

## **Statement of Greece**

**By Stamatios Krimigis,  
Adviser to the Minister  
Ministry of Digital Governance**

Honorable Ministers and Delegates, Representatives of International Agencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Stamatios Krimigis and I serve as Councilor to the Minister of Digital Governance, Mr. Kyriakos Pierrakakis, of the newly formed Government of Greece. The Minister asked me to convey his warmest regards and appreciation to all the national delegations and officials, and his full support for the Mediterranean Chapter of the 4th International Space Forum.

Greece shares fully all six objectives of the Forum, from Maritime Surveillance, to the Blue Economy, and to Space Education, Cooperation, and Scientific Exchanges. Maritime surveillance in particular is of great interest to our country and, as the Rector of the University noted in his statement in the program, it would have come handy to Ulysses (Odysseus, as we say in Greek) to navigate the nearby straits of Scylla and Charybdis! Well, joking aside, navigation is central to Greece's economy, as commercial shipping, along with tourism, represent the biggest industry in our country. It is estimated that Greek-owned and operated ships carry well over 20% of the world's trade. So, as Mr. Leendert Bal, the head of European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) told us a few minutes ago, improving maritime security through space surveillance and operations is an absolutely essential capability that Greece values highly.

We endeavor to be able to make key contributions in this field, as we organize and build up our country's nascent space capabilities through cooperation with ESA and our Mediterranean neighbors, not only in enhancing the space sector but also the ground-based applications component that is essential to the full utilization of the avalanche of new data.

As I mentioned above, Greece appreciates very much and supports fully the totality of the Reggio Calabria Page, as currently formulated, to be added to the Trento Space Statement. This means that we support all six main objectives and it is our full intent to contribute to each, to the extent that our capabilities and knowledge permits. In particular, and in the context of the Blue Economy, we are very sensitized to objective #4 stating "*Promotion and use of satellites to safeguard and protect infrastructure and activities and to discourage threats and illegal activities (underline added) through or around the sea*". We note that one of the Mediterranean countries not participating in this Forum is not only conducting illegal activities as we speak, but also threatening its neighbors with violence. Such behavior is unacceptable in the Mediterranean and must be condemned by all. The use of satellites is ideally suited to document and discourage engagement in such activities.

We in Greece are looking forward to working with the IAF, ESA, and the national space agencies in furthering the implementation of the objectives stated in the Reggio Calabria Statement on Space.

Thank you very much.