

## Statement of Slovenia

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Dear Ministers,

Dear Head of Delegations,

Dear colleagues,

- it is my pleasure to be here today at the »Fourth International Space Forum - Mediterranean Chapter« focusing on »Space Technology and Applications Meet Mediterranean Needs«.
- We all agree that Space Technology and its applications can contribute to solve societal challenges.
- I am very proud to say ***space sector is rapidly developing in Slovenia***. There are many companies and institutions, with their innovative solutions positioning themselves among global market leaders.
- Slovenia will position itself on the map of the countries with its satellites in Space. Namely, the first two Slovenian satellites in the field of Earth observation are expected to be launched this year:
  - NEMO-HD micro satellite capable of remote sensing with high precision that will enable the acquisition of multispectral images of the Earth's surface and also HD (high definition) video recording.
  - TRISAT a nano satellite with a moderate ability to observe Earth on the basis of multispectral capture of images in a short-wave infrared spectrum with innovative miniaturised instruments.
- Slovenia has recognised the importance of Earth Observations for different societal and economic benefits.
- Data and information from space is successfully and increasingly used in public services for environmental monitoring, emergency situations and spatial planning, as well as in different private sectors like energy and agriculture.
- Vast amount of data with a rapid development in digital technologies offer huge new opportunities for science and businesses.

- And considering the environmental challenges that we face today, it has never been more important to have reliable data on the state of our planet.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Maritime surveillance is essential for responding to the needs of a wide range of maritime policies - irregular migration/border control, maritime security, fisheries control, anti-piracy, environmental hazards such as oil pollution, etc.
- Currently, some national authorities responsible for different aspects of maritime surveillance collect data separately and often do not share them between each other.
- It is important to ensure effective data exchange between actors across sectors and across borders. Space data can provide additional data that can increase the security and safety on the sea.
- Currently Slovenia is involved in 'Maritime Adaptive GNSS Safety concept', a project study that aims at increasing maritime safety at harbor entry and also preparing a feasibility study on the use of GNSS based navigation.
- Marine oil and chemical pollution is one of the major threats to the sea environment. With participation in the 'Clean Sea Net' programme Slovenia is monitoring - identifying and tracking oil pollution on the sea surface, accidental pollution - and contributing to the identification of polluters (i.e. developing backtracking application).

Regarding the SPACE AND BLUE ECONOMY,

- Slovenia is one of the countries supporting the Initiative for Blue Growth and Jobs in the Mediterranean (signed a Venice Declaration on Mediterranean Sea Cooperation in 2015).
- We believe the co-operation among countries in the Euro-Mediterranean Region, engaging both public and private stakeholders, including SMEs, in research and innovation actions tackling the challenges is of vital importance.
- For Slovenia, the following priority actions to be implemented in co-operation with international partners are:
  - understanding pollution impacts, mitigation and remediation in the Mediterranean Sea,
  - linking tourism, tourists, and the environment in order to develop sustainable tourism
  - support solutions for sustainable food production
  - greening vessels, facilities and services
  - proper governance of maritime space.

- There are many ways in which Earth observation can contribute to those goals. Having reliable data is a foundation for all the policies being developed.
- Space-related topics are ALSO integrated into Slovenian **public education system** at all levels. However, education related to European space programs is still sporadic at the lower levels, but there is a strong public interest, in particular by primary and secondary school youth. Within higher education, the role of the Copernicus and Galileo programs is taught within different topics (geoinformatics, remote sensing, surveying, navigation, transport, satellite communications,...).
- Space-related research is being carried out in various ways **at all Slovenian higher education institutions** as well as at Research Centre of Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts. Slovenia is promoting and supporting **space-related research**.
- The **key topics** are Earth observation, geoinformatics and astrophysics (microsatellites, optical remote sensing, satellite imagery registration and analytics, the use of high-resolution multispectral satellite imagery, satellite imagery ecosystem modelling, astrophysics and astronomy).

Ladies and gentlemen,

as you can see there are still many opportunities to strengthen the co-operation among stakeholders and international partnerships. In this sense, Slovenia looks forward to create new partnerships and to use space technology for the benefit of all of us.

Thank you for your attention.