

Statement of the Delegation of Romania

ISF 2016 – October 24th, 2016, Trento, Italy

Dear Ministers, Heads of delegations, governmental representatives and experts,

Romania welcomes the initiative of organizing this First International Space Forum at Ministerial Level on “Space Science and Academy for global challenges”.

I am glad to mention that space research, development and applications are priorities for my country. As an ESA and European Union Member State, Romania participated to the European space research and development activities, but was also keeping and developing its own National Space Programme, managed by the Romanian Space Agency.

In the present national policy for research, development and innovation for the next seven years, space research, technology and development are recognized as a major strategic area having a distinct role of driving force for other fields. This strategic commitment was also included in the Romanian national strategy versus the European Union for 2014 - 2020, where space was considered among the smart specializations of the country.

Today, overall, Romanian organizations participate in more than twenty ESA, EU and international programs and space missions, under the coordination of the Romanian Space Agency. Romania is also developing by more than 60 projects and capacities at the national level and is continuously increasing its capacities and infrastructure. I would like to mention that my country is deeply involved in global issues related to space. Starting from a long time leadership in the UN-COPUOS, Romania involved in both the preservation and protection of the planet by long term utilization of space data and active planetary defense.

Romanian professionals, institutes and universities are currently involved in the technical issues of the NEO detection and mitigation. A national policy for space weather is under consideration. I would like to add that Romania is participating to the European Space Agency programme on Space Situational Awareness, devoted in particular to the tracking of space debris and other objects, monitoring space weather and NEO detection.

I am mentioning in particular the technical progress in building the Solar coronagraph for the PROBA-3 ESA mission. I would also mention the participation of Romanian scientists and engineers in a new ESA - NASA international mission - AIM - devoted to asteroid impact deflection assessment, mission which might constitute the first ever attempt to coherently change the orbit of a celestial body.

Also, a new Romanian small satellite - ROBISAT - is to be launched the next year from the International Space Station, with the purpose to measure higher atmosphere composition variations.

Space systems are protecting our civilization from cosmic threats. Space contribute to a clean environment by Earth observation, but also with active methods and modeling for agriculture, forestry, atmosphere, oceans, urban areas. Space technology is bringing sensible direct and spin-off improvements to the industrial capability of the planet. Space is bringing substantial contribution to these critical issues for our planet Earth which is shared by all nations as the real Sun orbiting international space station.

To conclude, Romania considers very positive the Forum intention to create the opportunity to involve Academies and Universities in space programs and activities, to increase local and regional capacity building, in particular in the global issues mentioned by this outstanding Space Manifesto.