

Thank you, Mister Chair,

All my congratulations for your election at the Head of this sixty-second session! And all my gratitude to Simonetta Di Pippo and her staff for her investment to make UNOOSA this unique platform of collaboration in peaceful uses of space.

I have an unusual suggestion for today!

Let's think out of the box, 5 min, all together, to find how to increase the attractiveness of space to the decision makers!

At previous meetings, I already enhance your attention on:

- The gap between the public and the space sector in term of access, adhesion and conviction!!
- The way we communicate about space, still too technic, not enough accessible & comprehensive to explain the added value for citizens.

I propose this time a reflexion on the lack of interest about space of too many Governments & policy makers!

I allow myself such reflexion because I have been one of them for 27 years and I'm really convinced that it's possible to change the flow of the current situation!!

**But before, I have several questions to address!**

Why Space is so far from the sphere of interest of a large majority of politicians?

Why they do not consider Space as a priority during their mandate?

Why they do not come to our assemblies and if some comes why they don't stay?

Delicate questions!

But important ones because governments, politicians have the power to decide and the authority to allocate funds!

**I have 2 more questions.**

- As members of the space community, do you feel we are doing our best to sensitise, involve, convince the politicians at national, regional and local level about space?

- In the same way, are we doing enough efforts to help people to understand how much space technologies can enable our future development on how space is a partner in their daily life?

Unfortunately, the answer is: not enough! And we must be attentive to not live into isolation!!

**It's never too late!**

**But how to generate the interest of policy makers!?**

**How to:**

- Assure them that space solutions are part of our life and a lever for developing our society.

- Explain them that the numerous satellite applications in our everyday life is growing and bring economic returns

- Persuade them that a shift from the space to non-space sector is increasing. That the focus is slowly moving to the end-users and their needs.

- Convince them that using space applications will have many positive consequences:

-More efficiency in the administrations

-More development and creation of numerous start-ups & enterprises

-More jobs for the future workforce

-And a fertile ground for the transformation of our economy into a sustainable one.

Maybe you are thinking that's not so easy! I agree with you, it's not! And it will take time! But I 'will give you some keys features:

- don't be too technical it's the biggest mistake of our communication
- be brief, they have a very busy schedule,
- be concrete about the benefits of space solutions for their citizens and their administrations (they want to be reelected).

At Eurisy, we are working on this way.

Recently we launched an interesting event: "Space4rural", inviting politicians & civil servants on space services in direct relation with the local economy and with testimonials of other cities. It was a success! I invite you to visit the website of Eurisy for more information.

We should communicate better and lobby the governments and the political class at the different levels - and not only on the top - to set-up a solid multi-level dialogue and plan of action, involving the national government but also the regional authorities and the local decision makers.

Such combined efforts, can help also in attracting and giving more visibility to other sectors than the space one. And I strongly recommended you to give attention to the press which is also frequently absent from our debate - for the same reasons - they are scared by the technical nature of our meetings!

### **My conclusion,**

The space sector must reach out the politicians on a way more accessible and in relation with their preoccupations and not only the preoccupations of the space sector.

We need to join our efforts to help our decision makers to enhance national, regional and local capabilities in adopting space innovative solutions.

Whether we are space actors or politicians, we have a common goal: fostering the growing of our society and assure the well-being of the citizens!

All reasons to work more closely together!

Please, let's be part to the change!

I thank you for your attention.