

Rome – New Space Economy - Expoforum 2022 – 1 to 3 December 2022 – Dominique Tilmans

Sustainability as a Game Changer for the New Space Economy

Thank you very much to the Amaldi Foundation and especially Maria-Cristina Falvella for its invitation as well Mr Saccoccia and the Italian Space Agency for organising this so relevant event,

The title of your conference said it all!

It perfectly encapsulates both the challenges and the opportunities for the space sector in the upcoming years. But not only for the space sector for our society as well.

I also appreciate very much the openness of the Forum to the traditionally “non-space” entities which to me is so very important!

I am delighted to share with you a reflection that is dear to me:

The need to engage politics and end-users’ communities by raising awareness on the key role the space sector plays to monitor understand and act to tackle the challenges our planet is facing.

Many of you know me personally and know that I have a good understanding of policy-makers and civil society. I never worked directly in the space sector but I’m always an active advocating to recognise its impact in many sectors. And this gives me another perception that I would like to share with you

It is indeed surprising that even today divergent views on space still exist:

For example, a wide part of civil society too often still believes that space is too expensive and that the money invested in its development could be better spent on earth!

In the same direction a wide part of policymakers is just not interested in space because they ignore its multiplier effect on earth. And this is strange while space has rarely been placed so high in the political agenda. It's so clear through the decisions taken by the last Ministerial a few days ago

But then how to explain these different views? when space:

- improves the knowledge of our planet its evolution and the serious dangers which affect it,
- When space, supports our regional managers in the planning of our cities and rural areas,

- When space helps us to manage natural or human disasters and to save human lives,
 - When space offers us an unprecedented comfort of life
- And so many other benefits that it is impossible to mention all here.

So? How to explain these a priori about space? I will try give you my part of the answer.

The European space sector in its extraordinary technological development forgot a key action: the communication.

Space remained for too long the domain of engineer's, scientists, researchers and technicians. And they forgot to make space understandable, accessible, attractive, to bolster the belief that space is an indispensable tool for the development of our society and our planet.

Fortunately, things are changing and many actions are being taken, like the Conference today, to highlight the potential of spatial data and space solutions to manage more efficiently our planet, our country, our region, our city, our village and to ensure to all of us to a better quality of life.

As I have to be brief, I will mention 2 actions that occupy a good part of my energy:

- at **Eurisy**. This is our mission: we strive to bridge the gap between space and society. Now about 20 space agencies gave us the mandate to work on the ground with users' communities to raise awareness on the benefits of satellite-based solutions

We do create platforms to share experiences and best practices by putting the users on the spotlight by... avoiding technical jargon!

For example, with one of our pillar activities, Space4cities, we encourage to integrate satellite-based data to make our cities healthier, cleaner, safer and more efficient in one word: sustainable!

We are also actively working to launch in the coming months a series of meetings dedicated to high-level government officials to raise awareness of the real benefits of space solutions like for example, monitoring and maintaining critical infrastructure for disaster risk management.

- **With the IAF**, we developed a powerful tool dedicated to policy-makers to discuss national solutions "The Minister and Member of Parliaments Meeting". This meeting is the place where we make space understandable

The place where Parliamentarians explain to their colleague's themselves relevant space solutions in their country.

And where the ministers illustrate their national space strategy

Our goal is to gather policy-makers and allow them to learn and inspire each other to leverage synergies among them.

By the way, we have a moto « What is possible in your country, might be possible in mine too"

It's magic! because there are highly interested and participative!!

So, we hope with these actions to bring together the two ends of the decision-making chain: policy-makers, seniors administrative officials without forgetting the end user communities.

I must conclude

The space sector is at a turning point with the Moon Gate and space exploration developing technologies that make us make giant steps in all areas.

It's the reason why, it's essential now to launch effective communication campaigns to create buy-in for everyone with the ambition to make space

- a powerful generator of products and services to improve life on earth
- and a powerful generator of technologies to keep our planet more sustainable and to be able to solve the many challenges ahead

I thank you