ELEMENTS OF INTRODUCTION TO ROUND TABLE

- **Situation**
  - Much progress since FP5-6! But…
  - a number of different space programmes (ESA, EU, national) and multiple bi-or multilateral cooperation activities → healthy, but…
  - different procedures, guidelines, work methods and, not the least, industrial return rules vs. competitive process (limits to competitiveness and impediment for large missions, but not an open market…)
  - support to scientists is not sufficiently structured and tuned to the long-term needed to engage in space projects (US vs. EU situation)
  - FP provides quasi-bottom-up support but longer-term commitments in space also require top-down approach and continuity from one programme to the other (e.g. critical technologies/ESA-EC-EDA lists)
- **Needs**
  - Continuity: how to ensure it? CSF could be an approach
  - Support through CSF/FP8 to European teams for preparation of, and exploitation of data from, space missions (European missions such as XMM get more publications from US PIs)
  - Phasing of approval/funding cycles at national vs. EU (important role of COSMOS/NCPs), but also at EU vs. USA and IPs
    - Large-scale space projects (e.g. L-missions in CV 2025) mandate a jointly approved international approval/support system
    - Europe also needs to become more independent (critical technologies) and daring (stand-alone projects at small, medium and also perhaps large scale)
  - Simplification of grant allocation, but especially of reporting within FPs: more of output-based
  - EC/EU, ESA, science community, industry must work together to implement these necessary changes