Yearbook on Space Policy

2009/2010: Space for Society

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Space for Society

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Preface

The financial and economic crisis is still an issue of great concern for the global space sector. While space activities fared quite well during the first year of the crisis, effects on public programmes and commercial activities might still become more visible in the future, when public budgets have to be confirmed and when investment cycles in the private sector are completed. So far, however, the governments as well as the companies in the sector have kept to their promises and have been able to even modestly increase their business. This shows that space is regarded on the governmental level as a strategic asset and that it has generated a robust market, which through its services in telecommunications, direct broadcasting, navigation and Earth observation still has a huge potential that can be even further tapped during a situation like the global crisis. Europe is well positioned in this context, but the largest dynamic can be seen in emerging countries, which are partners, markets and competitors at the same time. But so far, growth in the space sector has allowed for beneficial international cooperation and joint economic growth. Europe is taking strong efforts in further developing its internal structures for governing space activities efficiently and seeing a competitive industrial base with manufacturers, operators and service providers grow.

One remarkable event in the timeframe that to is covered by the Yearbook – the period from July 2009 to June 2010 – has been the issuing of a new U.S. Space Policy. A rare expression of a comprehensive approach to all space activities, this document has become the point for extended analysis. While it contains remarkable statements and also changes from the last document of its kind, its impact will have to be seen only in the future. More immediate impacts and concrete effects had a number of policy discussions and events, which all are related to one of the largest issue area for space applications: natural disasters, where space plays a crucial role in their mitigation and related global discussions, as the Summit in Copenhagen, epitomising the problem of climate change. Through this, space received a large visibility and demonstrated its impact. It is for this reason that the thematic title of this Yearbook reflects on "Space for Society", since the application issues – not only for disaster management but also for other areas such as telecommunications, navigation and Earth observation – are highlighted throughout this volume.

As usual, the Yearbook on Space Policy comprises three parts. The first part shows an overview on the global space endeavours. It is prepared in-house in ESPI and it contains the whole spectrum of actors, issues, policies and economic

developments. While its perspective is European, is provides an analytical whole of space around the world. The second part again contains contributions from highly distinguished experts in the field. We have been able to assemble personalities mainly from the academic sector, adding also views from agencies and users. Issues which are covered have been highlights during the period of mid 2009 to mid 2010, of course reflecting on the new U.S. Space Policy and the Copenhagen summit, but also highlighting important European issues, like Galileo or the Lisbon Treaty, and in addition looking into international relations and benefits from space activities for societies world-wide. For this purpose, we have again invited contributors from within and outside Europe, thus showing that the network established by ESPI, the European Space Policy Research and Academic Network (ESPRAN) is getting more and more global. The third part of the Yearbook maintains the additional character of the Yearbook as an archive for space activities. Again prepared in-house in ESPI, a chronology, a bibliography and data about institutions is provided, where readers of the now four volumes of the Yearbook can identify statistical developments and trends.

An important milestone in the preparation of the Yearbook was again ESPI's Autumn Conference, where the authors met for an exchange on drafts of their contributions. Having taken place in Vienna in September 2010 and sponsored by the German Aerospace Center DLR, it provided the forum for a constructive exchange and coordination of the contributions. We appreciated very much the excellent discussion culture at that meeting, which lead to new insights and shared analyses. The discussions at the Autumn Conference were additionally supported by members of ESPI's Advisory Council (its Chairman Herbert Allgeier and its member Alfredo Roma), which also acts as the Editorial Advisory Board to ESPI's book series and the Chairman of its General Assembly (Harald Posch). Thanks also go to Johannes Pseiner, Conor Francois and Renaud Abram.

Kai-Uwe Schrogl, Spyros Pagkratis, Blandina Baranes
ESPI Editorial Team

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