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CNES's Science Programmes Committee meets at Toulouse Space Centre

CNES's Science Programmes Committee (CPS) met today on Thursday 4 and Friday 5 June at the Toulouse Space Centre. The Committee's chief purpose is to advise the CNES Board of Directors on matters relating to space science research and help it to shape the agency's science priorities.

The CPS and its current chair Jean-Loup Puget, appointed last year for a five-year term, visited the Toulouse Space Centre on Thursday 4 June. The committee's members were very impressed with the excellent and varied efforts that CNES is pursuing with research laboratories. Their visit will be of great benefit to the CPS's future work.

As a preamble to the committee's meeting on Friday 5 June, CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall set out the priorities that CNES will be implementing in the years ahead and underlined the challenges facing it this year in the run-up to the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris in December. The CPS then examined the proposals that CNES could put forward for this climate summit. Discussions focused on the progress of Universe science programmes and covered a broad review of activities related to Earth-observation data and service hubs.

The committee's members also heard scientists' recommendations for CNES's Balloons programme in the fields of Earth observation and Universe sciences, and discussed priorities for upgrading the programme's infrastructure.

After his opening address, Jean-Yves Le Gall commented: "I would like to thank all of the CPS's members for their support to CNES's Board of Directors in defining our key science priorities and shaping our future vision. I am very pleased that they have been able to visit the Toulouse Space Centre and see at first hand the excellent work that the agency's teams are doing there, as well as the effective support it provides for science projects."

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