

UNISPACE+50

Speech by the Head of the Greek Delegation, Secretary General, Mr. Vasileios Maglaras (Vienna, 21/6/2018)

Distinguished Ministers and Ambassadors, distinguished Heads of Space Agencies, distinguished participants, Madame Director, Madame Chair,

It is a great honor to participate in this High Level Meeting and represent the Hellenic Republic.

The UNISPACE+50 High Level Segment comes as a unique opportunity to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and as a real opportunity for the international community to gather and consider the future course of global space cooperation for the benefit of humankind.

We strongly believe that UNISPACE + 50 can contribute in different ways to refresh the mandates of COPUOS and UNOOSA, and in this context we would like to reinstate Greece's strong interest in contributing to the building of good governance around space.

We strongly support the idea of a global space partnership and the use of space applications for sustainable development.

The Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media is the Greek national competent authority in space affairs.

Very recently, we have undertaken ambitious steps in the field of Space, including satellite communications and space applications.

Let me give you an insight of our country's latest endeavors in the space sector:

- The establishment of national space legislation containing provisions for the authorization of space activities, the registration of space objects in a national Register and other provisions in order to regulate licensing procedures and to accelerate space applications in Greece.

- The launch of the Hellas-Sat 3 Communication Satellite in 2017.

- The establishment of the Hellenic Space Agency, to strengthen the bonds between the national space sector, academic institutions, and the private sector, towards the development of digital economy in our country.

- The establishment of a Business Incubation Center with the contribution of ESA to boost Greek start-ups that are involved in space activities.

Greece's space industry that has been developing rather rapidly these years, runs a world class awarded space cluster which is actively participating in European and domestic space programs and activities.

The establishment of the Copernicus Mirror Site in Athens and its continuous successful operation and extension are

of vital importance for us, ensuring the success of the Copernicus services, in our country.

Given that our country has an ideal geographical location in the South of Europe, thus ensuring unproblematic data handling and downloading, we intend to use this opportunity for the un-faded operation of satellite networks and for providing the suitable environmental conditions for space applications and satellite networks.

Using the space services such as Copernicus, Galileo and EGNOS in Europe, we can enhance the border surveillance, maritime operations safety, civil protection, humanitarian aid, sustainable development as well as to improve our transport infrastructures.

We strongly believe in the interoperability and flexibility of existing space programs in order to overcome geographical constraints and to establish closer links between the various authorities, in order to spread the use of space data and information globally.

We have to enable all countries to benefit from the opportunities created by space applications.

We believe that the United Nations' treaties on outer space and the UNGA set of principles constitute the cornerstone of international space law and that COPUOS and its subcommittees are the main forum for an inclusive dialogue on space law and policy issues.

Thank you for your attention.