



# Reach for the stars

**Norbert Glante** outlines why spare EU funds should be spent on a European space programme

**I**n the commission's space policy I see both a way to create jobs and something of value which has the potential to help us out of the current economic crisis. The variety of possible uses for satellite navigation systems range from tracking and locating goods, to helping farmers gain better crop yields to the salvaging of shipwrecks. Small and medium-sized companies in particular have a large part to play as pillars of support to the European economy. However, for this they require security within the planning process that can only be attained by means of a clear framework of conditions.

The frequent refusal of member states to allocate unused EU resources is painful. In my eyes better use could be made of this money for the European space project, which would

benefit the whole of Europe much more than it would if the money was divided up and fed back to the member states. Here we should not only look at the costs but also view this project as an investment in the future. Any further delay in putting this into action has to be avoided if we no longer want to lag behind the US, Russia or China in terms of global competition. For this reason we in the European parliament are expecting a great deal from the mid-term review which has been announced by the European commission concerning Galileo. It has to be clear what the future timescale for the construction of Galileo looks like, which services will be completed, the costs that will be incurred, and at what point in time. The elected representatives are behind Galileo, they just have to know what is involved. ★

Norbert Glante is a member of parliament's industry, research and energy committee

**Potito Salatto** wants to ensure that parliament plays a key role in any new space policy

**T**he principles for the governance of Europe in space must be identified shortly together with a coherent and shared European space industrial policy that involves the European parliament through the sky and space intergroup. Of most importance is cooperation between the EU, the European space agency (ESA) and member states.

This will only occur by following rules that guarantee, for the EU financed part of the programme, full compliance with a new industrial policy, to be identified by the EU as well as a role for the European parliament, within the existing and future ESA governing bodies.

Galileo and global monitoring for environment and security (GMES) are programmes well on their way in terms of development and must be completed. Within the exploration

scenario, Europe should focus on human survival in the harsh space environment. As a consequence, there should be a drive for the development of technologies that will naturally benefit European citizens. The international space station programme is closely linked to space exploration as it sets the grounds for many exploration technologies to be developed in the future. Security is also proving to be of growing interest both in terms of supporting the security of citizens, as well as supporting Europe's common foreign and security policy. A strategic element needs to be established, at a European level; a solid, global, space based telecommunications backbone, that would de facto support and improve the present and future services foreseen from Galileo and GMES, as well as the ESA's space situational awareness programme that helps detect space hazards. ★

Potito Salatto is a vice chair of parliament's sky and space intergroup



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