



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 19.03.2012
C/2012/ 1801 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its opinion on the Communication from the European Commission entitled "Towards a Space strategy for the European Union that benefits its Citizen" {COM(2011)152 final}.

The Commission shares the Senát's concerns regarding the adherence to the timetable of the implementation of the European space programmes.

Concerning Galileo, the Commission's political objective is to accelerate the deployment of the Galileo constellation and the delivery of services and avoid any further delays. The first services (Open Service, Public Regulated Service and Search and Rescue service) will be offered by 2014/2015 on the basis of the constellation deployed by then. The full constellation will offer an entirely independent European satellite navigation system, which will provide 5 high-quality services globally, based on a fully deployed system comprising 30 satellites and ground infrastructure.

With the adoption in November 2010 of the Regulation on Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) Initial Operations for the 2011-2013 period, GMES is becoming operational and the implementation of the GMES programme is on track. As stated in the regulation a GMES Committee and a User Forum, which are advising the Commission on the definition and validation of user requirements, are already in place. The objective is that GMES becomes fully operational as from 2014.

The Commission has adopted two proposals in November 2011. The first proposal consists of a Regulation concerning Galileo, covering the period of the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020, in which the long-term financing of the completion of the deployment and the exploitation of the systems, as well as the governance of the Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) programmes will be addressed. The second proposal is a Communication concerning GMES which paves the way for the long-term, sustainable governance - taking into account the specific capacities and roles of Member States, European institutions, European agencies and other relevant actors - and funding of the operational GMES programme post-2014.

Mr Milan ŠTĚCH
President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4
CZ – 118 01 PRAGUE 1

The Commission wishes to reassure the Senát that due attention will be paid to the question of mutual compatibility of these space systems.

I look forward to continuing our political dialogue, particularly in the context of the negotiations on the future financing of the European Union budget.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*