

15th IAF “International Meeting for Ministers and Members of Parliaments” – Dominique Tilmans

“Space the Indispensable Ally for Decision-Makers”

Sidney 28 September 2025.

We are all Politicians,
We are all Decision-Makers.
And this meeting is made for us!

What is the uniqueness of this meeting?

- It's the only meeting – over the world, across all continents - where Ministers and Parliamentarians together exchange views on their space strategy and on relevant space solutions in their countries!
- It's the only meeting where we make Space accessible, understandable for all. Here there is no jargon! No acronyms.
- It's the only meeting where politicians inspire each other, seize synergies, share experiences, good practices on Space solutions
- It's the only meeting where it's colleagues who explain Space solutions.

And precisely, it's because space solutions are explained by our colleagues that they are understandable and meet our expectations, our interests. Whether:

- You are already convinced of the advantages of space solutions and use them.
- You have heard about space solutions but you do not know how it works
- You aren't be interested because space is not really popular in your country and you are already busy enough.

There is something very powerful which unites us:

We are responsible for the good governance of our country, or our region, or our city.

We have the responsibility to be forward-looking, to define strategies and actions that lead the way, to grow, evolve and bring prosperity to our own country.

Be convinced that Space can be a part of the response, because

- It's a sector that meets specific national needs,
- It creates benefits for civil society,
- It's omnipresent in our daily lives
- And more than ever because our world depends on space assets and data in all domains!

Don't think that the space sector is made only for engineers and technicians, there is an area which is tailored for us and can be particularly useful to us: space solutions

Think about climate change, natural and man-made risks and disasters: floods, forest fires, droughts, earthquakes, landslides, storms, coastal erosion, water pollution and acidification, protection of underwater cultural heritage, trafficking at sea, increasing population density, growing urbanization.

Also, the need to manage water, traffic, energy, waste, cities, agriculture, forestry, urban development, education, health, emergency ...without forgetting Defense and Security.

These are enormous challenges that are in our hands!

Be convinced that Space solutions are invaluable allies, they are a reliable monitoring and forecasting instrument with many concrete solutions which can help you in both daily management and in the context of risk and disaster management

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- ✓ Clay Mowry, President, International Astronautical Federation (IAF)

- ✓ Steve Georganas, Federal Member for Adelaide, Co-convenor of the Federal Parliament's Parliamentary Friends of Space and my Co-Chair for this IAC MMoP 2025 – Australia Host Country.
- ✓ Honourable Emily Suvaal, Parliamentary Secretary for Trade and Small Business – New South Wales Government Space.
- ✓ Honourable Judith Collins KC, New Zealand Minister for Space.

- ✓ There is also a person that I would like warmly thank, Christian Feichtinger, IAF's Executive Director, for having understood, 15 years ago already, the need to involve politicians in this huge Congress by organising a meeting dedicated to us. A warm thank to his dynamic team especially Martina and her colleagues and to him for his foresight!

- I extend my sincere gratitude to our space experts who will be moderating our sessions
 - Simonetta Cheli, Director of Earth Observation Programmes and Head of ESRIN, European Space Agency (ESA) (TBC)
 - Salem Al Qubaisi, Director General, UAE Space Agency
 - Enrico Palermo, Head, Australian Space Agency

What can we expect from our meeting?

- We expect from Ministers to illustrate their country's space strategy, main priorities, and actions.
- From parliamentarians, we expect to present a relevant example of space solutions and their specific challenges
- For others, we hope they'll be inspired by the experiences of their colleagues to help them to take the best decisions in their daily management.

Today, you'll have the opportunity to highlight your country, to showcase you in your Parliament, your Commissions, your social media using the recordings and photos that you will receive at the end of the Congress.

Before concluding. Just a word about the goal and challenge, we pursue.

- Our goal:

It's to motivate and inspire each other with topics in direct relation to our concerns.

We have the ambition to make this meeting an exceptional source of ideas of operational space solutions for the accomplishment of national and regional priorities and cities management.

It's "The place to be"!!

- Our challenge:

Is making the MMoP meeting, the place for all countries, interested in Space or not and a powerful engine of prosperity for emerging countries.

That's why our motto is "What is possible in your country, might be in mine too".

Now the floor is yours, you are in the driving seats, you'll make the MMoP Meeting a success.

I promise, you will never look at space in the same way again.

I wish you a fruitful meeting!

Conclusion

Zeynep Yildiz for the Minister Mehmet Fatih Cacir - Minister Industry and Technology – Turkey Hosted Country IAC 2026.

What's next on our agenda?

13:00 Group photo

13:05 Lunch break

19:00 Cocktail and dinner of the IAF International Meeting for Ministers and Members of Parliament