

Speech Dominique Tilmans

“SATELLITE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT”

Luxembourg, 30th October 2025

Mr. Marc Serres, CEO of the Luxembourg Space Agency

Mrs. Christina Giannopapa, Head of the Office of the Executive Director, EUSPA

Dear Colleagues, Dear Experts,

Good morning, everyone.

If I say, it's a great pleasure to be with you to day, for me it's not just an usual sentence to start my speech, I'm really happy to be here! Do you know what?

Because I lived in the province of Luxembourg for 35 years. I your neighbour.

So, I know very well how much Luxembourg has long demonstrated how space technologies can serve civil society and the economy.

Before going further, let me warmly thank the Luxembourg Space Agency and EUSPA for their excellent collaboration in the organisation of this important event, connecting space data with real-world needs.

As you know, our workshop is part of a European series on Satellite-based Services for Disaster Risk Management.

The objective is to extend more than just a connection, rather a harmonization of the service across Europe so that each civil protection service, each local authority can access reliable information thanks to satellites: simply, quickly and at lower cost.

The objective is to make every European state benefit from expertise and progress of the most advanced countries

Through our different European workshops, if each host country brings its own perspective, we know Luxembourg offers a unique one. And today's event is a milestone

For this, we bring together decision-makers, space professionals, public servants and end users to explore and optimize with them the way satellite services can help anticipate, manage and recover from a disaster.

Because here, space is not just a sector of innovation—it's a national vision.

Without doubt Luxembourg is one of Europe's pioneers in space.

- You are the first European country to regulate space resources, giving legal certainty to activities such as space mining.
- Space represents around 5% of your GDP, demonstrating the central role of space in the national economy.
- You count more than 80 active space actors including research, while you were only 16 in 2012!
- Your Space Strategy 2023–2027 gives a clear direction to use space data to support sustainability, climate adaptation, economy with secure connectivity.
- And I'll certainly not forget, LIST, your performing Center of expertise

But this commitment I space goes beyond industry and the economy.

With the Luxembourg's University programmes in space – whether space law, space engineering or space technologies and business – you are shaping the next generation of experts and decision-makers.

Yes, Luxembourg is looking ahead, Luxembourg has a vision!

In addition to this rich space ecosystem, you built a robust DRM framework.

Already in 2016, you set up the first “National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction” which interacts across government bodies to avoid fragmentation of efforts and allow more concerted action.

It was a clever decision which helped you to face in July 2021, to one of the most intense natural disasters in your recent history.

The consequences of the floods were devastating: More than 125 million € in damage, hundreds of families displaced, critical infrastructure paralyzed.

Following the floods, the Copernicus Emergency Management Service was activated to conduct a detailed damage assessment in order to analyze the extent of the flood, plan for reconstruction and prepare for possible new crisis.

This is the reason why we are gathered today.

- To build on Luxembourg's experience,
- To demonstrate how space and DRM can reinforce one another,
- To progress together as Europe.
- To test solutions

And about solutions, just after the lunch, we'll have a concrete demonstration of the Galileo Early Warning Satellite Service.

It will show how Luxembourg continues to lead by example, testing what will soon become a European standard in disaster risk management and precise mass alert messaging.

I conclude,

Luxembourg's progress reminds us that when space, politics and people connect, resilience follows.

So, let us continue to work together, to make sure that space is used to protect what matters most: our people, our environment, our economy, our country and our shared European home.

Because space is not only about looking up,

Space is also about looking ahead.

I thank you.