

New Hope for European GNSS Downstream Industry Development

Galileo Services Association welcomes with enthusiasm the European Parliament Resolution of 7 June 2011 on "Transport applications of Global Navigation Satellite Systems – short- and medium term EU policy".

With the dedicated budget being exhausted, 2010 would have been the year of the last FP7 call for GNSS – thereby effectively removing Europe's opportunity to continue boosting downstream industry and taking advantage of the momentum created by the large investment made in Galileo. However, after more than one year of committed lobby campaign¹, hope is reborn among European GNSS downstream Research and Innovation actors when reading the recent resolution of the European Parliament.

Among the decisive statements raised in the resolution the European Parliament reminds that *"the commercial transport applications of GNSS and Galileo represent a growing global market which should be secured as far as is possible for the economic benefit of European industry and for the creation of skilled jobs"* and, more widely, that *"investment in this sector has implications for all EU policies, and whereas its expansion and implementation will have a direct impact on the realisation of the EU 2020 Strategy and from the point of view of developing the potential of the European market in GNSS applications and services so as to create jobs and enhance Europe's competitiveness."*

The European Parliament "calls on the Commission to ensure that the EUR 100 m likely to be underspent in payment appropriation for research within the Seventh Framework Programme is made available for the development of GNSS applications."

As already stressed frequently by industry, Europe has a golden opportunity but only for a very limited period of time. The world enters into the time of multi-GNSS multi-sensor technologies, enabling the development of crucial applications and services for Europe. An absence of funding up to 2014, delaying the technological progress as well as knowledge in the GNSS domain, constitutes a huge risk both for European GNSS programmes and Europe's competitiveness.

The resolution² (P7_TA-PROV(2011)0250) follows the report³ of the Committee on Transport and Tourism (A7-0084/2011) on GNSS applications in transport, adopted on March 24th, 2011. These papers deal not only with short- but also medium-term EU policy and set out the main issues of GNSS in transport domain.

The reallocation of the budget mentioned by the European Parliament would enable the publication of a 4th Call for Proposals for GNSS applications within FP7. From a short term perspective this would prevent a critical rupture of the way to European Excellence and Competitiveness in the GNSS field and must be followed by substantial funding for the coming years.

¹ http://www.galileo-services.org/news_events/news_events.html

² <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2011-0250+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

³ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A7-2011-0084&language=EN>

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