

## **European Astronomical Society to be delivered at the 66<sup>th</sup> COPUOS session under the Agenda Item 4 – General Exchange of Views**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for giving me the floor and for providing this opportunity to present the application of the European Astronomical Society for permanent observer status at COPUOS.

Mr. Chairman, as this the first time we are taking the floor we want to express our appreciation for your leadership. We also want to express our gratitude to the Acting Director of UNOOSA, Mr. Niklas Hedman, and his capable staff, for aiding us in the process of applying for the status of permanent observer at COPUOS.

My name is Sara Lucatello, I am the Vice President of the European Astronomical Society. I am giving the presentation for the president of the EAS, Prof. Roger Davies. The president regrets not being able to present the application himself.

Chair, distinguished delegates,

The European Astronomical Society was founded in 1990. The EAS is a society of close to 5,000 individual members located in Europe and beyond. It also counts 30 organizational members: foundations, research institutions and entities that support the activities of the society.

The EAS promotes and advances astronomy in Europe, supporting its members in the undertaking of their professional activities. As an independent body, the EAS is able to act on matters that need to be handled at a European level on behalf of the European astronomical community. In its endeavors the EAS collaborates with 32 affiliated national astronomical societies, pan-european research organizations and networks. Furthermore, it regularly engages with European policy makers and funding agencies. There is a list of organizational members and affiliated societies in the application material before you.

Chair,

The Society is also the organizer of the EAS annual meetings, the largest yearly astronomy-focused meeting in Europe, which has been bringing together scientists working in all fields of astrophysics and space science, policy makers and public engagement specialists for over two decades.

The EAS strives to make a positive impact in society, with activities that are relevant to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Thanks also to our long-standing collaboration with the African Astronomical Society, we organize meetings and specialized educational events, supporting the participation of scientists from developing countries,

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relevant to SDGs 4, 10 and 17. We promote and support the participation of women and minorities in EAS activities, and overall are committed to increase their participation in Astronomy, relevant to SDG 5, and in line with the Space4Women effort.

Chair,

In 2018, the society joined Leiden University as a founding partner of the European Regional Office of Astronomy for Development. This is part of a global initiative by the International Astronomical Union aimed at harnessing the skills, infrastructure and knowledge of astronomers to benefit society at large by pursuing the United Nations SDGs. Thus, the EAS objectives are well aligned with the mission of COPUOS.

The EAS is committed to the sustainable development of space activities, and in particular to preserving the Dark and Quiet Skies, for both science and society. We would be very interested in contributing to the COPUOS working group on Long Term Sustainability of Space Activities (LTS), which deals with many aspects relevant to Astronomy: a number of high-value astronomical observing assets are located in outer space, and it is to be expected that in the long run observing facilities will be placed on the surface of the Moon.

We also stand ready to contribute to the International Asteroid Warning Network and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group.

Chair, distinguished Delegates,

We look forward to working with COPUOS in the pursuit of a sustainable, peaceful, cooperative future for outer space, and towards a shared stewardship of the skies.

Thank you again for considering this application and for your time and attention.