

UNOOSA - High Level Forum - Bonn, Germany 13 – 16 November 2018

Mister Chair,
Dear Excellencies,
Dear Colleagues
Dear space enthusiasts!

Do you know what is Exciting with the Space sector?

It can be Where we don't expect it!

A few years ago, Space was inaccessible, specialists spoke about: rockets, propulsion, materials, mathematics, orbits....

Slowly, Space evolved to cover numerous domains: internet, weather forecast, GSM, GPS ...

More recently Space contributes to the general economy: agriculture, transport, monitoring of the oceans, solutions for intelligent vehicles, management of big public works, natural & industrial disasters... And many others.

And then Space becomes more social with the development, for example, of applications in healthcare like telemedicine and pollution monitoring.

But who could have thought that Space Applications could serve culture: highlight, manage and safeguard historical cities. Nobody!!

Yes, Space is entering in a new area never imagined.

Yes Space is really part of our society!

Great! Wonderful evolution!! Is everything done?

Have we reached the objective that society really benefits from space technology?

Is the downstream sector convinced that space makes our life easier?

We must be optimist but not blind!! We are only at the beginning, at the tip of the iceberg!

The gap between the public and the space sector is still considerable in term of access, adhesion and conviction!! The public think that space is very expensive and the money invested in space will be better invested on earth!

All of us here, have an important role to play!

We must “democratize” space and our communication! We have to meet and explain that space is almost in all sectors activities and helpful in our working and daily life.

This is what Eurisy is doing!! Our mandate is “bridging space and society”.

Eurisy raises awareness on how entrepreneurs, officers, Public Authorities, associations, companies... can win time and money by using space technology and by this way open our society to the future.

How Eurisy can do that?

We go into the field to listen to the needs of non-user communities, then we organize meetings in such a way that space experts and providers can build solutions incorporating satellite technology.

This is not taking! It's acting!!

Let me illustrate this with an example. If you make an emergency call from your mobile, the emergency services *can* find out your precise location to within a few metres, using the satellite application embedded in your phone. This means the rescue team can find you very quickly ... everywhere!

I'm sure you'll think this is a good and popular example on how space can be beside us ! In fact... it is not a *good* example!

You'll be surprised, in many countries this capability is not implemented! Authorities are not aware and lives are being lost because the telephony operators haven't the obligation to implement this important technical solution. !

What is the message with this example? We have to make space accessible, comprehensive to encourage society to act decisively to take the benefits that space has to offer.

Satellite applications are by their nature global. We need to think globally, all together. We need to be emissaries of space. We all need to become proactive and certainly, by experience, starting from the politicians, they are the decision makers and have the budgets. We need to sensitise them. But not only them, we need also to learn how to talk and convince every level of society about space.

Ok but how to make progress?

- If we have the conviction that we have to better persuade the society about the benefit of space.
- If we have the conviction that we need to move away from the idea that space is only science and technology.
- If we have the conviction that we have to accelerate, to boost change.
- And if we have the conviction that we must adapt our communication to the public

Than, I have a proposition to make to this Assembly and to Simonetta Di Pippo.

To have a major change of state of mind of the entire society on the utility of space is a huge challenge! It can't be improvised! We need advice, methodology and guide lines from professionals.

Why not organize a seminar dedicated on how to better communicate about space to achieve the societal goals? It will give us the tools to be efficient!

Space is for everyone. Let's make Space inclusive. Thank you!

Dominique Tilmans

Chair of Eurisy.