

Europe and Space Exploration

Conclusions of the 23 October 2009 Prague Conference

Participants:

- welcomed this conference as a beginning of a process which will enable EU, ESA and their respective Member States to define a common political vision and role in worldwide space exploration;
- underlined that space exploration is a global endeavour, and therefore appreciated the presence of international partners at the start of the process;
- welcomed the link with ISS, and in particular with the Commander of the ISS, for the first time a European citizen, a recognition of the European reliability as ISS partner;

As a result of the discussion, the Chairs of the Conference concluded that within the European Space Policy and the European Space Programme framework, the EU, ESA and their respective Member States, each one in its own role, and in close coordination among each other, should:

- continue to work on the development of common objectives at EU/ESA level, in particular through refining complementarities among the EU, ESA and national initiatives;
- improve communication with international partners, based where appropriate on existing mechanisms;
- elaborate a roadmap, a set of robotic and human scenarios and a set of priorities for a visible and significant role of EU/ESA in an international exploration initiative, based on technical and financial data provided by ESA using consultation results within EU/ESA Member States and with international partners, and enabling regular concrete achievements at interim programmatic milestones;
- explore an implementation mechanism that includes adequate EU instruments and funding schemes;
- report on the progress of these actions during the second high-level conference in 2010.