



Dear Madam/Sir.

Invitation to the 15th EISC Conference – Brussels, 14-15 October 2013

Since January 1st 2013, the Belgian Senate holds the Presidency over the 15th European Interparliamentary Space Conference, which it had the honour to chair on two previous occasions, in 2001 and in 2006.

This year, the Belgian Presidency will focus on students and their interest in space education. The ambition is to try to better match space education with the challenging needs of the space industry. Considering the increasing shortage of qualified young aerospace scientists, engineers and technicians, the Belgian Presidency would like to share the success stories and best practices that have been noted in this field.

The Plenary session of the 15th EISC, organised on 14 and 15 October in the Belgian Senate, will provide the opportunity to discuss this theme even further and hear from young professionals and students from the EISC countries about their experiences. Questions asked will be how to enhance the interest of upcoming talents towards space studies, how to put students at the centre of an industrial project, how to find a way to inspire young people to embark in a space career, etc.

During a second debate, representatives of the space industry will be confronted with these considerations and will be invited to share their ideas with the conference.

The Belgian Senate and its Space Working Group would therefore like to invite a delegation of your parliament to participate in this meeting. More details can be found in annex.

I am convinced that this meeting will be the perfect opportunity to exchange ideas and views on the matter and to reinforce the European Space Policy as a whole.

Looking forward to welcoming you in Brussels in October, I remain,

Yours Sincerely,

Senator Ms. Dominique TILMANS Chair of the Belgian Senate Space Working Group

Let us face together new challenges and les us expand space borders!

<u>Secrétariat – Secretariaat</u>