



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

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GALILEO: COMMISSIONER NELLI FEROCI MET ESA'S DIRECTOR GENERAL DORDAIN AND ARIANESPACE'S CEO ISRAEL

Today European Commissioner Ferdinando Nelli Feroci, responsible for Industry and Entrepreneurship, met with the European Space Agency (ESA)'s Director-General Jean Jacques Dordain and with Arianespace's CEO Stephane Israel. The meeting, requested by Commissioner Nelli Feroci, was held following the incident that took place during the launch of the two Galileo satellites on 22 August 2014.

The meeting focused on two main issues:

a) the anomaly that occurred during the satellites' injection into orbit

An independent inquiry committee was set up by Arianespace immediately after the launch, involving a panel of experts and the participation of the Commission. The inquiry was established in order to provide the European Commission, ESA and Arianespace with the full details of the incident, its root causes, and also to identify concrete actions to rectify the problem and to avoid any repeat of such incidents in future launches. The initial results of the inquiry are expected in the first half of September. During the meeting, the CEO of Arianespace explained to the Commissioner how the inquiry is being carried out and the steps which have already been taken.

b) the future use of the two recently launched satellites

The Director General of the ESA provided an initial assessment of the satellites' situation. Both satellites are safely controlled by the ESA's Operations Centre (Darmstadt, Germany). Their solar array panels are now deployed and they are responding to commands. As requested by the Commission, ESA's efforts are now concentrated on examining the extent to which both satellites will be used for the Galileo programme, and to establish possible alternative scenarios for such use.

Regular meetings of the Commission with ESA and Arianespace will take place to assess the inquiry's progress and the situation of the satellites.

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Commissioner Ferdinando Nelli Feroci declared: "I have requested ESA and Arianespace to regularly provide the European Commission with all necessary information. This will enable the Commission to monitor the situation, draw relevant conclusions and take appropriate actions for the continuation of Galileo, a strategic programme for Europe and its citizens".

Further info:

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-945_en.htm

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-509_en.htm