate Europe is well on its way to ensure a strong, independent space capacity.



Notably, Vice President Tajani announced on Tuesday the signing of a major contract for Galileo, Europe's global navigation satellite programme. This marked the fourth contract, out of a total six, aimed at giving Galileo a fully-operational capability in 2014. This contract, awarded to SpaceOpal GmbH, covers the industrial services needed to support the European Space Agency's use of satellites and its operation of ground infrastructure.

As the Vice President notes, "Galileo is becoming a reality. Europe will have its own independent satellite navigation system capable of high precision and reliability. We are fully committed to the roll-out of the system. Given the increased reliance of companies and citizens on satellite navigation, Galileo will play an important role in our daily lives". Indeed, the signing of this contract has signalled a step forward in Europe's independence in satellite navigation, and with it, the creation of new jobs and significant economic benefits to industry as a whole.

In other space news, Antonio Preto, the Vice President's Head of Cabinet, spoke at the conference 'A new space policy for Europe: New challenges, new opportunities' later that day. Held at the European Parliament, the intervention by Mr. Preto focussed on the state of play of the main European space programmes, namely Galileo, EGNOS and GMES, or Global Monitoring for Environment and Security, whose aim is to survey the earth. Mr. Preto pointed to EGNOS as evidence of a veritable technology "paradigm shift" for civil aviation, as it is one of only two systems in the world that are fully certified in navigation for civil aviation. Europe's competences in this domain are truly enlarging with each step forward.



Antonio Preto
Head of Cabinet

In regards to GMES, Mr. Preto indicated that it will be operational by 2011. This programme will examine the atmosphere, the earth and the marine environment, in addition to tracking climate change, managing crises, and engaging in security issues. Such efforts will bring about many benefits, including a reinforcement of safety and security, an increase in knowledge on climate change, a boost in stimulation and innovation for industry as a whole, and an enormous potential for the economy, particularly for small and medium sized enterprises. This will be achieved by delivering the correct information to public authorities, public figures, enterprises and citizens to ensure we are more cognisant of the changing world around us. We are looking forward to seeing these ground-breaking decisions implemented, as they will benefit industry and European citizens alike!