



**Welcome Message by HR/VP Federica Mogherini on the occasion of the
9th Annual Conference on European Space Policy**

Brussels, 24 – 25 January 2017

9:00 - 9:45 Welcome Message

1. STRATEGY FOR UN-STRATEGIC TIMES

I am grateful for this first occasion to talk about our space policy, in such a prestigious conference. And I am glad that the keyword of this year's conference is "strategy." I always say that we live in very un-strategic times. Policies seem too often dictated by the latest poll, or by some "viral" trend on social media.

But when we talk about space, being un-strategic is not an option. Research needs time and a clear sense of direction. Our industry needs a predictable time-frame for investments. And all our policies need to be sustainable in time, both in economic and environmental terms.

Strategy has been a constant focus for me, since the beginning of the mandate. Of course we need to respond to

crises when they arise. But our policies cannot simply be driven by crisis-management. As we deal with the here and now, we must also be able to look at the long-term, and to outer space.

The main focus of this Conference is our Space Strategy – I am coming to that. But I would like to start with another Strategy: our Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy, which I presented last summer and which we are now putting in practice.

We wanted the Strategy to be truly global, that is, to cover all the fields and all the tools of our external action. So the Global Strategy also looks at our skies, from two main perspectives.

First, we stress the need for cooperation, and to develop some kind of common governance of space activities.

Second, we all understand that space is essential to our own security and to our economy. So we have a strong and clear interest – and here I am quoting the Global Strategy – to “promote the *autonomy* and *security* of our space-based services.”

2. GOVERNANCE

Let me take a small step back in time. We all know that human exploration of the outer space began as a “space race,” between the US and the Soviet Union. Today the Cold War is over, but the race to the space is still going on – although in a very different way.

There are not just two super-powers, but a long list of countries with large space programmes. And beyond governments, there is a long list of non-state actors, from telecommunication firms, to universities, to all kinds of companies.

Our skies are getting more crowded. It is more important than ever that we cooperate and look for a set of common rules.

Space is a global common. It does not belong to any one country, because it belongs to all mankind. So we must all take responsibility for what happens above our heads – to keep our space safe, clean and accessible to all.

Take the issue of space debris. It represents a security risk and an economic risk. They are already making our space more dangerous and less accessible. We cannot let our skies be turned into a massive dump.

The EU and its Member States proposed some years ago to negotiate an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities. Our proposal has received support from a large group of countries, and we keep working to reach a an agreement on a voluntary code of conduct.

The European Union will also continue to work for the prevention of an arms race in outer space, which is critical for the UN disarmament and arms control agenda.

Last June, the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed on the first set of guidelines for the sustainability of space activities. It is a step in the right direction, towards common rules for a common good – and

we encourage the Member States of the Committee to keep working towards a second set of guidelines.

We are not only engaging inside the international institutions, but also “on the ground” – or rather, in the sky. The EU space surveillance and tracking support framework is providing concrete support to all these goals. This program has now begun to deliver operational services, based on a pool of Member States’ capacities.

We are engaging with all our tools – our diplomacy, our political weight and our capabilities – because better global governance will only be achieved if we are able to look beyond the traditional domains of foreign policy, and reach new frontiers.

3. SECURITY AND AUTONOMY

But as we work with our partners for more cooperation on the international arena, there is some work we need to do here at home, inside Europe.

We have a strategic, an economic and a political interest to invest in our space capabilities.

First of all, a strategic interest for our foreign policy. Our security-needs are evolving fast, for instance on maritime security. Today we realise that our space infrastructure can serve so many different purposes – from monitoring climate change, to better planning our development policies.

This is why we are upgrading our European navigation system, EGNOS, to the third generation. This is also why we are investing in our own global navigation and Earth observation systems, with the Galileo and Copernicus programs.

To do so, we have developed our European launchers, such as Ariane 6 and Vega C – so that the European Union has already become the largest institutional customer in Europe, surpassing our Member States. No need to say, this is good for our economy, for our research and for our industry. And let me add that this is good for our tax-payers, who can benefit from the new services, but also from the economies of scale, a more efficient procurement and a better spending of our resources.

Finally, we have a clear political interest to invest in space. Strategic autonomy in this field would not only benefit our

citizens and our Member States, but also our partners. The Global Strategy is very clear on this point: developing the full spectrum of our security capabilities would make us a more reliable partner – including for our American friends. We would have the opportunity to set our partnership on a more equal footing, sharing more equally the costs and the responsibilities of our common security.

4. EU COOPERATION

Europe can be and should be a space power. But we can only do so if we act together, as a true Union. We face a world of continent-sized space powers, with continent-sized budgets. Only together can we develop a world-class industrial and technological base. Only together can we promote a rules-based global order that reaches out to the space.

This is the aim of our 'Space Strategy for Europe', the first unified space policy of the European institutions, the Member States, and the European Space Agency.

As our Union turns sixty, we are moving one step closer to the original intuition of the founders of our Union. Let me conclude by quoting my fellow Italian Edoardo Amaldi, one of

the founders of the European Space Agency. Amaldi believed that only a united Europe could develop an independent space policy, free from the logic of the Cold War. And he believed we could make it the European way – working together, for exclusively peaceful goals.

That vision is still alive. Europe can be a space power. We must be a force for cooperation, for security and for peace – to the benefit of European citizens, and of the whole world.